Nonsense Word Fluency Tracking

Tracking and charting fluency is a great way to show progress. Fluency with nonsense words is even more powerful than fluency with word lists, sentences, or stories.

During game time, have each available volunteer (those not monitoring and assisting with games) take aside a student and time them on the first set of nonsense words for that lesson, recording their times on the tracking worksheet. If time permits, do the second set for the lesson with each student as well. The type of words are numbered in order of difficulty. A student's Word Per Minute (WPM) rate may initially decrease when encountering harder word types. If they are tired or having a bad day, their rates may also be lower. However, you should see gradual improvements in accuracy and speed over time. After a few weeks of retraining the brain with nonsense words, the process will also sometimes click and a large jump may occur. In general, students who also do the nonsense word homework and/or play the phonics concentration game (which makes both real and nonsense words) will see the most improvement.

To calculate WPM rate, only allow correctly read words. If the student incorrectly reads a word, have them sound out each letter, then the whole word, before continuing. While you want to build fluency and speed, you only want the student to read as fast as they can **accurately** read the nonsense words.

A student who still needs work on letter sounds can use 40L's one page vowel and consonant chart for reference while reading the nonsense words. 40L volunteers hope that these nonsense words help you become a better reader as you retrain your brain with phonics.

Time Read	WPM	Time	WPM	Time	WPM
11	136	32	47	59 - 61	25
12	125	33	45	62 - 63	24
13	115	34	44	64 - 66	23
14	107	35	43	67 - 69	22
15	100	36	42	70 - 73	21
16	94	37	41	75 - 76	20
17	88	38	39	77 - 81	19
18	83	39 - 40	38	82 - 85	18
19	79	41	37	86 - 90	17
20	75	42	36	91 - 96	16
21	71	43	35	97 - 103	15
22	68	44	34	104 - 111	14
23	65	45 - 46	33	112 - 120	13
24	63	47	32	121 - 130	12
25	60	48 - 49	31	131 - 142	11
26	58	50	30	143 - 157	10
27	56	51 - 52	29	158 - 176	9
28	54	53 - 54	28	177 - 200	8
29	52	55 - 56	27	201 - 230	7
30	50	57 - 58	26	231 - 272	6
31	48	59 - 61	25	273 - 333	5

Nonsense Word Type	
1	Simple Short Vowel
1A	Simple Short Vowel with Blends
1B	Mixed Short Vowel
2	Silent E
2A	Other Long Vowel
2B	Mixed Long Vowel
3	Other Vowel Patterns
4	Mixed Nonsense Words

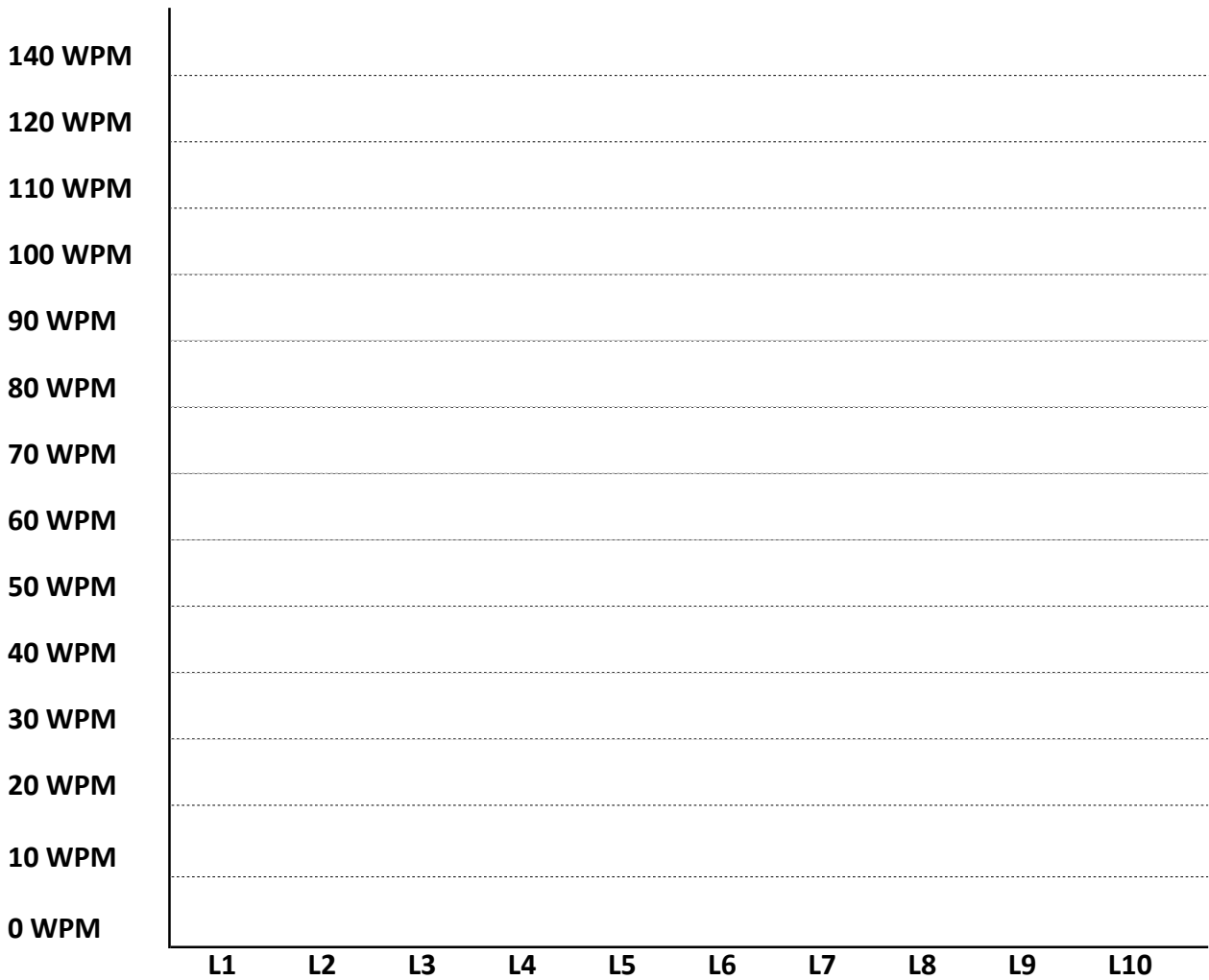Words per Minute (WPM)

    = words read X 60/ speed in seconds

Since each nonsense word group is 25 words:

WPM = 1500/ Speed in Seconds

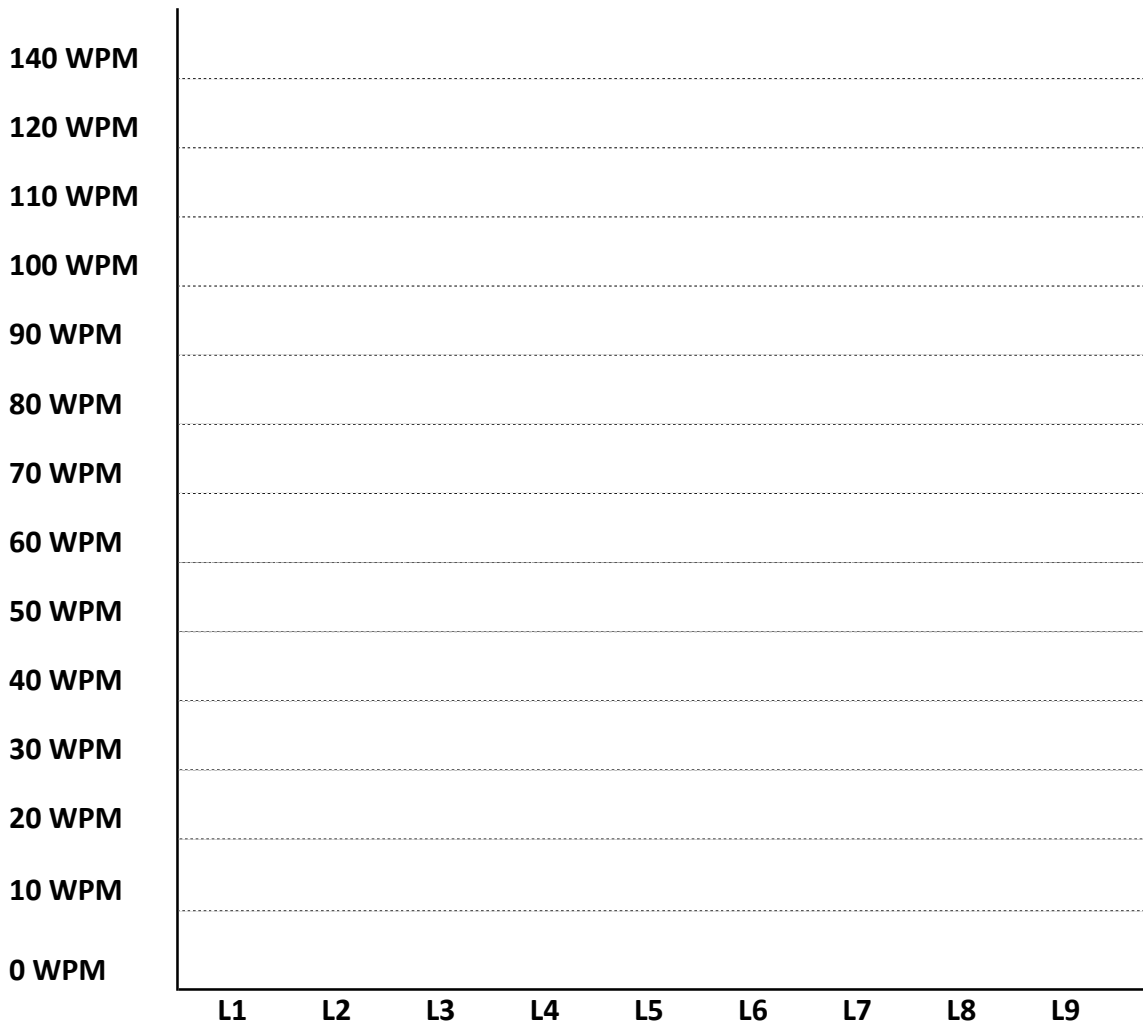# Nonsense Word Fluency Tracker, Classroom Use

Student Name: _____

Lsn 1: Type 1 Time	_____	Type 1 WPM	_____	Type 1A Time	_____	Type 1A WPM	_____
Lsn 2: Type 1 Time	_____	Type 1 WPM	_____	Type 2 Time	_____	Type 2 WPM	_____
Lsn 3: Type 1 Time	_____	Type 1 WPM	_____	Type 2A Time	_____	Type 2A WPM	_____
Lsn 4: Type 1B Time	_____	Type 1B WPM	_____	Type 2B Time	_____	Type 2B WPM	_____
Lsn 5: Type 3 Time	_____	Type 3 WPM	_____	Type 4 Time	_____	Type 4 WPM	_____
Lsn 6: Type 4 Time	_____	Type 4 WPM	_____	Type 3 Time	_____	Type 3 WPM	_____
Lsn 7: Type 3 Time	_____	Type 3 WPM	_____	Type 4 Time	_____	Type 4 WPM	_____
Lsn 8: Type 4 Time	_____	Type 4 WPM	_____	Type 3 Time	_____	Type 3 WPM	_____
Lsn 9: Type 4 Time	_____	Type 4 WPM	_____	Type 2B Time	_____	Type 2B WPM	_____
Lsn 10: Type 4 Time	_____	Type 4 WPM	_____	Type 4 Time	_____	Type 4 WPM	_____

140 WPM
120 WPM
110 WPM
100 WPM
90 WPM
80 WPM
70 WPM
60 WPM
50 WPM
40 WPM
30 WPM
20 WPM
10 WPM
0 WPM

L1   L2   L3   L4   L5   L6   L7   L8   L9   L10

Nonsense Word Fluency Tracker, Homework

Student Name: _____

Lsn 1: Type 1B Time _____	Type 1B WPM _____	Type 1 Time _____	Type 1 WPM _____
Lsn 2: Type 1A Time _____	Type 1A WPM _____	Type 2 Time _____	Type 2 WPM _____
Lsn 3: Type 2B Time _____	Type 2B WPM _____	Type 2 Time _____	Type 2 WPM _____
Lsn 4: Type 1A Time _____	Type 1A WPM _____	Type 2 Time _____	Type 2 WPM _____
Lsn 5: Type 1A Time _____	Type 1A WPM _____	Type 2A Time _____	Type 2A WPM _____
Lsn 6: Type 1B Time _____	Type 1B WPM _____	Type 2A Time _____	Type 2A WPM _____
Lsn 7: Type 1B Time _____	Type 1B WPM _____	Type 2A Time _____	Type 2A WPM _____
Lsn 8: Type 2B Time _____	Type 2B WPM _____	Type 4 Time _____	Type 4 WPM _____
Type 4 Time _____	Type 4 WPM _____		
Lsn 9: Type 4 Time _____	Type 4 WPM _____	Type 4 Time _____	Type 4 WPM _____
Type 4 Time _____	Type 4 WPM _____		

140 WPM
120 WPM
110 WPM
100 WPM
90 WPM
80 WPM
70 WPM
60 WPM
50 WPM
40 WPM
30 WPM
20 WPM
10 WPM
0 WPM

L1   L2   L3   L4   L5   L6   L7   L8   L9

Sample Fluency Tracking Sheet

This is a sample fluency tracking sheet, filled in with both sets of classroom tracking WPM rates. Writing the numbers of the word types on the graph helps account for slowdowns in WPM rates that can occur the first few lessons that more difficult types of words are read.

If your student routinely misses more than one word per passage, you should also track accuracy. You can track accuracy as a percentage on the same graph, using the numbers for WPM as percentages. The 25 words per passage makes calculating accuracy easy, just multiply the number correct by 4, for example, 20 correct is 80% and 24 correct is 96%.

Nonsense Word Fluency Tracking

	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10
120 WPM										
110 WPM										
100 WPM									100%	
90 WPM							92%	96%		96%
80 WPM	80%	80%	84%	88%	84%	88%			2B	
70 WPM								3		4
60 WPM							3		4	4
50 WPM							4	4		
40 WPM										
30 WPM			1	1B		3				
20 WPM	1	1		2B	3	4				
10 WPM	1A	2	2A		4					
0 WPM										