Name _____ Date _____

Letters, words and spaces

Letters make words. Words make sentences. Spaces keep words apart.

1 Learn



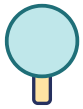
Letters join up to make a **word**. Words join up to make a **sentence**. We leave a **finger space** between words, so we can read them.

d → duck → The ▯ duck ▯ can ▯ swim.

a letter — a word — a sentence

Can you read this?

Isawabigtree.



1. Say it out loud, slowly: **I · saw · a · big · tree.**
2. Clap once for each word. That's **5 words**. (I and a are words with just one letter.)
3. Write it again with a **finger space** after each word:

   I ▯ saw ▯ a ▯ big ▯ tree.

Flip's tip: put your finger on the paper after each word. Start the next word on the other side of your finger. That gap is a **finger space**.

Warm up: count and write the number.

park has ____ letters. We can play. has ____ words.

Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud. Point as you read: "This is a letter. This is a word. This is a sentence." The dot at the end of a sentence is a full stop: it is punctuation, and it is not a word.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Word train

You need: a sheet of paper torn into small pieces, a pencil, and a finger!

1. Think of a short sentence together about the park, like **"The dog ran fast."**
2. Say it again and **clap once for each word**. How many claps?
3. Write each word on its own piece of paper. These are your **word cards**.
4. Lay the cards in a line like a train, with a **finger space** between them. Read it together.
5. Mix the cards up, then build the train again. Make a new sentence too!

Our sentence	How many words?

Grown-ups: if two words end up on one card, read it slowly together and ask, "Is that one word or two?" Words like I and a count as words, even though they have only one letter.

3 Practise

A. Count the **letters** in each word. Write the number.



sun ☐



duck ☐



kite ☐



apple ☐

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B. Is it a **letter**, a **word** or a **sentence**? Tick one box.

	letter	word	sentence
b			
swing			
The sun is hot.			
m			
We like the park.			

C. Squashed! Draw a line **between each word**. Count the words.

Isawabird. words: ☐

Thesunishot. words: ☐

Mumcanrun. words: ☐

D. Oops! The spaces are in the wrong places. Write it again, with spaces only **between** words.

The du ck can sw im.

_____

My k ite is b ig.

_____

Challenge

Leo says, "**dog** is 3 words." Is he right? What is it really?

Hint: is **d** a word or a letter?

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ tell a letter, a word and a sentence apart
- ☐ count the words in a sentence
- ☐ leave a finger space between words