36-Week Word Wall Add-Schedule

Grow your readers' vocabulary without the visual clutter

Build an interactive classroom board that prevents reader confusion. This system separates look-alikes and pairs perfectly with your writing routines.



Word Wall by the Numbers

Week 1: 5 words
to avoid overwhelming your early readers

180 words
total on a dedicated bulletin board

2-inch letters
for room-wide readability from any desk

1/4-inch
border left cutting around word shape

4+ inches
between headers, depending on board width

10 minutes
daily chant-and-write routine for memory

Color-Code Look-Alikes

Stop reading mix-ups instantly! Print 'they & then: 2 colors' (like coral and teal) so students never confuse similar words during independent writing time.

Daily Chant-and-Write Routine

1. **Gather and distribute** Clear space near the board and hand out personal dry-erase boards to save precious instructional minutes.
2. **Point and chant** Have students point to the new words and chant the spelling aloud together to build energy.
3. **Trace in the air** Encourage kinesthetic learners to trace letters in the air with their fingers while chanting the spelling.
4. **Write and erase** Erase whiteboards completely between each word to force immediate recall from memory rather than just copying.

Spacing Tricky Word Pairs

Find your row: **Word similarity**

Word similarity	Your pick	Why
Look-alike pairs (where/were)	Separate by a full month	Provides mental breathing room to lock spelling.
Same starting letter	Group by initial consonant	Builds vital dictionary skills regardless of sound.
Silent letters or unusual vowels	Organize strictly by spelling	Prevents confusion when searching for unpredictable sounds.

Board Setup Checks

- ○ Find a wide, uninterrupted stretch of wall space at eye level.
- ○ Divide total board width evenly so all 26 letters fit perfectly.
- ○ Cover corkboard with solid, muted paper to make colorful cardstock pop.
- ○ Staple a continuous strip of soft loop tape directly under headers.
- ○ Test thick chisel-tip black markers for a heavy, dark line.

Monday Morning Prep Rhythm

- ☐ Print the new additions on brightly colored cardstock.
- ☐ Cut around word shape, leaving the consistent border.
- ☐ Run shaped cards through a thermal laminator for durability.
- ☐ Attach peel-off hook dots to avoid tearing background paper.
- ☐ Place prepared cards in your Monday morning basket.
- ☐ Store future weeks in labeled envelopes in a file box.

Word Wall Notes

Enjoy watching your students' reading confidence grow, one interactive word at a time!