Dictation

Dictation is one of the most effective ways to teach children to write. Sentences for dictation are provided below. This needs to be systematically taught in the following way.

Progression of teaching the skill of writing through dictation

- Initially only dictate letter sounds that have been taught e.g. “I want you to write the letter sound /b/.” After the children have written it down, form it correctly on the board. The children may like to put a tick by their letter if they have written it correctly. Then go on to calling out the next sound. It provides the children with the necessary practice, as well as enabling the teacher to see who still does not know how to write the letters.

- When most of the children can hear the sounds in words e.g. dog is made up of a d-o-g, start dictating simple, regular words. Examples can be found in the ‘Homework Writing Sheets’ section in The Phonics Handbook, or in the Jolly Phonics Word Book. Many parents like to help their children, and these children can be given dictation homework, so long as they are able to hear the sounds in words and can write the letters.

- Teach the children to read and spell the first ten ‘tricky words’.

- Now the children are ready to start writing sentences that contain those ten ‘tricky words’ and regular words that can be written by listening for the sounds in the words e.g. I sat on the bench. (by this time the children should have been taught the 42 letter sounds. Only these are used in the following sentences).

- These dictation sentences are split into groups of three sentences. If you are giving homework to a child, cut a group of three sentences off the sheet and put it into an exercise book, with wide lines if available, and ask the parents to call the sentences out. They should not let their child see the sentences and copy them. It is a good idea to encourage the parents to leave the mistakes so you can see where there might be problems.

- Sentences using the next tricky words follow on from the first group, once tricky words 11-20 have been taught.
Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1 -10 and regular words.

1. I went to the bus stop.  1. The man is hot.
2. He can do it soon.  2. It was in the nest.
3. It ran up the bank.  3. I went to camp.

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1. He is on the step.  1. I was in the tent.
2. She can sing.  2. It is soft.
3. We sat on the bench.  3. The pig is pink.

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1. I was in the shed.  1. It is a long string.
2. It is fun.  2. Bring it to me.
3. We had fish and chips.  3. He got his lunch.

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1. It is good.  1. It is grand.
2. She went out in the rain.  2. I went to sleep.
3. I can do it.  3. Drink this.

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1. It was big.  1. He held the flag.
2. He hit the nut.  2. She was in the lift.
3. The cat bit the dog.  3. I slept in a bunk bed.
Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1 -10 and regular words.

1. We must get a dog. 1. An ant is not big.
2. I am good. 2. The cup is in the sink.
3. She had hot milk to drink. 3. I hit the rat.

1. It was a hot brush. 1. The spring is strong.
2. The hen is red. 2. We went to the farm.
3. She can do it. 3. I swim in the big pool.

1. He ran to the camp. 1. The zoo is shut.
2. This was his fish. 2. Was he in the shed?
3. He is next on the list. 3. I went to the shops.

1. Do frogs jump? 1. His lunch was hot.
2. We went to the sand pit. 2. I quit from the quiz.
3. She stood on the bench. 3. It was a long plank.

1. The moth is pink. 1. It was in the nest.
2. He held it in his hand. 2. She went to the tent.
3. I went on the swing. 3. He lost the ring.
1. You are all good. 1. She was here.
2. Can I come? 2. They ran up the steps.
3. Your dog bit me. 3. Some jobs are hard.

1. They are hot. 1. There are some crabs.
2. You can all do it. 2. Get some jam.
3. We said it was good. 3. Can they do it?

1. She was here. 1. The flag is there.
2. It all looks bad to me. 2. His boots are here.
3. Your cat jumps on the mat. 3. I can brush the bench.

1. They are on the ship. 1. You must chop them up.
2. There is the quilt. 2. Here is some string.
3. Your dish is hot. 3. We said it was bad.

1. You must do it all. 1. Come in the morning.
2. They are all here. 2. She spent it all.
3. Do you help them? 3. Are they all in the hut?
1. Can you get here soon?  
2. He said she must be here soon.  
3. There was a big flash.

1. Are you all here?  
2. Your gift is the best.  
3. They went on the train.

1. They said it was good.  
2. He can come in the wigwam.  
3. They must come here.

1. Your car had a crash.  
2. It was all junk.  
3. Is it all here?

1. Can you come?  
2. He said you are good at singing.  
3. Here are all the planks.

1. All the frogs are hot.  
2. Your dad is here.  

1. Your song is next.  
2. I think they are there.  
3. Here are the crisps.

1. Can you mend it?  
2. Your mum has some sweets for us all.  
3. They all slept here.

1. He said he was in a rush.  
2. Are you on the bench?  
3. Do they help you?

1. They had a crash.  
2. Your bus has come.  
3. Here is your vest.
Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1-30 and regular words.

1. You can live here. 1. My dog is here.
2. They like him. 2. They have to live here.
3. We can come by bus. 3. You can all go.

1. They have one lamp. 1. We like chips.
2. My tent is strong. 2. They are so good.
3. We have to do it soon. 3. We have said it all.

1. They live in a hut. 1. I like my fish.
2. One plum is red. 2. They have run to get here.
3. It is so hot here. 3. They give me help.

1. He can come by car. 1. I had one drink.
2. They live in a van. 2. They have some junk.
3. We have to go to the zoo soon. 3. It ran like an ant.

1. My boat sank. 1. My pen is sharp.
2. One dart hit the lamp. 2. They said it was smart.
3. They like to cook. 3. Go one by one into the shop.
Dictation sentences - using tricky words 1-30 and regular words.

1. Get a sharp one for me. 1. They went by bus.
2. So you can go to the farm. 2. They like to live there.
3. Some cats go on the bed. 3. We like to have a nap.

1. One dog bit his shin. 1. My dad went on a ship.
2. Do you all like it? 2. Go in one by one.
3. Give it to me. 3. I like my one best.

1. It was so good. 1. Have you sunk it yet?
2. Our pot is red and green. 2. I think one man can come this week.
3. This crust is hard on my teeth. 3. They have ten cats.

1. They can live in my flat. 1. It is so long.
2. I have to boil the sheets. 2. They like my song.
3. They have long legs. 3. Give him some crisps.

1. Do you like my car? 1. I have lost my dog.
2. Give that one to the cook. 2. We like to live here.
3. They have left my darts at the club. 3. My mum said no.