



Hot Potato

Goal: to improve reading fluency through repetition

Players: 2 or more

Overview: Players try not to become the “Spud” by reading sentences with a high level of fluency.

Materials:

- a copy of the **Hot Potato** game board (page 118) for each player
- **Sentence Strips** (pages 116-117)
- timer
- pencil for each player

Game Play:

- Photocopy and cut apart the **Sentence Strips** and place them in a facedown pile on the table. Have players sit in a circle. Each player draws 5 sentence strips and places them facedown in front of her.
- Set the timer for 30 or 60 seconds, whichever you prefer, and follow these directions:
 - ✓ The first player takes the top sentence strip from her pile, reads it aloud, and passes it to the player on her right.
 - ✓ The second player takes the sentence strip from the first player and places it at the bottom of her pile. Then she takes the top sentence strip from her pile, reads it aloud, and passes it on to the next player.
 - ✓ Play continues until time expires. The person who is currently reading a sentence or who is about to read a sentence has to trace over one of the letters (S, P, U, or D) on her game board.
 - ✓ The timer is reset and play continues.
 - ✓ When a player has spelled “SPUD” on the game board, she is out.
- The last player remaining is the winner.

Warning: Once this game gets going and the players’ reading fluency increases, game play can become energetic, especially because no player wants to be the SPUD!

Optional Play:

- Instead of waiting for all players to go out (which might leave several players with nothing to do), restart the game after the first player has gone out. You might also reverse the goal of the game: the first player to go out is the winner.
- Instead of using the sentence strips provided, have players read sentences from a story they are reading in class or an excerpt from a textbook.

He has a lot of candy.

Follow the boy through the door.

The cat is in the box.

Can you call my new number?

I can see that man.

Give me back my three pens.

Can you do it by then?

When can you come and help?

He saw her at the mall.

I have some cash for you.

Which way did he go?

Will you be on time?

We know great people.

What are you doing?

They are in the van.

He was at home last night.

Why are you here?

Bob is as happy as a clam.

I have a pet snake.

I went with my mom.

Deb will stand by me.

That dog is his dog.

Where did he go last night?

The cats are playing.

"Hello," said the principal.

We should go this way.

How do you know her?

She is very nice.

That boy went home.

Where were you?

They have a lot of homework.

Were you at the game?

That is a good sentence.

Sam had pizza and chips.



Who is on the phone?	Does she want some of my food?
Dianne is very happy.	He is a small man.
She will live there for a year.	What is this about?
She was the first to find me.	It has been only a little time.
Besty is a very dear friend.	He has a great team.
He had an egg for breakfast.	The car needs more oil.
Where do you go to school?	I know you can do it!
Did you have a good year?	She got a part in the play.
Who made that sound?	The man works there.
This one is for my mom.	Would you find his dog?
He can write a good sentence.	Could you give it back to her?
Will you open the door?	Which one is yours?
Push it through the window.	I have no more time.
DeDe has a new baby.	There are five words on the line.
Connie loves to dance.	I think about you every day.
Paul made a silly sound.	Abby gave a new word.
What is the number before four?	Cathy is always right!



He does not want to go home.	Can you spell America?
Betsy likes animals.	Should we go to the movies?
The man has different hats.	Those children walk to school.
She had a good idea.	That girl is very young.
He has an important meeting.	Our country is large.
Paul will grow a plant near the river.	Sometimes life is hard.
Patrick can read a book.	Can you move that picture on the wall?
Every second is important.	We learn in school.
They like to camp in the mountains.	The group got together.
The light was in my eyes.	My letter is four pages.
She likes to eat different kinds of food.	Sally would like to live by the sea.
Keep that animal away from me!	The family will leave soon.
Did you get enough to eat?	That must be important.
Study that example for the test.	We had to carry the box four miles.
Their school was in the city.	The Earth has many seas.
I really like that song.	He thought he could hear the river.
Maddy has to change again.	Always study your spelling.

Try to be kind.

My mother took a walk at night.

Watch her face light up!

We had to stop because we had a flat.

The page in the book was ripped.

Put the white paper next to the picture.

Birds can fly high above mountains.

Sometimes, they don't talk enough.

It is a mile to the river.

Do you carry books to school?

She thought of an idea.

They always run together.

Mark told an important story.

The children are late.

His dad has a white car.

Does she miss the city?

Do you have enough paper?

Canada is in North America.

The United States is a big country.

I can see the lighthouse from here.

The rocket was miles from Earth.

Please close the door.

He took a picture of the animal.

Their eyes are different colors.

Is there enough light in the room?

She will point to the answer.

The fresh air feels good.

We sat between the trees.

She had to change her clothes.

We will stop in five seconds.

Did you study enough?

They play baseball at night.

We will begin the game now.

We like to eat in New York City.

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