



Tips to Teaching Children How to Spell # Words 1-10

Teach the number words in the following order. Spend a week on each group (or more if necessary).

3 letter words: ONE, TWO, SIX and TEN

4 letter words: FOUR, FIVE, NINE

5 letter words: THREE, SEVEN, EIGHT

NOTES:

- Children typically learn to read English words using the CVC (Consonant-Vowel-Consonant) spelling patterns as in C-A-T (where the vowel is a short sound).
- Next, children learn CVC-Silent E. (Consonant-Vowel-Consonant-Silent E) where the vowel has a long sound as in the words CANE and CONE.
- Use the phrase, "Cover the E, say A, (pronounce the sounds) C-A-N, CANE!"
"Cover the E, say O, (pronounce the sounds) C-O-N, CONE!"

Now, to teach!

3 Letter Words: ONE, TWO, SIX and TEN

1. Teach SIX and TEN. They are spelled the way that they sound: "T-E-N and S-I-X." (CVC as mentioned above)
2. Teach ONE. ONE looks like it should read. "O-N-E" like in CONE, but in fact it reads like "WUN". Talk about how number ONE is silly because it's spelled O-N-E like (long o) ONE as in CONE.
3. Teach TWO. Tell the students that TWO has 3 letters-T-W-O. Talk about how it's not spelled the way it sounds and that it's another silly English word. The silliness helps them remember.

4 Letter Words: FOUR, FIVE, NINE

1. Teach that the number word FOUR has 4 letters-F-O-U-R. F-O-R are the sounds that they hear. They have to remember that there is a U. Knowing that the number 4 has 4 letters helps them remember F-O-U-R.
2. FIVE follows the silent e/long vowel rule: "Cover the E, say I, F-I-V, FIVE!"
3. NINE follows the silent e/long vowel rule: "Cover the E, say I, N-I-N, NINE!"

5 Letter Words: THREE, SEVEN, EIGHT

Use the BINGO song for these numbers words!

Explain to the child that the number words 3, 7 and 8 all have 5 letters.

After hearing the letters to each number word sing the BINGO song like this:



*There was a dog who had a number
His number was THREE
T-H-R-E-E, T-H-R-E-E, T-H-R-E-E
and THREE was his number.*

1. Teach the students that THREE is basically spelled the way that it sounds:
T-H-R-EE.
Sing the song!
2. Teach the students that SEVEN just has one vowel-E, S-E-V-E-N.
They usually want to write SEVIN with an I.
Knowing there are two vowels and they are both E helps.
Sing the song!
3. Teach the students that EIGHT is just plain crazy!
Tell them that there are 2 VOWELS, 2 silent CONSONANTS and the letter T
that they actually hear! E-I--G-H--T. E-I-G-H-T
Sing the song!

Notes: