

GED & HiSET

RLA Foundations



- ✓ Read Faster,
- ✓ Understand
More,
- ✓ Score Higher

A Step-by-Step Guide for Struggling Readers

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Chapter 1: Understanding Words

Understanding words is a key part of becoming a strong reader. Recognizing words quickly, sounding them out, and understanding their meanings will help with reading fluency and comprehension. This chapter will focus on three important skills:

- **Recognizing sight words** to improve reading speed
- **Using phonics** to break down unfamiliar words
- **Understanding prefixes, suffixes, and root words** to determine word meanings

These skills will help you build confidence and read more effectively.

Recognizing Sight Words Sight words are common words found in everyday reading. Because they do not always follow standard spelling rules, they should be memorized for easy recognition.

Examples of Sight Words:

- **Basic words:** the, and is, was, were
- **Pronouns:** he, she, they, we, you
- **Action words:** have, said, do, does, can

Why Are Sight Words Important? Sight words appear often in texts. Learning them will make reading easier because you will not need to stop and sound them out every time you see them.

Practice Activity Read the sentence below aloud. Try to recognize the sight words without pausing.

"They were happy because she had a fun day."

Using Phonics to Sound Out Words Phonics helps readers decode unfamiliar words by matching letters to sounds. Recognizing phonetic patterns can improve reading accuracy and fluency.

Common Phonetic Patterns:

- **Short vowel sounds:** cat, dog, sit, jump
- **Long vowel sounds:** bike, tree, blue, hope