

The Printing Road to Reading and Spelling

Alpha-Phonics Practice Sentences

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Lesson 6: Dad sat. Max had ham. Dan was tan. Was Sam tan? Has dad an ax? Dad has an ax. Sam was sad. Was Max mad? Tad was tan.

Lesson 13: Al can bat. Jack has a sack. Val has jam.

Cal has a hat. Yaz can bat. Mack has a jazz band.

Yaz can yack. Jack has a back-pack. Can Yaz bat?

Lesson 17: Bess fed Jack an egg. Let Jeff tell Ben.

Deb had an egg. Dad let Ken get wet. Deb has a red

pen. Send Len an ax. Lend Jen a Pet. Ben has a jet.

Rex fell. Tell Bess yes. Deb can yell. Ted has a cat as

a pet. Get Jeff a Keg. Tex and Len set a net. Bess

has less. Ten men met.

Lesson 20: Quick, Rick, fix it. Tim bit his slip. Nick is

sick. Nick will get well. Will Bill tell Jill? Sid will miss his

pet pig. His pig is big. Jim is big. His hat fit him well. Phil

hid his hat. Jack hid his ham in his hat. Liz was sick and

was fed in bed. Mix it, fix it, and quit it. Will Bill win?

Yes, Bill will win. Is Jill ill? Yes, Jill is ill.

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Lesson 22: The man has a cat. The cat is a big cat. The cat is a thin cat. This is his cat. This is Beth. Tell them that Rex is at bat. The cat is in the bag. Did Beth tell them that the cat is in the bag? The cat ran. Let the cat dig in the sand. The pig ran with the cat. Dick ran with the bag in hand. Phil was with Beth and Seth. Then Beth and Seth ran with the hen. Quick, get the thick net.

Lesson 24: The quick fox got on top of the box. The red hen fell in the bath and got wet. The Red Sox will win. Yaz will win. Tom is the son of Jack. The dog ran with the cat. The pot got hot. Is the dog in the box? The dog is not in the box. Bob and Don sat on the dock. Tell mom that Bob has the mop. That box has a lock on it. Quick, lock the box. But the fox ran.

Lesson 26: The man has ten cats and six dogs. Jill has six hens. Jim's pet pig is big. Don kisses his mom. Pam's cat is fat. Pat has ten pins. Jack has six boxes of eggs. Mom has ten pots and six pans. Rex's hat is red. The dog ran with the foxes. Val's dog is in the pen.

Page 28: The dog dug in the mud and had fun. Tom's dad put the pup in the tub. Can Jack pull the big log up the hill? Jack and Jill ran up the hill. The red jug is full. The dog got mud on the rug. Gus put the mug on the rug. Rick hugs his pup. The sun was up at six. The tub was full of mud. The bug dug in the rug. A big bull is in the pen. Val put the mud in the tub.

Lesson 33: Don had fish and chips. Which dish is dad's? Which fish has the fish in it? This dish is full of chips. Pam sat on the deck of the ship. Don has a chill. Bud has a rash. Rich has cash and is rich. Bud is his chum. His chin is thin. He hid the dish of fish in the shed. When will Jim shut the shop? The shop will shut when it is six. Chuck is in the shack. Dad has a chess set. Chuck will wash the ship. Pam will pull the dog off the ship. Did Bess check the shack? Bess did check the shack.

Lesson 35: I have a cat. She has a dog. We have a cat and a dog. They have six pets. You have a pet pig. Are you sick? No, I am well. She put the pup on the bed. The pets were in the tub. They were in the hut. He had a rash. Did you get sick? No, I did not get sick. Did she win? Yes, she won.

Lesson 37: Is Bill sad? Bill isn't sad. Is this Peg's dog? No, this isn't Peg's dog. Is it Jill's dog? Yes, it's Jill's dog. Has Peg a cat? Peg hasn't a cat. Can they run? They can't run. Did Jill run? Jill didn't run. Let's not jog. Let's run.

Lesson 39: Jill has a picnic basket full of hotdogs and relish. Philip has a suntan. Kevin is a rascal. Karen and Ken will visit dad. Calvin put the pencil in his jacket pocket. Bill's mascot is a rabbit. Don put a red ribbon on his cat. Mom has a red satin bonnet. Peg's husband has a wagon. The camel sat on the cactus. Pam can mimic a puppet. Deb has a red velvet sash. Jim has a gallon of lemon tonic. Let's visit Patraick's dad. It was a vivid sunet.

Lesson 40: Cal's pal Tim is tall. Did Hal fall? Cal has the ball. Cal hit the ball with the bat. Philip sat on the wall. His jacket is in the hall. Call Cal. Tell Cal that his ball is in the hall. Is the ball in his jacket pocket? Yes, it is.

Lesson 41: Deb sang a song. Ron rang the bell. The song was sung. The king can sing. The gang sang. Tim is in Hong Kong.

Lesson 42: Jan is singing a song. Bill is ringing the bell. Peg is getting all wet. Rick is kicking the ball. The cat is licking his leg. Bob is calling his dog. Jack is yelling at Jill. Pat is packing his bag. Cal is passing the ball. Chuck is fixing the shack. Meg is petting the cat. Is Mom shopping at the mall? Dad is chopping with his ax. Jill is napping on the bed. Bess is dabbing at the sand. Was Kim digging in the mud?

Lesson 44: Bill is mending his tent. Kent went hunting. Jack went with Kent. Bob lent Ann his fishing rod. Ann is fishing at the pond. Bob wants his rod back. Bob went to the pond. Jill is fond of Philip. Philip sent Jill a bag of mints. The cat sat on the ant hill. Beth is running in the wind. Kent is in the band. Mom will mend Pam's socks.

Lesson 45: Butter is better. Ken has a sister. Her hat is bigger. Bill sent a letter. Her dad is a hunter.

Summer is better than winter.

Lesson 47: Hank put cash in the bank. Bob put gas in the tank. Beth put the dish in the sink. Bill had a bunch of junk. Dan sat on the bench. Dad has a ranch. Tim had lunch with Bess. Bev had punch with her lunch.

Pam has the top bunk.

Lesson 48: Bill got a raft as a gift. He left his raft at the pond. The raft is big. Can Bill lift the raft? The fact is that he can't. But Jack and Bill can lift the raft. Ann got a gift. Jan will get the next gift. Can Beth act? Yes, she can. Liz will sift the sand.

Lesson 49: Jim sat at his desk. Jill will pass the test.

Beth did her best. Bill went west. Bob did a task. Hank can run fast. The metal chest was full of rust.

Lesson 53: Jack has an itch. Dad lit a match. Dad has a watch. Bess has a lamp. The cat is in a ditch at the dump. Can the cat catch the fish? Bill will pitch his tent at the camp.

Lesson 55: The cat sat at the edge of the ledge and did not budge. The cat sat on the fence. The fog is dense.

Lesson 70: truck, skip, swift, quick, grudge, glass, blond, fudge, dump, task, sash, lisp, clasp, dwell, clap, slack, spring, witch, smash, snick, sting, jump, then, spun, slosh, shrimp, plumb, prom, frill, flag, cliff, crux, draft, chest, bridge, edge, golf, elm, scant, scrunch, thrush, bless, Dutch, with, pest, dish, bank, king, fond, act, lift, left, kept, trick France, hitch, next, lunch, flash, twist, strand, scuff.

Lesson 71: The cat sat still. Bill had fudge with his lunch. Patrick drank a glass of milk. Gwen put cash in the bank. Pam had a stiff neck. Kenneth had shrimp for lunch. The king of France was plump. Frank is a prince. The bus stop is on the bridge. His skin has an itch. Stan put the trash in a basket. Fred sat on the grass. The frog swam in the swamp. A frog can jump and swim. A skunk can jump and skip. The swift skunk stunk. Madge had a strand of gems. The clock struck twelve. The truck got stuck in the mud. Page 7

Lesson 74: Jane can bake a cake. When will Kate wake up and take a bath? Dave has an ache in his hand. Bill's rabbit is in a cage. Dave came, but Kate is late. Jane ate the cake. When will Dave shave his face? Jack fell in the lake. Can Dave save Jack? Yes, Dave can save Jack. Dave gave Kate a locket. This place is safe. The cat hid in the cave. His name is Jake. Kate gave Jane the date of the game. Abe's face is pale. Beth ate a grape.

Lesson 76: Clair paid ten cents at the gate. Gail will wait in the rain for the train. If the train is late, Gail will take a bus. In Spain the rain falls on the plain. Cain is waiting at the main gate. If the train is late, take a plane. "Fish or cut bait," said Bill. Gail is washing her hair. Jane is trimming her nails. "If it rains take the train," said Dave. "It is raining," said Kate. "Wait for Jane," said Dave. But Kate did not wait in the rain. The mail is late. Spring is in the air.

Lesson 78: Can Fay play with Kay? They say that Fay may play with Kay. Jay will play a game with Kay. Fay will play all day. Jay fell in the hay. They went that way. They came late that day. The day is grey. P 8

Lesson 79: Bill is eight. Jack has eight cents. Kay's hat has a veil. Dave ate eight cupcakes. The freight train came. Can they weight the freight? Yes, they can weigh the freight on a scale. They will play with their game.

Dave and Kay are on the eighth day of their game.

Lesson 82: payday, railway, airplane, spaceship, away, engage, waitress, raining, enslave, grateful, complain, mailman, chairman, embrace, obtain, tailgate, playmate.

Lesson 84: Paul saw a spot on Saul's jaw. Paul saw Aunt Maud sitting on the lawn. The cat cut her paw. Paul drank his milk with a straw. The dawn came at six o'clock.

Lesson 86: Mark has a red car. "Park the car in the yard," said Art. Pam has a big jar of jam. Beth has a part in a play. Mark's farm has a barn. Father went far away on a the plane. It is dark in the park. "Start the car," said Ma. The dog will bark in the dark. Pa's yard is full of junk. Mark's arm has an itch. Beth has a ball of yarn. "If it rains, but the cart in the barn," said Father. The shark ate the small fish. Clark and Mark are smart. Marge drank a quart of milk. Paul and Art will play cards. Mark can take his car apart.

Lesson 88: I see a tree. Can the tree see me? She is the queen. Is she the queen of Greece. Yes, she is the Greek queen. We ate beef this week. Lee came in a jeep. Will they sweep the street this week? Yes, they will sweep the street this week. He is free at three o'clock. I have seen the queen. Lee will greet the queen. Dee and Lee will cheer the queen. We ate cheese this week. She ate cheese and beef. "Meet me next week," she said. The deer was in a deep sleep. He was sleeping in the breeze. Lee was on his knee fixing the jeep.

Lesson 90: Jean had a dream. She put cream in her tea. Jean ate a meal of veal, peas, bread, and tea. Then she ate a peach. The peach was sweet. Bill is at sea. The sea is in the east. The beach is neat and clean. Jean sat in her seat. The seat is near the rear. Bill is on the team this year. The dog has fleas. The cat is neat and clean. When will we reach the beach? Steak will be great. Let's break for a steak. Jean will read "The Seal Had Zeal."

Lesson 91: Where is Steve? Steve is here. Where were Pete and Steve? Pete and Steve were here. Here is where they were. Where were they? They were here and there. "Sit here, not there." said Steve. Steve and Gene were there at the bench. The sun was in Steve's eyes. Steve had a tear in his eye. Eve has green eyes.

Lesson 92: Debbie and Ronnie sat on the pier. Jackie is Connie's friend. Vinnie and Ronnie are friends. Lassie ran in the field. The thief ran away. Vinnie will sieze the thief. The heat from the sun is fierce. Bonnie shields her eyes from the sun. Connie has a niece. Her name is Minnie.

Lesson 94: Billy was silly. Taffy was daffy. Mommy was happy. Daddy was very merry. Danny ate Candy. Kenny felt dizzy. The lobby was stuffy. The day is hot and muggy. The bunny is funny. Larry is dizzy. Debbie is very pretty. Betty was busy. Jerry is in a hurry. The day was chilly and foggy. Perry is very sorry. Gary hasn't any money. The city is hilly. The day was sunny. Daddy was busy. The baby was fussy. Can Perry carry Barry?

Lesson 97: The street is neat and clean. Lee's feet need rest. Peggy feels very sleepy. "Meet me at the beach," Betty said. Where is the beach? The beach is near the city. "Please teach me to read," Pete said to his teacher. There is a breeze near the sea. We can sleep on the beach near the sea. "There are three peach trees in the field near Berry Street," said Gene. Steve can reach a peach with ease. The berries are sweet. "For Pete's sake, hurry up," said Jean. We will be back at the beach next week. "Did Lee hear me?" asked Billy. "Where are the keys?" asked Penny. Steve will pick the cherries from the tree. It is easy to read this page.

Lesson 98: I will dry my wet tie. "I can not tell a lie," said Terry. "I will try to do better," said John. Why did the guy cry? Jack's dad will fly in the plane to Spain. She had cherry pie for lunch. "Can you tie the bow on my dress?" Connie asked. "I will fry an egg for Timmy," said Mom.

Lesson 99: I like red berry ice cream. I can ride my bike to the pike. I will fly my kite at the beach. We ate a slice of pie. I will strive to run a mile each day. I will strive to do my best. We will strive to run a mile each day. Danny will fix the tire on his bike. Jenny has a pretty smile. "Let's play hide and seek," said Jake. What time is it? It is five o'clock. Mike likes to ride his bike. Tim likes to drive his car. They won a nice prize at the fair. Jean is Jack's wife. Her doll can cry like a baby. Mom and Jan like plain rice, but dad likes spice on his rice. "I feel fine," Betty said.

Lesson 100: The light was bright. The price was right. The night was chilly? Is the price high? Yes, the price is very high. The fire is bright. Land is in sight. The bright lights of the city are a sight at night. Mike was in a prize fight. Mike fights with all his might. The sky is bright tonight.

Lesson 101: I bought candy and gum. Paul caught the ball. He thought the ball was fast. Dad taught a tennis lesson.

Lesson 102: Dad has a cough. Mom gave him a cough drop. The steak was tough. Mike made Billy laugh. The sea was rough.

Lesson 104: My nose is sore. My home is in Rome. I spoke on the phone. I had an ice cream cone. I love a joke. Tell me a funny joke. She will move the stone one more time. The stove is hot. The dog ate the bone. Perry wore a bathrobe. Jean woke up. Then she woke me up. A rose is a rose. A rose smells nice. Dad drove to the store. He bought some hotdogs and Coke. "Come home when you are done," she said. Mom ate something for lunch. Betty loves to talk on the phone. "Tell me more," she said in a soft tone. I sent Kathy a note. The note was in code. "Please don't poke and shove," Tom said. We chose to go to the seashore.

Lesson 105: The car is on the road. He bought a loaf of bread. Joan ate a roast beef sandwich. The soap can float. Dad bought coal for the stove. Jan and Joan had oatmeal. Mom has tea and toast each day. Dad bought a big boat. The boat floats on the lake. Joan wore her red coat.

Lesson 106: Joan wants to grow up. The snow fell last night. I know what I want. I want to own a car. Bill wants his own boat. Bob wants to row his boat. Go slow in the snow. "I know the way home," said Joan. Jake will mow the lawn after lunch. Mom gave the cat a bowl of milk. Dad and Mike like to go bowling on Sundays. Mike has grown up. We saw a TV show. Bonnie has shown a lot of growth. The ball was thrown to Jim.

Lesson 107: The old home was cold. "Hold my hand," I told him. He was lost. He sold his home. I know what he told her. In winter it is cold most of the time. Bob sold his gold ring. I told him so. Dad sold his boat. It had cost him a lot of money. "It was only money," he said. He is the only one I know with a boat. Most of the time he stays home. "Go slow. There is ice on the road," said Dad.

Lesson 108: Do you know who went to the phone? Did you do what you were told? The two of you must know what to do. Who do you think you are? Do you know who you are? I want to go too. You are young. You are too young to go alone. The box is two feet high.

It is too big. Give it back to him. What shall I do?

Go to the man who sold it to you.

Lesson 110: Joan and Jane went to the zoo. The zoo was too far from home. Jane took a book with her. Joan wore a wool coat. Soon they will go to school. The pool was cool, but the food was good. Betty can cook good food. Jim stood at the door and took a look. Look at Betty's room. It's so neat. "Open the door," said Pam. "I have cookies and milk. "The door is made of wood. The dentist said my tooth was loose. Barry sat on the floor. He took a snooze. It's noon. Time for lunch. Betty has too much to do this afternoon. The broom is in Mike's bedroom. Go to his room and get it. Soon it will be noon. Choose a good book to read.

Lesson 111: I would go if I could. If he could go, he would. Couldn't I go? He could go, but not the two of you. I would like to go, but I know I shouldn't. Should I go? No, you should stay. Shawn had a bad cold. Should he go to school? He shouldn't go to school if he has a cold. I wouldn't go if I had a bad cold. If I were sick I would stay in bed. Wouldn't you go? Yes, I would.

Lesson 113: How did the cow get out of the house? A mouse let her out. "I found the cow near the house," Brother said. They heard a loud sound. The house fell down. "Ouch," said the clown. The clown ran out of the house. They went downtown. It took an hour to find the cow. The cow was in a crowd, and then she went around the tower. How now brown cow? Will you come home? "Not now," said the cow. "Bow wow," said the dog. A man came to the house. "Your cow is in town," he said. The clown chased the mouse round and round.

Lesson 114: Roy gave the toy to Joyce. The cat likes to annoy Joyce. Roy wants to join the club. He has a choice of two clubs. Joyce has a jar of coins. Roy has a ballpoint pen. The water is about to boil. The soil is moist. Joyce made a good point. Uncle Royce has a boyish smile.

Lesson 115: June can play a tune on the flute. Luke sat on the sand dune. June ate a prune. Luke rode a mule. June is cute. The cloud was huge. Luke put a dime in the jukebox. Is there a cure for the cold? We are not sure. If there is a cure, Let's use it. Bruce has a tube of toothpaste. Dad put a fuse in the fuse box. It's never nice to be rude.

Lesson 116: Sue had prune juice at breakfast. It is true that Sue had the flu? Yes, it's true. Take a cue from Sue. When you have a cold, eat lots of fruit and drink lots of Juice. Sue's dress is blue. Bruce has a tube of glue. He will use the glue to fix the toy.

Lesson 117: June has a new dress. What's new? The news is good. Good news is always nice. Tell me the good news. Lew is having beef stew. I knew the news was good. Sue likes to chew gum. She grew an inch. Luke threw a stone. He threw it far. Lew drew a cat on his sketchpad. Sue will sew her blue coat.

Lesson 118: Sue wants to be a nurse. Bert likes to throw curve balls. He is in his third year of baseball. Today is Vern's birthday. Willy likes to learn new words. He is an expert at learning verses. Kelly is sitting on the curb. Bonnie has curls in her hair. She is holding a purse in her lap. Mom will grow turnips in the garden. We will have turkey for dinner. "Did you do your homework?" Dad asked. Vinnie will work with his list of words. The clerk wore a new shirt. The girl lost her purse. Bert held the bird and heard it sing. The bird was hurt and thirsty. Bert will urge Vern to get water for the bird.

Lesson 119: He ate a little apple. He threw a pebble. She had a little dimple. She sat at the table. He had a pimple on his dimple. She was nimble with a thimble. The bottle was brittle. The candle was on the table. Can a beagle chase an eagle? Can a turtle play a fiddle? Are you able to handle a paddle? The drizzle was a fizzle. There was a battle in the jungle.

Lesson 121: The ocean can be ferocious. Ralph is a musician and won a special prize at the fair. Jeff went to the train station to pick up Kate. Did you see Gail's picture on the table? Betty had a crucial question for the teacher. "Thank you for being so patient," said Dad. Mom bought a box of facial tissues. She phoned the pharmacy for special lotion. Didn't you think that motion picture was obnoxious? It sure was a pleasure to see Grandma and Grandpa this weekend. Grandma brought an album of photographs from Phoenix, which we will treasure. Dad will measure the wood to a fraction of an inch. The doctor's suggestion cleared Philip's confusion about his indigestion.

Lesson 122: I knew the solution to the math problem.
The knight cut the know with a sharp knife. The knight
knelt before the king.

Lesson 123: The plumber combed his hair after
climbing to the top of the tomb. The bomber dropped
a bomb during the bombing run. The lamb ate a crumb.

Lesson 124: The ghost walked for an hour in the
ghastly ghetto. The words honor and doctor rhyme.

Lesson 125: The write wrote a story. I wrapped the
gift in paper. He broke his wrist using the wrong
wrench. I can write about the wreck.

Lesson 126: The castle was nestled among the
whistling pines. The wrestler wrestled during the
wrestling match. I often soften water with the water
softner.

Lesson 127: The scholars put on a Christmas play at
school. The choir sang the first chord in the choral
piece. He was a real phyctic character.

Lesson 128: The gymnast worked out in the gym. The
mystic sang a criptic hymn.

The Printing Road to Reading and Spelling

Alpha-Phonics Printed (Manuscript) Sentence Reading Practice Chart

Name _____ Grade ____ School _____

Teacher _____ Start _____ Completion _____

Unit 1: Single Letter Consonants - Short ă (Lesson 1 - 14)

Lesson 6 _____

Unit 2: Short Vowels - ă, ě, ĭ, ǫ, ů (Lessons 15 - 28)

Lesson 13 _____ Lesson 17 _____ Lesson 20 _____ Lesson 22 _____

Lesson 24 _____ Lesson 26 _____ Lesson 28 _____

Unit 3: Consonant Digraphs (Lessons 29 - 42)

Lesson 33 _____ Lesson 35 _____ Lesson 37 _____ Lesson 39 _____

Lesson 40 _____ Lesson 41 _____ Lesson 42 _____

Unit 4: Ending Consonant Blends (Lessons 43 - 57)

Lesson 44 _____ Lesson 45 _____ Lesson 47 _____ Lesson 48 _____

Lesson 49 _____ Lesson 55 _____

Unit 5: Beginning Consonant Blends (Lesson 58 - 71)

Lesson 70 _____ Lesson 71 _____

Unit 6: Long ā Spellings (Lessons 72 - 86)

Lesson 74 _____ Lesson 76 _____ Lesson 78 _____ Lesson 79 _____

Lesson 82 _____ Lesson 84 _____ Lesson 86 _____

Unit 7: Long ē (Lessons 87 - 97)

Lesson 88 _____ Lesson 90 _____ Lesson 91 _____ Lesson 92 _____

Lesson 94 _____

Unit 8: Long ī (Lesson 98 - 102)

Lesson 98 _____ Lesson 99 _____ Lesson 100 _____ Lesson 101 _____

Lesson 102 _____

Unit 9: Long ō (Lesson 103 – 114)

Lesson 104 _____ Lesson 105 _____ Lesson 106 _____ Lesson 108

Lesson 110 _____ Lesson 111 _____ Lesson 113 _____ Lesson 114 _____

Unit 10: Long ū (Lessons 115 – 117)

Lesson 115 _____ Lesson 116 _____ Lesson 117 _____

Unit 11: R-modified vowels: er/ir/or/ur/ear. (Lesson 118)

Lesson 118 _____

Unit 12: Silent Letter, Multiple-Letter Consonants & y=ī. (Lesson 119 – 128)

Lesson 119 _____ Lesson 121 _____ Lesson 122 _____ Lesson 123 _____

Lesson 124 _____ Lesson 125 _____ Lesson 126 _____ Lesson 127 _____

Lesson 128 _____

Instructions

These Manuscript Reading Practice Sentences are taken from *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics: A Primer for Beginning Readers* (2005).

First Step - Writing: The teacher is to teach all the words and sentences in a Lesson from the chalkboard as printing handwriting lessons. The students are **not** expected to read words or sentences they have not been taught in the class. They will have written in manuscript every word and sentence on handwriting paper **before** being asked to read the cursive reading practice sentences. I recommend that the students say the letter names as they write the letters.

Second Step - Reading: The students can begin **reading** these practice sentences **after** they have written them in good manuscript on handwriting paper. The students should read each Lesson as many times as it takes for them to learn to read it without hesitation, using tally marks to keep track of the times each Lesson is read. **Guessing from the context is to be discouraged at all times.** This repetition is to build up their manuscript word identification automaticity (fluency and speed with comprehension).

Fourth Step - Writing Again: The sentences should be used for **dictation practice.** The goal of the program is total linguistic function with reading, cursive handwriting, and spelling all having an equal value. The student should be able to write the sentences from dictation as well as they can read them.

Donald L. Potter prepared this document. More information on cursive-first and intensive phonics can be found at www.donpotter.net.

Last edited: 11/28/09.

Note from Internet Publisher: Donald L. Potter.

November 29, 2009

This document is a print (manuscript) version of my *Cursive Road to Reading and Spelling Practice Sentences* for the use of students learning to read with the *Blumenfeld Alpha-Phonics Primer for Beginning Readers*. This note will explain why this print (manuscript) version of the document is being made available.

Advantages of Cursive: Dr. Blumenfeld and I both feel that cursive handwriting has significant advantages over printing for beginning readers and writers. Dr. Blumenfeld's splendid essay, "Cursive First! Print Later" is available on my web site www.donpotter.net, where the interested teacher can read at their leisure our reason for advocating [a return to cursive-first](#), as handwriting was taught in American schools before a British teacher named Marjorie Wise brought it to the Columbia Teachers College back in 1922.

Why this print (manuscript) version? The unfortunate reality is that most students in America today are not going to receive handwriting instruction in cursive-first. Most schools now teach it at the end of second or beginning of third grade – if at all. With some notable exceptions, cursive handwriting does not receive the emphasis needed if the students are going to be able to use it as a facile tool of thought. Dr. Blumenfeld and I both received our first handwriting instruction in cursive and believe it contributed greatly to our development as readers and writers. Nevertheless, we do not want to prevent students from receiving the benefit of *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* intensive phonics program, just because of our decided preference for cursive-first.

The Blumenfeld Alpha-Phonics Sentences constitute a thorough review and reinforcement, in concentrated form, of all the phonics' reading skills taught in the program.

A Little Personal History: I began using *Alpha-Phonics* in 1994 when a home school mother loaned me a copy to review. That year I had been asked to tutor a first grader who was not expected to pass to second grade because of reading problems. He not only became a good reader by the end of the year but became an excellent all around student. I then started using it with all my tutoring students. I also did workshops for teachers, many of whom, are still using the program because of its effectiveness with bilingual students.

Later, during the 1999-2000 school year, I taught a second grade bilingual class Mr. Blumenfeld's entire program of phonics and cursive-first. The results were outstanding. I was able to give the students Mr. Edward Miller's MWIA Level 2 assessment for artificially induced whole-word dyslexia when they are in fifth-grade. The students were free of artificially induced whole-word dyslexia and reading very well. Detailed, day-by-day, lesson plans for that year are available on my web site www.donpotter.net.

Still, I had not incorporated cursive handwriting into my private tutoring program. I used several excellent phonics programs in my tutoring including *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*, but I did not use cursive as the sole vehicle for delivering the phonics lessons.

I had been reading a lot about the benefit of cursive handwriting drills for curing children of ADHD and dyslexia. It seems that the handwriting drills, like the old Palmer drills, enabled children to develop the ability to focus their attention and gain self-control. Jeanette Farmer has developed a whole series of excellent handwriting exercises capable of curing ADHD: www.retrainthebrain.com. I reasoned that if the demise of cursive handwriting was allowing ADHD to raise its distracting head in our schools maybe I ought to add cursive handwriting drills to my reading instruction and thereby help students overcome ADHD and reading problems at the same time. The experiment this year is satisfying my predictions.

I created these manuscript practices sentences so the students could gain a profound acquaintance of the words in their cursive form. The goal is to enable the students to develop "Total Linguistic Function" with the help of phonics taught with manuscript printing. "Total Linguistic Function" means that the students will develop high-level skills in reading, printing handwriting, spelling, and composition.

Although this document bears the a 2009 copyright by Donald L. Potter, full permission is granted to print student copies for educational purposes by teachers using *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics*. This is just a handy aid for teachers teaching *Blumenfeld's Alpha-Phonics* with manuscript.

It is my hopes that teachers who use this printing (manuscript) version will also consider switching from printing to cursive and compared the differences. I believe you will find that students who learn to read and write with cursive will make better progress in all academic areas.