How Words Work

Regular Programme
Scope & Sequence

2026 Edition

Teaching English in
the way that works for *all* learners

- **Explicit:** explaining the rules
- **Systematic:** having a plan to cover everything
- **Cumulative:** growing in complexity gradually over time

adept education

by Lucy Patston

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence

	Skill	Details	
Book 1	1.1	Letters and Language Sounds	
	1.2	Short and Long Vowels	
	1.3	Letter Sounds: **p s a t i n m d** (bed) **g o**	
	1.4	Letter Sounds: **c k**	
	1.5	The Kitty Cat Rule	
	1.6	Introduction to (Closed) Syllables	
	1.7	The Short Vowel? Long spelling Rule **–ck**	
Book 2	2.1	Letter Sounds: **e u r h b**	
	2.2	Introduction to Silent-e	
	2.3	Letter Sounds: **f –ff l –ll –ss** and the FLoSS Rule	
	2.4	Introduction to Open Syllables	
	2.5	Introduction to Consonant Clusters	
	2.6	Nouns and adding **Suffix –s**	
	2.7	Verb and adding **Suffix –s**	
	∞	Knowing Stuff About the World	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence

	Skill	Details	
Book 3	3.1	Letter Sounds: **j v w x y z zz**	
	3.2	Alphabet and Spelling Rules Review	
	3.3	Introducing Prefixes **un– re– pre–**	
	3.4	Digraphs: **qu ch sh th ng nk**	
	3.5	Short vowel? Long spelling **–k/–ck** and **–ch/–tch**	
	3.6	Compound Words	
	3.7	Digraphs Review	
Book 4	4.1	Rain Day **ai ay**	
	4.2	Double the 'ee' **ee**	
	4.3	High Night **igh**	
	4.4	The Boat **oa**	
	4.5	Long Vowel Review: **/ā/, /ē/, / ī /**	
	4.6	Boil the Toy **oi oy**	
	4.7	Food is Good **oo = /ū/ and oo = /ʊ/**	
	4.8	How Now Brown Cow? **ow**	
	4.9	Long Vowel Review **/ō/, oi/, /ū/, /ʊ/**	
	∞	Knowing Stuff About the World	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence

	Skill	Details	
Book 5	5.1	Revise ‘ai’, ‘ay’ and ‘ee’	
	5.2	Revise ‘ee’ and ‘igh’	
	5.3	Revise ‘igh’ and ‘oa’	
	5.4	Spellings for /ā/, /ē/, / ī / and /ō/	
	5.5	Revise ‘oi’, ‘oy’ and ‘oo’ = /ū/	
	5.6	Revise ‘oo’ = /ʊ/ and ‘ow’	
	5.7	Spellings for /oi/, /ū/, /ʊ/ and /ow/	
	5.8	All Book 5 Spellings Review	
	5.9	The Illegal Letters: i j q u v	
	5.10	Short Vowel? Long Spelling **–ge/–dge**	
Book 6	6.1	Born in the Car **or ar**	
	6.2	Prefixes **in– im–**	
	6.3	Bear on the Chair **air ear**	
	6.4	Her Burn **er ur**	
	6.5	Long Vowel Review **ow or air ear**	
	6.6	End Sounds **–er** and **–ure**	
	6.7	Introducing Bases **–rupt–**	
	6.8	Long Vowel Review **ar er ur er ure**	
	6.9	The Tall Troll was so Full, he Fell **–all –oll –ull –ell**	
	6.10	Shushy Sounds **–s –es**	
	6.11	Contracted Words A	
	6.12	Compound Words Review	
	∞	Knowing Stuff About the World	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence

	Skill	Details	
Book 7	7.1	Word Stories	
	7.2	Reading CVCC and Silent-e (a_e)	
	7.3	Proper Nouns and Listing Commas	
	7.4	Reading CCVC and Silent-e (e_e)	
	7.5	Base **–struct–**	
	7.6	Reading CCVCC and Silent-e (i_e)	
	7.7	Identifying Nouns and Verbs	
	7.8	Reading CCCV and Silent-e (o_e)	
	7.9	'An' or 'A'? and Suffix –'s	
	7.10	New Zealand Culture: Ballentyne's Fire and Sir Edmund Hillary	
	7.11	Reading CCCVC and Silent-e (u_e)	
	7.12	Homophones vs Homonyms	
	7.13	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	7.14	Prefix **super–**	
	7.15	Contracted Words B	
Book 8 –**MOG & GOM SERIES**	8.1	The Suffix **–est and –er**	
	8.2	The Suffix **–ing**	
	8.3	The Suffix **–ed**	
	8.4	Prefixes **sub–** **dis–**	
	8.5	The Car is Fast **ar vs. a**	
	8.6	Dropping Silent-e and Doubling	
	8.7	Marve: **Final /v/ = 've'**	
	8.8	Cry Baby: **Final y = /ē/ or / ī /**	
	8.9	Base **–geo–**	
	8.10	Huggles: **Final /l/ = 'le'**	
	8.11	New Zealand Culture: Mt Tawarewa Eruption and Kate Sheppard	
	8.12	Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	8.13	Would've, Could've, Should've **'oo' & 'oul' = /ʊ/**	
	8.14	Finishing Mog and Gom with help (55-63)	
	8.15	Base **–bio–**	
	8.16	Finishing Mog and Gom with help (64-72)	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence

	Skill	Details	
Book 9 – **TOTEM SERIES**	9.1	The Schwa Sound /ə/ (b', d', r')	
	9.2	Open/Closed Syllable Words	
	9.3	Prefix **micro–**	
	9.4	Base **–port–**	
	9.5	True Blue **ue**	
	9.6	Able to Sail Away **ai ay a. a_e**	
	9.7	She has Sweet Dreams **ee ea e. –y -ey**	
	9.8	The Boat is So Slow **oa ow o. o_e oe**	
	9.9	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	9.10	Base **–tract–**	
	9.11	Her Bird is Hurt **er ir ur**	
	9.12	Loud Cow **ow ou**	
	9.13	Night Pie **igh -y -i- i_e**	
	9.14	A Few for Stew **oo u. u_e ew**	
	9.15	Spelling Suffix –s and –es words	
Book 10 – **ALBA SERIES**	10.1	Prefix **tele–**	
	10.2	Extended /air/ **air ear are ere**	
	10.3	Draw a Fork through Sauce **or aw au**	
	10.4	Final –ce and –se	
	10.5	Phone Whiz **wh ph**	
	10.6	Bases **–phon–** and **–photo–**	
	10.7	Reading Silent Letters A **kn gn wr mb**	
	10.8	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	10.9	Prefix **auto–**	
	10.10	Gentle Cindy **ge gi gy = /j/; ce ci cy = /s/**	
	10.11	Homophones B	
	10.12	Base **–astr–**	
	10.13	Contracted Words C	
	10.14	New Zealand Culture: The Wahine Disaster and Apirana Ngata	
	10.15	Base Word Review	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence

	Skill	Details	
Book 11 – **TALISMAN SERIES**	11.1	Bases **–hydr–** and **–aqua–**	
	11.2	/e/ Extended **e ea**	
	11.3	Prefixes **semi– multi–**	
	11.4	/ā/ Extended **ai ay a_e a ea -ey**	
	11.5	New Zealand Culture: Pike River Mine and Ernest Rutherford	
	11.6	/ē/ Extended **ee ea e_e -y ie ei -ey e**	
	11.7	To Double or Not to Double (Extended Doubling Rule)	
	11.8	Suffixes **–ly –less –ful**	
	11.9	/ō/ Extended **oa oe o_e ow o**	
	11.10	/er/ Extended **ur ir er or**	
	11.11	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	11.12	Boil the Toy Reprise **oi oy**	
	11.13	Loud Cow Reprise **ow ou**	
	11.14	Finishing Talisman with Help 6-10	
	11.15	The W Effect	
	11.16	Base **–grad–**	
Book 12 – **RESCUE SERIES**	12.1	Bases **–vis–** and **–spec(t)–**	
	12.2	Unusual Vision **su, si = /zh/**	
	12.3	Prefixes **mis– non–**	
	12.4	Suffixes **–er –or –ist**	
	12.5	The Return of Illegal Letter 'i'! The 'y' to 'i' Rule	
	12.6	/ū/ Extended **oo ew ue u_e**	
	12.7	New Zealand Culture: Tangiwai Disaster and Sir Peter Jackson	
	12.8	/ī/ Extended **igh ie i_e -y i**	
	12.9	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	12.10	/or/ Extended **or aw au ore al ar**	
	12.11	Bases **–scribe–** and **–graph–**	
	12.12	Then vs. Than	
	12.13	/ar/ Extended	
	12.14	Prefixes **uni– mono– bi– tri–**	
	12.15	Base Word Review	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence

	Skill	Details	
Book 13 – **ISLAND ADVENTURE SERIES**	1	Prefixes **con– com– inter–**	
	2	Base **–chron–**	
	3	Eat Bread with Steak – **the 3 sounds of 'ea'**	
	4	New Zealand Culture	
	5	The Schwa Vowel Again **/ə/**	
	6	Reading Silent Letters B	
	7	That Crazy i before e Spelling Rule **ie ei**	
	8	Unusual Plurals	
	9	Vocabulary A	
	10	Suffixes **–ness –ment**	
	11	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	12	Base **–metr–**	
	13	/air/ Extended **are ere eir eer**	
	14	/ar/ Extended **ar a al**	
Book 14 – **HIDDEN IN PARIS SERIES**	1	Cheeky Christmas Chef – **the 3 sounds of 'ch'**	
	2	Spellings for /ū/ **u ue u_e**	
	3	Base **–therm–**	
	4	Spellings for /u/ **o u ou**	
	5	Spellings for /s/ **s ss se c ce**	
	6	New Zealand Culture	
	7	Spellings for /l/ **l –ll –le –al**	
	8	Vocabulary B	
	9	Spellings for /j/ **j g -ge**	
	10	Prefixes **ex– fore– pro–**	
	11	Spellings for /f/ **f -ff ph**	
	12	Suffix **–(t)ure**	
	13	Suffixes **–tion –sion –cian**	
	14	Suffixes **–(c)ial -(t)ial**	
	15	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	16	Prefix **trans–**	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence

	Skill	Details
Book 15 – **AMBER GUARDIANS 1-5**		
		Still a work in progress ☺
Book 16 – **AMBER GUARDIANS 6-10**		
		Still a work in progress ☺

How Words Work

FastTrack Programme
Scope & Sequence

2026 Edition

Teaching English in
the way that works for *all* learners

- **Explicit:** explaining the rules
- **Systematic:** having a plan to cover everything
- **Cumulative:** growing in complexity gradually over time

adept education

by Lucy Patston

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence: FastTrack Books A and B

	Skill	Details	
Book A	A.1	Letter and Language Sounds	
	A.2	Spelling with Sound	
	A.3	Grammar Basics	
	A.4	Spelling Rules – ① Kitty Cat, ② Syllables ③ **–ck** Rule ④ Silent-e and ⑤ FLoSS	
	A.5	Nouns, Verbs and Suffix **–s**	
	A.6	Clusters vs. Digraphs	
	A.7	Prefixes, Bases and Suffixes	
	A.8	Short Vowel? Long Spelling Rule **–ck –tch –dge**	
	A.9	Spelling and Reading with Digraphs	
	A.10	Compound Words	
Book B	B.1	The Sound Chart	
	B.2	Spelling with Long Vowels	
	B.3	Word Stories – 'one', 'two', 'said'	
	B.4	Reading with Long Vowels	
	B.5	Prefixes	
	B.6	Introducing Bases –rupt–	
	B.7	Spelling with R-Controlled Vowels	
	B.8	Spelling Rules – Shushy Sounds and The Tall Troll	
	B.9	Contracted Words A	
	B.10	Reading with R-Controlled Vowels	
	∞	Knowing Stuff About the World	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence: FastTrack Books C and D

	Skill	Details	
Book C	C.1	Word Stories	
	C.2	Grammar	
	C.3	Base –**struct**–	
	C.4	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	C.5	Prefix **super**–	
	C.6	Reading 18 Book Challenge A	
	C.7	Contracted Words B	
	C.8	Suffixes –est –er –ing and –ed	
	C.9	Prefixes **sub–** **dis–**	
	C.10	Sound Spellings	
	C.11	Reading 20 Book Challenge B	
	C.12	Base **–geo–** & **–bio–**	
	C.13	Would've, could've, should've	
	C.14	The CVC Doubling Rule & Dropping Silent-e	
	C.15	New Zealand Culture	
Book D	D.1	Syllables and the Schwa Sound /ə/	
	D.2	Prefixes **micro–, tele–** and **auto–**	
	D.3	Extended /ū/ and /ā/	
	D.4	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say!	
	D.5	Extended /ē/ and /ō/	
	D.6	Knowing Stuff About the World A	
	D.7	Her Bird is Hurt	
	D.8	Bases **–port–** and **–tract–**	
	D.9	Extended /ow/, /ī/ and /ū/	
	D.10	Nouns, Verbs and Shushy Sounds	
	D.11	Contracted Words C	
	D.12	Extended /air/ and /or/	
	D.13	Knowing Stuff About the World B	
	D.14	Gentle Cindy	
	D.15	New Zealand Culture	
	D.16	Final –ce and –se	
	D.17	Bases **–phon–, –photo–** and **–astr–**	

How Words Work

Scope and Sequence: FastTrack
Books E and F

	Skill	Details	
Book E	E.1	Bases **–hydr– –aqua– –vis– –spec(t)–**	
	E.2	Prefixes **semi– multi– mis– non–**	
	E.3	Extended /ā/ /ē/ /ō/	
	E.4	To Double or Not to Double (Extended Doubling Rule)	
	E.5	Suffixes **–ly –less –ful –er –or –ist**	
	E.6	New Zealand Culture: Tangiwai and Sir Peter Jackson	
	E.7	/er/ Extended **ur ir er or**	
	E.8	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	E.9	The W Effect	
	E.10	Bases **–grad– –gres– –scribe– –graph–**	
	E.11	Then vs. Than	
	E.12	The Return of Illegal Letter 'i'! The 'y' to 'i' Rule	
	E.13	Extended /ū/ /ī/	
	E.14	Unusual Vision **su, si = /zh/**	
	E.15	Extended /or/ /ar/	
	E.16	Prefixes **uni– bi– tri–**	
	E.17	Base Word Review	
Book F	F.1	The 3 sounds of **'ea'** and **'ch'**	
	F.2	Prefixes **con– com– inter–** and **trans–**	
	F.3	Spellings for /ū/ **u ue u_e** and /u/ **o u ou**	
	F.4	Bases **–chron– –metr– –therm–**	
	F.5	New Zealand Culture	
	F.6	The Schwa Vowel Again **/ə/**	
	F.7	That Crazy i before e Spelling Rule **ie ei**	
	F.8	Spellings for /s/ **s ss se c ce** and /l/ **l –ll –le –al**	
	F.9	Vocabulary A & B	
	F.10	Unusual Plurals	
	F.11	Spellings for /j/ **j g -ge and** /f/ **f -ff ph**	
	F.12	The Crazy Things Our Parents Say	
	F.13	Prefixes **ex– fore– pro–**	
	F.14	/air/ Extended **are ere eir eer** and /ar/ Extended **ar a al**	
	F.15	Suffixes **–ness –ment** and **–(t)ure**	
	F.16	Suffixes **–tion –sion –cian** and **–(c)ial -(t)ial**	