



Finding the By Heart Part

- High frequency sight words are words like
 - you
 - has
 - want
 - is
 - it
 - should
 - can
- These are called “high frequency” sight words because we see them often in text. It’s helpful to be able to read them automatically because that allows the reader to give more attention to harder words that need to be decoded, or sounded out.
- Some sight words can be sounded out, like “it”, but once a reader knows words like these, the reader will not need to stop and sound them out every time.
- Other sight words have a part that doesn’t “follow the rules”, like the word “you”. Words like this have a “by heart part”, or a part that we must find, think about, and learn “by heart”!

Here’s how to find the “by heart part” of a sight word. Let’s use the word “want” for this example.

1. Present the word aloud. “Let’s think about the word ‘want’.”
2. For this part, your learner is making the sounds without looking at the word.
3. Tap out the sounds or chop the sound. “Let’s make the sounds in ‘want’.” /w/ /u/ /n/ /t/
4. For a word like this with four sounds, you can also tap it out by putting one finger up at a time as you tap the sounds on your palm. This makes it easier to count the sounds.
5. How many sounds in “want”? (4)
6. Make that many lines.

7. For these next questions, your learner will look back at the word.
8. What sound is first? /w/ What letter makes that sound? w (Write a w in the first spot.)

W

9. "Let's tap the sounds again. /w/ /u/ /n/ /t/. What sound is next?" (To help, it is ok to give /w/ and ask your learner to give the next sound. It is also ok to model and provide the answer if needed.) "The next sound is /u/. What letter makes that sound?" a _____ (Write an a in the second spot.)

w a _____

10. "Let's tap the sounds again. /w/ /u/ /n/ /t/. What sound is next?"
"The next sound is /n/. What letter makes that sound?" n _____ (Write an n in the next spot.)

w a n _____

11. "What sound is last in 'want'?" /t/
"What letter makes that sound?" t _____ (Write a t in the last spot.)

w a n t

12. Find the by heart part.
"Which part of 'want' doesn't follow the rules?" the a, because it sounds like /u/

Draw a heart above the a in 'want'.

w  a n t

- You can write by heart words and other sight words on cards or in a tablet that you keep so they are handy to review.
- Most sight words will have only one by heart part. Some will have two!
- Sometimes, your learner will find a by heart part that does follow the rules, like the silent e in "like". That's ok. By heart parts can only help!