

Letter Names

Knowing the names of all the letters in the alphabet is a useful skill. Studies show that the ability to do so is highly correlated with success in beginning reading. Many children, in fact, know the letters of the alphabet before coming to school because parents have pointed letters out in books or other reading materials.

Some educators recommend teaching only uppercase (capital) letters at the kindergarten or preschool level. Certainly, however, students should know both capital and lowercase letters by the middle of first grade.

In fact, it is really not enough to just know the letter names. The pre-reading student should display fluency in naming them. This means that the student can not only name the letters, but can do it with reasonable speed and accuracy. Fluency is a necessary skill, and it is also one that is a bit more advanced than simply naming the letters (perhaps at a slow, intermittent pace).

Tests 1A, 1B, and 1C are helpful for evaluating whether or not students know the names of letters in the alphabet.

- Test 1A includes all the uppercase letters.
- Test 1B includes all the lowercase letters.
- Test 1C contains uppercase and lowercase letters but focuses on fluency, or speed.

Directions

Make two photocopies of the test to be used—one for the student and one for you as the teacher. Write the student's name and the date on the teacher's copy. Give the student a copy and then instruct him or her to read aloud the letters in the boxed "Practice" section.

If a student is able to recite all the names of the letters without hesitation, it is sufficient to say that he or she knows all the letter names. If a student misses even one letter in the "Practice" section, continue the test by having him or her read aloud all the remaining letters listed—a line at a time.

Take your time when administering Tests 1A and 1B, allowing the student to go slowly or hesitate on some letters. You will test for fluency on Test 1C.

Scoring

On your teacher copy, circle each letter the student misses. Concentrate follow-up practice drills on the letters that give the student difficulty. Repeat the test periodically after the student has practiced reviewing the letter names.

Capital Letter Names

Student's Name _____ Date _____

Practice					
A	J	O	T	Y	

Capital Letters

Student reads letters aloud.

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | R | M | H | B | E |
| 2. | K | A | G | S | N |
| 3. | O | I | C | U | X |
| 4. | Y | J | D | F | Q |
| 5. | L | T | Z | P | W |
| 6. | V | F | E | O | Q |

Teacher Evaluation

All letters correct (check here): _____

Letters missed (write here): _____

Lowercase Letter Names

Student's Name _____ Date _____

Practice				
b	f	n	g	e

Lowercase Letters

Student reads letters aloud.

1. m i p a w
2. y n g h d
3. v l r s b
4. c j e t o
5. g q z k u
6. x b d h f

Teacher Evaluation

All letters correct (check here): _____

Letters missed (write here): _____