

Traffic lights

Written by Jacqui Edwards. Illustrated by Trent Lambert.

SPELD SA
Phonic Book Series

Practice page

Set 9 includes words with alternate spellings for the sounds /ai/, /oi/, /i/, /ee/ and /ie/.

Practise blending sounds in words

ay /ai/	say		
ey /ai/	obey	they	
ea /ee/	means	leader	
y /ie/	try		
igh /ie/	lights		
Revision	amber	traffic	three

Practise high frequency words

are	of	where	two
there	to	all	the
when	goes	everyone	here
you	do	have	slow

Learning to read

SPELD SA Phonic Books support the teaching of reading by using a structured synthetic phonics approach. They are designed to build on the pre-reading skills of oral language and phonological awareness needed for reading success. The books support the learning of letter-sounds and blending in a sequential phonic order, helping students to develop their independent decoding skills. The books also contain limited high frequency words that need to be taught before reading the book. The questions and activities focus on increasing a student's vocabulary and fluency and encourage the student to make deeper connections with the author's message.

Traffic lights (130 words)

Before reading the book, use the practice page to:

1. Revise the alternative spellings for sounds

2. Teach the blending of letter-sounds in regular words

The student points to each letter or combination of letters, saying the sound they represent. Swipe left to right under the letters, saying the sounds quickly and smoothly together to read the word. e.g. o-b-ey is 'obey'; s-ay is 'say'; t-r-y is 'try'; l-igh-t-s is 'lights'.

During single word practice, check that the student understands the meaning of the word.

If the student is having difficulty hearing the word when blending:

- repeat the sounds more than once in succession to help the student 'hear' the word
- model stretching the sounds together without pauses, e.g. nnnnniiiiip, is 'hip'
- use letter tiles and push them together while saying the sounds.

3. Teach the high frequency words

Tell the student the words and determine any 'tricky' parts by breaking up the word into its sounds. Many high frequency words will be able to be sounded out later as the student learns more sounds and how they are written.

Reading tips

A combination of letters can represent a sound, such as in boat (b-oa-t), song (s-o-ng), fern (f-er-n), shout (sh-ou-t), or night (n-igh-t).

A sound can be written as different letters or letter combinations, such as the sound /ai/ in 'rain', 'play', 'make', the sound /ee/ in 'sleep', 'heat', 'happy' and the sound /ou/ in 'shout' and 'brown'.

A letter or letter combination can also represent different sounds, such as <ow> in 'how' and 'grow' or <y> in 'yellow', 'try' and 'mystery'.

Words can contain split vowel digraphs, such as in 'make', 'eve', 'bite', 'note' and 'tune'.

The suffix <ed> can represent the sound /d/ as in 'rubbed', /t/ as in 'packed' and /id/ as in 'landed'.

Words can contain schwa vowel sounds. The schwa is pronounced as an /uh/ sound, such as in, 'Nana', 'butter', 'across', 'the'. Explore with the student which part of the word has the schwa sound by breaking the word into its sounds. Take note of how the schwa sound is spelt.

Vocabulary

The words on this page can be used to help the student's comprehension before, during or after reading the book. Link the meanings of words with what the student already knows, show examples or have students act out the words.

amber	- yellow
traffic	- the movement of vehicles along a road
obey	- follow instructions
nearly time to stop	- close to stopping time so slow down
leader	- a person who is in charge of others
yell	- shout very loudly

Help with syllables

traffic
o/bey/ing
am/ber
lead/er
near/ly
ev/er/y/one
a/round



Traffic lights are on roads with lots of cars, where two roads meet.

1



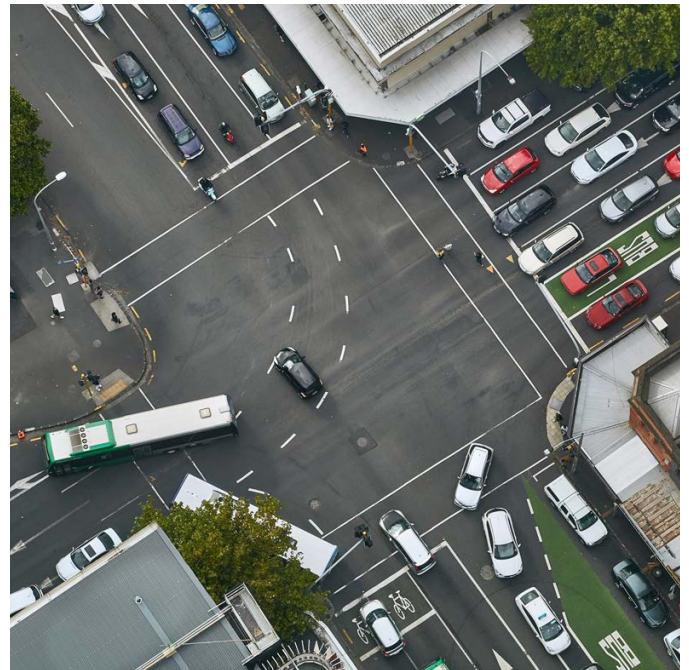
There are three lights – green, amber and red.

2



Green means go, amber means it's nearly time to stop, red means stop.

3



All cars, trucks and even bikes must obey the traffic lights and stop when the light goes red.

4



Obeying the rules keeps everyone safe.

5



Here is a traffic light game you can try. Everyone goes around the room. A leader has 3 cards – red, amber and green.

6



The leader holds up a card and the children must obey it. Green means run, amber means go slow and red means stop or stand still.

7



If you do not have cards, the leader can yell out red, amber and green and the kids must do as they say.

8

From blending to fluency

To develop fluency, the student needs to re-read the same book multiple times. Students might initially sound out every word and re-read every sentence but, with practice, blending will become more automatic. The fluency chart can be used to develop automaticity of blending by providing single word blending practice.

While reading the book, the student:

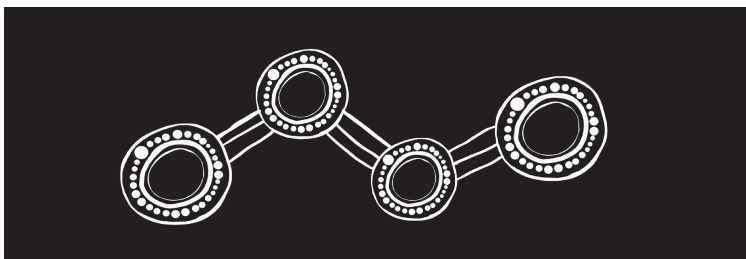
- blends the sounds of each unknown word in the sentence
- identifies and reads high frequency words
- re-reads the sentence from the beginning
- discusses the meaning of the sentence

When finished, the student needs to re-read the whole book and practise reading the same book until they can read at a steady pace with minimal sounding out.

Making connections - questions and discussion

After the student has read the book, or the relevant page, ask them one or more of the following questions and discuss:

1. What are the colours of traffic lights? What does each colour mean?
2. Traffic lights help drivers stay safe. What do you think would happen to cars if there were no traffic lights?
3. There are also lights for pedestrians or people who are walking across a road. What colour are those lights? Can you find or draw a picture of a walk sign and stop sign for pedestrians?
4. Why is it important to obey rules?
Is it always important to obey rules? Discuss.
Are there rules in your home or community that you must obey?
5. Play the traffic game from this book.
After playing answer these questions:
 - Did you most enjoy being the leader or obeying the traffic rules? Or both? Why?
 - How could you tell if children are not obeying the rules?
 - What reward could you give to children who always obey the traffic rules?



Cover artwork by Elizabeth Close

Elizabeth Close is an Anangu woman from the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara language groups in the APY Lands in outback South Australia. She was born in Adelaide and spent much of her upbringing in remote communities, learning her language and receiving cultural education.

'This artwork represents the literacy and numeracy learning journey, and the path towards independent learning. The circles represent the collaborative learning and supports around children with specific learning difficulties, including children, schools, families, SPELD SA and others.' Elizabeth Close, Artist.

About this series

The SPELD SA Phonic Book Series complements the teaching of reading and writing using a structured synthetic phonics approach. SPELD SA aims to help Aboriginal students engage with phonic books by having characters, content and settings that reflect Aboriginal communities. In developing this series, SPELD SA has consulted with people who live and work in the Anangu, Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. We understand that the content, settings and characters may not reflect all Aboriginal people and their experiences but hope that Aboriginal students learning to read can find some familiarity in and connection with these books in their literacy journey.

Each set of books introduces a group of sounds for students to blend to read words. The books with a single star icon on the front cover contain a lower word count and less high frequency words. The books with two stars contain a higher word count, a greater number of high frequency words and/or more complex word structure. Please consider your student's ability when choosing a book for them to read. For a comprehensive explanation of the structure of the series, please refer to the SPELD SA website.

Acknowledgments

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SPELD SA is grateful for the contributions of volunteers for: consultation and project development; writing texts, comprehension questions, charts and games; illustrating, photography and graphic design; character development and cultural advice; speech and language advice. This is a wide community project, with talents, expertise and knowledge being shared for a common purpose - to improve literacy. Thank you all.

Book design by Tricia Smith Design, compilation and additional design by Janet Stone.

Fluency chart

try	say	room	time
safe	cars	light	obey
must	game	yells	keeps
even	means	amber	still
bikes	rules	trucks	green
leader	around	children	traffic

SPELD SA Phonic Books follow the sequence of letter-sounds used in the Jolly Phonics synthetic phonics program. The books can be used with other phonics programs.

Set 1	s, a, t, p, i, n
Set 2	c, k, ck, e, h, r, m, d
Set 3	g, o, u, l, f, b
Set 4	ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or
Set 5	z, w, ng, v, oo (book), oo (room)
Set 6	y, x, sh, ch, th (think), th (that)
Set 7	qu, ou, oi, ue, er, ar
Set 8	y (sunny), a (apron), a-e (cake), e (female), e-e (eve), i (silent), i-e (kite), o (open), o-e (home), u (student), u-e (tune)
Set 9	ay (play), ey (they), oy (toy), y (mystery), ea (dream), ie (chief), y (dry), igh (night)
Set 10	oe (toe), ow (rainbow), ow (now), ir (bird), ur (turn), ew (few), au (launch), aw (paw), al (talk)



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