

Homework, Reading and Writing Sequence

(An approximate guide)

Rank	Listening homework	Reading	Writing
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start Daily Expressions, Set A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABCs 	—
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9th Rank Home Study CD Finish Daily Expr., Set A Start Daily Expr., Set B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABCs abc's 	—
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Rank PLS Click/Home Study CD Finish Daily Expr., Set B Start Alphabet & Calendar Cards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> abc's (continued) Consonant phonic sounds Vowel phonic sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korectable ABCs
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Rank PLS Click/Home Study CD Finish A&C Cards A&C 'finishers' review Kanji English Start Question/Answer, Set A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phonic Chart 2 Phonic Chart 3 Phonic Chart 4 First letters of Kanji English homework Q/A A reading cards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korectable abc's Sounds of English, first half
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Rank PLS Click/Home Study CD Finish Question/Answer, Set A Q/A A 'finishers' review Start Pera-Pera Daruma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q/A A reading cards Reading cards in 'finishers' homework 3-letter words, red set 3-letter words, yellow set PIC 1 reading (elective) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phonic Puzzles, red and yellow Phonics dictation (in class) Family & Friends workbook
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th Rank PLS Click/Home Study CD Finish Pera-Pera Daruma Start Question/Answer, Set B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phonic Chart 5 Basic Reading Cards, set 1 PCC 1 & 2 reading (elective) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sounds of English, second half 3-letter word dictation (red, in class) Q/A B Workbooks
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Question/Answer, Set B Q/A B 'finishers' review Start Ormandy's Opposites, Part A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Reading Cards, set 2 Oxford Reading Tree, stage 2 Phonic Chart 6 Ango Eigo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-letter word dictation (yellow, in class) Q/A B Workbooks Opposites Workbook A
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Opposites, Part A Start Trialogs (pink, yellow) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxford Reading Tree, stage 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notebook writing assignments Opposites Workbook A Beyond Daily Expressions
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pause Trialogs (after blue?) Opposites, Part B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ORT stage 4, or equivalent readers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposites Workbook B Shopaholics student-written dialogues*
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue Trialogs (from blue or green?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ORT stage 5, or equivalent readers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words Words Words Journals Cursive writing

*A worksheet series for Shopaholics student-written dialogues is now in production.

Getting Started With Homework

As soon as new students join, give them Let’s Sing Together, ABC/abc Bingos, Color/Number Bingos, and chips for home use. Assign Daily Expressions Set A two months after the children begin studying English, assuming they begin in the nenchō (final) year of kindergarten.

Finishing a Homework Set

When students complete a homework set, give them a small prize and have them color their progress charts to indicate completion. Hand out the next homework set in the sequence at once.

The correspondence of rank level to homework is only approximate. Begin the next homework as soon as a prior set is done, whatever the children’s rank.

PLS Click and Rank CDs

At the start of the 9th Rank, all students receive the 9th Rank Home Study CD, to be used during the rank and afterward for review. At the start of the 8th, students will receive access to the 8th Rank PLS Click application, or will receive the 8th Rank Home Study CD. Likewise, for the 7th, 6th, and 5th Ranks, students will receive the corresponding PLS Click application or the Home Study CD for that rank.

Reviewing Prior Homework

After some homework sets, we designate a brief period of review of all prior homework sets. We call such review plans ‘finishers’ plans, and they generally take the form of listening review—and often, reading practice—at home, with follow-through in-class game activities. Regular review helps students retain previously learned homework, and also helps prevent students’ homework progress from outrunning their other progress through the ranks.

Notes

- Should students need to begin two different homework sets at once (e.g. a listening set and a reader), do not hand them out the same week. At least one month should elapse between one set and the other being passed out.
- Some variation in the sequence above is possible. For older finishers of D/E A ready for phonics instruction, Alphabet & Calendar Click may be assigned ahead of D/E B. Teachers may opt to (lightly) assign Dialog homework concurrent with Opposites.

- Pre-Rank homework: For very young students who have not yet begun the rank system, at PLS Tokyo, we offer Starfish (1–2 years old), Turtle (2–3 years old), Penguin (3–4 years old) and Pelican (second year of kindergarten) classes. In Pelican classes, we assign Listen Up! (a dictated drawing and vocabulary-building set of workbooks) and Double Action Verbs & Stories.
- With older children who have performed consistently well on previous homework, in-class review can take the place of assigned listening review. In such cases, review with games. For example, with the Daily Expressions, play the 1-2-3 Game; with Question/Answer, play the 20-Second Ask/Answer Game, the U Game, Hot Seat, Quick Queues, and others.
- In some classes, you may have a student who, having joined later, is working through homework the others have completed. The checking of this will provide in-class review for the rest of the class, who will act as previewers and perhaps judges during the homework check.
- Children in the fourth grade and up won't need Let's Sing Together. In a newly-begun, mixed-age class, we generally hand this CD out either to all or to none, based on the ages of the majority.
- If, two months after classes begin in April or early May, there is some hope of more new students joining, D/E A can be postponed until, at the latest, the first class of July. If homework is begun later than that, summer vacation will upset the rhythm of the initial learning curve and interfere with the forming of regular listening habits. (Waiting until after summer vacation to hand out homework would be undesirably late.) Likewise, when classes begin at other times of the year, do not hand out D/E A just before a major vacation.
- Classes of older beginners may begin D/E A sooner than younger classes do, i.e. within a week or two of starting class. The older they are, the earlier they may begin, until around 5th grade, when they may skip D/E A as homework entirely, learn it in class instead (largely through the 1-2-3 Game), and begin listening homework with a more advanced set (such as D/E B ~ Q/A A).