

# ADVANCED DECODING SKILLS SURVEY

## General Instructions

The *Advanced Decoding Skills Survey* is designed to pinpoint specific difficulties struggling readers have decoding words with various vowel spellings and words with more than one syllable. The Survey is NOT exhaustive. Rather, it is carefully designed to identify specific skills the student may not have mastered.

The *Advanced Decoding Skills Survey* is appropriate for students from second grade through adulthood who demonstrated capability reading words and sentences on the *Beginning Decoding Skills Survey*. A general rule of thumb is that a student who has one or more errors checked in any column needs instruction in that skill.

Struggling readers who make no errors on the *Beginning* or *Advanced Decoding Skills Survey* may have fluency or comprehension problems, which are not measured by the Decoding Skills Surveys.

### Directions:

Record scores and errors on the Scoring Form. If the student makes an error, be sure to record what the student reads and how many times it takes to get the answer correct.

1. Give the student the word list page.
2. Explain that the student will read some nonsense words, and you may ask her/him to read some real words. / Stop the student from reading in any section when he/she misses five in a row or when the student seems frustrated.
3. Set #1 - Ask the student to read the words in the section at the top of the page. Ask the student to read down the columns, because that will make it easy for you to record answers on the Error Pattern Chart.
4. Set #2 - Ask the student to read the words in the second section. Proceed to the next section only if the student has read at least six of the words accurately and does not seem frustrated. If the student cannot complete this section, proceed to #6, the Real Words section.
5. Set #3 - Ask the student to read the words in the third section. No matter how she/he does on this section, proceed to the next section.
6. Real Words - Tell the student that this section has real words. Ask the student to read the words, or to read any words he can.
7. Write the student's errors and record the error patterns on the Error Pattern Chart, as follows:
  - As the student reads, write what he says when he makes an error next to the word on the Error Pattern Chart.
  - Put a check in the box in the chart that describes student errors.
8. Check any boxes at the top of the page that apply.

### USING THE ERROR PATTEN CHART TO GUIDE INSTRUCTION

**Teach the skills the student is missing, beginning with the skill furthest to the left on the grid that is checked. (Sight words are taught separately from phonics instruction.)**

## ERROR PATTERN CHART - Advanced Decoding Skills Survey

Note your observations. Check all that apply.

- Slow reader  
  Quick to guess  
  Perseverant  
  Easily frustrated  
  Other (explain on back)

Nonsense Words		Error Patterns												
		No Try	Consonants		Short Vowels (or schwa)	Consonant Digraphs & Trigraphs	Blends	ang Alk ing	Extra Sound Added	Long Vowels	Diphthongs & Other Vowels	R-controlled Vowels	Multi-syllabic Words	Common Suffixes / Word Endings
			Initial	Final										
<i>One syllable &amp; one vowel</i>														
1	fut													
2	dit													
3	kep													
4	shom													
5	thax													
6	lutch													
7	frep													
8	drup													
9	jelt													
10	blang													
11	valk													
12	jing													
<i>Long &amp; other vowels spelled with more than one letter</i>														
13	weaf													
14	jaib													
15	yume													
16	voop													
17	awk													
18	voe													
19	soid													
20	fout													
21	zoy													
<i>R-controlled vowels</i>														
22	fird													
23	gorf													
24	lerm													
<i>Multi-syllabic words</i>														
25	shaffen													
26	comsplut													
27	gruckle													
28	slifnate													
29	tirper													
30	loymaw													
31	pharbid													
32	padestic													
<b>Real Words</b>														
1	frozen													
2	wrecker													
3	alive													
4	deciding													
5	forgotten													
6	several													
7	athletic													
8	fantastic													
9	publishing													
10	demonstrate													
11	lotion													
12	brighten													

# Nonsense Words

## Set #1

fut	shom	frep	blang
dit	thax	drup	valk
kep	lutch	jelt	jing

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## Set #2

weaf	voop	soid	fird
jaib	awk	fout	gorf
yume	voe	zoy	lerm

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## Set #3

shaffen	gruckle	tirper	pharbid
comsplut	slifnate	loymaw	padestic

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# Real Words

frozen	deciding	athletic	demonstrate
wrecker	forgotten	fantastic	lotion
alive	several	publishing	brighten

*Linda Farrell is a nationally certified DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) and LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) trainer. Linda also conducts workshops on delivering intervention lessons. She obtained her practical classroom experience as an English teacher and a middle school reading teacher. She tutored scores of adults during her 12 years as a volunteer with the Washington Literacy Council. Serving as an early literacy consultant, she now endeavors to eliminate the need for adult literacy organizations by ensuring all children learn to read in early elementary school. She may be contacted at [Linda@readingstreet.com](mailto:Linda@readingstreet.com).*