Tricky words: the, to, I, no, go

23

Lesson 23 of 92 (ages 3-6) / 17 of 86 (age 7+) · Letter Sounds · Ages 3-7+ · about 10 min

GOAL

Your child can read the, to, I, no, go on sight.

WHY IT MATTERS

Some very common words don't follow the rules yet, so they can't be sounded out. Knowing them by sight lets your child read real sentences sooner.

YOU'LL NEED

- The practice sheet for this lesson (worksheet.pdf) and a pencil or crayon.
- The lesson page on a phone or tablet, for the sounds and games.

LESSON FLOW about 10 minutes

1 min — Warm up

Read last time's tricky words (if any) from cards.

2 min — Listen

Tap each word on the lesson page.

2 min — Show how

Point to the tricky part of each word (pink on the lesson page).

SAY *"the: this part doesn't say what it looks like. We just remember it."*

2 min — Do it together

Trace and write the words, then color them in the word grid on the practice sheet.

2 min — Play

Play find-the-word and build-the-word on the lesson page.

1 min — Wrap up

Hunt for one of the words in a picture book.

USE WITH THIS LESSON

- **This lesson online (listening + games)**
  phonicademy.com/plan/session/tricky-1
- **Printable: Tricky Words Worksheet — Phase 1-2 (Free PDF)**
  phonicademy.com/printables/tricky-words-worksheet-phase-1-2
- **Printable: Tricky/Sight Words Flashcards by Phase (PDF)**
  phonicademy.com/printables/abc-phonics-tricky-words-flashcards
- **Game: Tricky Word Hunt**
  phonicademy.com/play/tricky-word-hunt

FIND THE WORD

Write the choices on paper. Say one word; your child points to it.

#	SAY / SHOW	CHOICES	ANSWER	
1	Say "the"	the, to, I	**the**	☐
2	Say "to"	to, I, no	**to**	☐
3	Say "I"	I, no, go	**I**	☐
4	Say "no"	no, go, the	**no**	☐
5	Say "go"	go, the, to	**go**	☐

WATCH FOR common mix-ups and what to do

Tries to sound out the word (t-h-e).	->	Say: "This one's tricky, we don't sound it out" and read it together.
Knows it on a card but not in a book.	->	Practise in real books: point to the word whenever it appears.

TOO HARD? MAKE IT EASIER

Learn 2 of the 5 words today and the rest tomorrow.

TOO EASY? MAKE IT HARDER

Make a sentence with each word out loud, then read it back.

HOW DID IT GO?

MY CHILD CAN...

- ☐ Reads the, to, I, no, go without sounding out.
- ☐ Finds the words in a book.

Date: _____ **Colour in the stars:** ☆ ☆ ☆

Notes: _____