

Ant Word Trails

Read word parts, blend the word, and read smoothly.

ELA.2.F.1 "Applying Foundational Reading Skills"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the story, circle picnic and sunset. Underline helpful. Practice each word aloud with the word steps. Do not mark every long word.

Ant Word Trails

Word steps

A closed syllable ends in a consonant and usually has a short vowel. Read pic, then nic. Both have short i. Blend them: picnic. Try sun / set the same way.

Word meaning: help + ful makes helpful. A helpful person is willing to help.

Story: At the Picnic

Sam and I had a picnic. An ant ran past my cup. Then an ant ran past my bag. "Look at that trail!" I said. We kept our food in the box.

Story: Time to Go

At sunset, we began to pack. Sam was helpful. He put the cups in the bag. I picked up the box. We left the ants on their trail and went home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1 Read pic / nic aloud, then blend it. Write the whole word. Are the i sounds short or long?

- 2** Read sun / set aloud, then blend it. Write the whole word. Name the two short vowel sounds.

- 3** Read helpful aloud. What is the base word? What does adding -ful tell about Sam?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Practice word reading and smooth story reading with a partner or teacher. Then use a word in your own sentence.

Try another word

Read the new word napkin aloud. Write its two parts with a slash. Blend it and tell your partner which vowel sounds are short.

Read the story twice

Read both story parts aloud. Your partner helps with a word if you need it. Read again, using periods to pause. Partner: record one word that improved and one helpful next step.

Use a word

Write a sentence with picnic, sunset, helpful, or napkin. Read your sentence aloud.
Check that it makes sense.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In the story, circle picnic and sunset. Underline helpful. Practice each word aloud with the word steps. Do not mark every long word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Read pic / nic aloud, then blend it. Write the whole word. Are the i sounds short or long?	picnic; both i sounds are short.
2	Read sun / set aloud, then blend it. Write the whole word. Name the two short vowel sounds.	sunset; short u and short e.
3	Read helpful aloud. What is the base word? What does adding -ful tell about Sam?	help; adding -ful means full of or showing help. Sam is willing to help.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

New word: nap / kin. Both a and i have short sounds.

Reading record example: The reader blended sunset correctly on the second reading. Next, pause at the end of each sentence.

Possible sentence: Sam was helpful when we packed the bag.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Grade 2 practice focuses on regular two-syllable short-vowel words, the familiar suffix -ful, and oral accuracy/automaticity/prosody. Teach pic/nic and sun/set as closed syllables; nap/kin is the transfer item. Treat help + ful as meaningful parts; the unstressed vowel in -ful need not sound like a stressed short u. Before reading, preview any other unfamiliar story words. Assess oral blending and both readings; a written record alone does not demonstrate fluency. Give feedback on accuracy and natural phrasing, not a speed race.