

Tricky words: the, to, I, no, go

23

Lesson 23 of 81 (ages 3-6) / 17 of 75 (age 7+) · Letter Sounds · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL**Your child can read the, to, I, no, go on sight.****WHY IT MATTERS**

Some very common words don't follow the rules yet, so they can't be sounded out. Knowing them by sight lets your child read real sentences sooner.

YOU'LL NEED

- The practice sheet for this lesson (worksheet.pdf) and a pencil or crayon.
- The lesson page on a phone or tablet, for the sounds and games.

LESSON FLOW about 10 minutes

1 min

Warm up

Read last time's tricky words (if any) from cards.

2 min

Listen

Tap each word on the lesson page.

2 min

Show how

Point to the tricky part of each word (pink on the lesson page).

SAY

"the: this part doesn't say what it looks like. We just remember it."

2 min

Do it together

Trace and write the words, then colour them in the word grid on the practice sheet.

2 min

Play

Play find-the-word and build-the-word on the lesson page.

1 min

Wrap up

Hunt for one of the words in a picture book.

USE WITH THIS LESSON

- **This lesson online (listening + games)**
phonicademy.com/plan/session/tricky-1
- **Printable: Tricky Words Worksheet — Phase 1-2 (Free PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/tricky-words-worksheet-phase-1-2
- **Printable: Tricky/Sight Words Flashcards by Phase (PDF)**
phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-tricky-words-flashcards
- **Game: Tricky Word Hunt**
phonicademy.com/play/tricky-word-hunt

FIND THE WORD

Write the choices on paper. Say one word; your child points to it.

#	SAY / SHOW	CHOICES	ANSWER	
1	Say "the"	the, to, I	the	☐
2	Say "to"	to, I, no	to	☐
3	Say "I"	I, no, go	I	☐
4	Say "no"	no, go, the	no	☐
5	Say "go"	go, the, to	go	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Tries to sound out the word (t-h-e).

-> Say: "This one's tricky, we don't sound it out" and read it together.

Knows it on a card but not in a book.

-> Practise in real books: point to the word whenever it appears.

TOO HARD? MAKE IT EASIER

Learn 2 of the 5 words today and the rest tomorrow.

TOO EASY? MAKE IT HARDER

Make a sentence with each word out loud, then read it back.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Reads the, to, I, no, go without sounding out.
- ☐ Finds the words in a book.

Date: _____

Colour in the stars:



Notes: _____