



PRACTICE PACK · PHONICS

Phonics Screening Check Practice

England national curriculum · Year 1 · screening check format

Every June, Year 1 children read 40 words one-to-one with their teacher — half real words, half made-up "alien words" that test pure sound-blending. This pack is built to the real check's shape: the same two sections, the same page layout, the same mix of word types page by page. Every word here is original.

How to run it (5–10 minutes, one-to-one)

- Show **one page at a time** — in the real check the child never sees the next page.
- Before each page, say what it is: *"These are real words"* or *"These are alien words — names for imaginary creatures."* The creature picture is the clue.
- Give about **10 seconds a word**. No rush — the check is untimed.
- A word only counts if it is **blended into one word** — sounding out "c-a-t" without saying "cat" doesn't score. Don't say whether each word was right.
- If your child corrects themselves, the **last** attempt counts.
- Score on the last page. The pass mark moves a little each year — it was 31 of 40 in 2026 and 32 the year before — so treat the score as a snapshot, never a verdict.

In this pack

1. **Practice page** — run it together first, so the format feels familiar.
2. **The check** — 10 pages, 4 words each: Section 1 (simpler sounds), then Section 2 (harder patterns).
3. **Score sheet** — tick as you go, then see which sound patterns to practise next.



Two real words, then two alien words — just to learn how it works.

mat

shed



ib



dat



Alien words — say to your child: "These are names for imaginary creatures."



neek



jull



grax



yunt



Alien words — say to your child: "These are names for imaginary creatures."



nen



clell



zund



ank



Alien words — say to your child: "These are names for imaginary creatures."



horl



crun



jeend



hoim



Real words — say to your child: "These are real words."

thin

grip

sort

keep



Real words — say to your child: "These are real words."

best

jump

thud

feet



Alien words — say to your child: "These are names for imaginary creatures."



twooft



shrurd



smault



jowsk



Alien words — say to your child: "These are names for imaginary creatures."



thrux



stighst



snuef



screeft



Real words — say to your child: "These are real words."

pilot

trust

whisk

stair



Real words — say to your child: "These are real words."

blend

kitchen

scrub

drift



Real words — say to your child: "These are real words."

strap

pocket

spoon

sleeping



TICK EACH WORD READ CORRECTLY

Section 1

1	neek	alien	
2	jull	alien	
3	grax	alien	
4	yunt	alien	
5	nen	alien	
6	clell	alien	
7	zund	alien	
8	ank	alien	
9	horl	alien	
10	crun	alien	
11	jeend	alien	
12	hoim	alien	
13	thin	real	
14	grip	real	
15	sort	real	
16	keep	real	
17	best	real	
18	jump	real	
19	thud	real	
20	feet	real	
Section 1 total			

Section 2

21	twooft	alien	
22	shrurd	alien	
23	smault	alien	
24	jowsk	alien	
25	thrux	alien	
26	stighst	alien	
27	snuef	alien	
28	screeft	alien	
29	pilot	real	
30	trust	real	
31	whisk	real	
32	stair	real	
33	blend	real	
34	kitchen	real	
35	scrub	real	
36	drift	real	
37	strap	real	
38	pocket	real	
39	spoon	real	
40	sleeping	real	
Section 2 total			

Total _____ / 40

Tricky alien words? Their spelling patterns show which sounds to practise — section 2 uses harder patterns (vowel teams, magic-e, clusters) than section 1.