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Barton Levels

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In 5th grade we realized that our son was about to enter middle school, and yet was still functionally illiterate.

I began working on Level 1 with Danny, and for the first time, I could see that things were making sense to him.

What's a Level? [Back to Top](#)

New tutors need to be trained as quickly as possible.

That's why we split the Barton System into ten levels. That means you don't have to learn the entire system before you start.



[Click here to watch Susan Barton explain Levels](#)

You only need to learn one level at a time

His reversals of letters and numbers when writing went away. It was amazing.

A quantum leap in his spelling and reading comprehension took place.

We've been using the Barton System for 18 months. Danny made the Honor Roll this year. His most recent report card was straight-A's!

The school principal was so impressed by Danny's improvement that she ordered the Barton System.

*Mike Billo
San Francisco, CA*



You only need to learn one level at a time.

Each level is shipped in a separate, easy-to-store box.

Each level contains everything you need to be successful:

- **Tutor Training on DVD**

These tutor training DVDs contain five hours of in-depth instruction. Susan Barton will demonstrate every lesson you'll be teaching in this level – with a real student.

You'll stop and practice new skills every ten to fifteen minutes.

She'll demonstrate mistakes students may make – and how to correct them.

This convenient training comes to you – so you don't have to attend seminars to get started.

(If you'd rather attend a seminar, that option is available. Just [click here](#) to learn more.)

- **Tutor Manual with Complete Lesson Plans**

The tutor manual contains everything you need to teach the lessons in one well-organized place.

Complete lesson plans are provided. There is enough material in our lesson plans to teach a lesson twice – without using the same words, sentences, or stories.

Each page in our tutor manual contains a wide column and a narrow column. The wide column contains full scripting (for those who want that level of support) while the narrow column contains just summary information. To view a page from our tutor manual, [click here](#).

Each lesson contains many steps, starting with the easiest and working up to the hardest. To view an outline of the steps in a Barton lesson plan, [click here](#).

“

When it came to reading, my daughter's frustration could be seen in her contorted face as she tried to sound out words. It was incredibly painful to watch her struggle day after day.

Today, after only 18 months of instruction with the Barton System, she enjoys reading! At night she goes to her room to read to her sister. She reads signs as we drive on the freeway. She even catches my errors. I'm dyslexic. I cannot tell you how her corrections bring tears to my eyes.

Feel free to give out my email address to anyone who wants to know how a dyslexic child has been successfully homeschooled using your

• Color-coded Letter Tiles

These color-coded letters tiles are manufactured specifically for the Barton Reading & Spelling System. As you saw in the demo, color makes syllable types obvious, and it simplifies syllable division.



If you haven't already watched [the demo](#), [click here to see the demo](#).

• All other manipulatives

Everything else you need to teach the lessons or play the reinforcement games is included.

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There are ten levels in the Barton System [Back to Top](#)

Get just one level at a time. Spend a Saturday afternoon watching its Tutor Training DVDs. Then start teaching on Monday.

Only when your student is near the end of that level would you get the next level.

Each level contains from 10 to 15 lessons. (Levels 1 and 2 are a bit shorter.)

If a student is being tutored twice a week, it will take from 3 to 5 months to complete a level



program.

Wendi Fawns
Pleasanton, CA

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“

I've been very pleased with my son's progress. His reading has improved as well as his writing. He has more confidence in reading, and he's willing to read aloud now.

His confidence level is higher, so he enjoys school

months to complete a level.

&
Latin Roots

If you're with a school or buying these with a grant, you may wish to get all ten levels at once.

But if you're a parent or on a tight budget, you can get just one level at a time.

<i>Sequence Number</i>	<i>Name of Level</i>
1	Phonemic Awareness
2	Consonants & Short Vowels
3	Closed Syllables and Units
4	Syllable Division & Vowel Teams
5	Prefixes and Suffixes
6	Six Reasons for Silent-E
7	Vowel-R Syllables
8	Advanced Vowel Teams
9	Influences of Foreign Languages
10	Greek Words & Latin Roots

Our level numbers do NOT equate to grade level. They simply indicate the sequence in which the material must be taught.

To learn why most students, no matter how old they are, must start with Level 1, [click here](#)

Students who have completed all ten levels will be reading, spelling, and doing basic writing at the [mid-ninth grade level](#).

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Scope and Sequence [Back to Top](#)

To see what's taught in every lesson of every level,

more.

He will now pick up a book and read it on his own, where he never would before.

I could not be happier with his progress.

Kathy Bertolini
Pleasanton, CA

”

“

My son is now in Level 5 of the Barton System and he's in a reading frenzy. When we were shopping at

[click here.](#)

Cost of the Barton System

We offer two different versions of the Barton System.

Our Single Tutor version allows **one tutor** to teach many students.

Our Site License version allows **many tutors** to teach many students.

To learn more about these two versions, and their cost, [click here.](#)

We are the **sole distributor** of the Barton System. So if you are with a school or other governmental agency, you do **not** have to request competitive bidding to obtain the Barton System.

In May 2003, the Barton Reading & Spelling System was approved by the California Board of Education. These materials have now been added to the *Instructional Materials Approved for Legal Compliance* website, www.cde.cd.gov/cfir/lc. So any public school in California may purchase the Barton System using textbook funds.

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Level FAQs [Back to Top](#)

Q: Does a student have to start at Level 1?

A: Most students need to start at Level 1 – no



Costco, I finally had to take his book away. He said it was so good he couldn't put it down. Those were the magic words I'd hoped to hear for so many years.

After one year of tutoring, he's gone from struggling with second-grade readers to rapidly and accurately reading -- and loving -- fifth-grade books. Your system is fabulous.

Sharon Marriott
Livermore, CA

”

Most students need to start at LEVEL 1, no matter how old they are.

That's because research proves that a lack of phonemic awareness is what is preventing them from mastering reading. Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate each sound in a word – in your head, without letters.

In fact, research shows there are [seven essential phonemic awareness skills](#) a student must have before letters will start to make sense. We teach all seven of those skills in Level 1.

So unless a student has already had extensive Orton-Gillingham-based tutoring, start the student in Level 1. If it proves to be too easy, we will exchange it – FREE – for Level 2.

If your student HAS had prior Orton-Gillingham-based tutoring, or for some other reason, you think the student has already mastered the skills taught in our early levels, [let us know](#). We will then send you the post-test of our first few levels so you can determine the best place for that student to start.

Q: Do you have pre- and post-tests so that I can prove progress on an IEP?

A: Yes. Each level has a post-test that you can use as a pre-test to determine whether a new student may have already mastered those skills and can therefore skip that level (or can skip a few lessons within a level).

If a student has **not** mastered those skills, go ahead and teach that level. Then give the same test at the end as a post-test to prove progress and to make sure the student has mastered everything taught in that level.

Q: How long does it take to complete all ten levels?

A: Since no two people with dyslexia learn at exactly the same pace, we can only provide a range.

If a student has classic, or moderate, dyslexia, and is tutored twice a week in a one-on-one setting for an hour each time, it will take from 2 to 3 years to complete the entire Barton System. So in just 2 to 3 years, you can take a struggling student to the mid-ninth-grade level in reading, spelling, and basic writing.

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I just finished watching the training DVD for Level One. I am so impressed with your presentation. The videos, plus the complete lesson plans in the manual, make me feel confident that I understand the material, even though I'm not a professional tutor. Being able to review the tape at any time is very reassuring.

Charles Smith
Phoenix, AZ

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Students with mild dyslexia will complete the system sooner, while students with severe dyslexia may need more time.

The only way a student can make faster progress is to be tutored more often. If a child can be tutored 3 or 4 times a week, they'll complete the Barton System much faster.

For more details on the frequency and length of tutoring sessions, [click here](#).

Q: Why stop at the mid-ninth grade level?

A: There are no more rules to teach. At that point, the student can read anything – even college textbooks.

In our society today, adult reading level is ninth-grade level.

Once an adult can read and spell at the ninth-grade level, they can read well enough to attend Adult Basic Education courses to prepare for the G.E.D. or go to college.

Q: My child is only in third grade. Do I need to get all ten levels?

A: No. But do not stop at Level 3. Our level numbers do NOT equate to grade levels. Take children as far through the system as they are able to go.

It's wonderful to see a child progress from being the worst speller in the class in third grade, to being an average speller in fourth grade, to being a superstar in fifth grade – and be able to explain to the teacher exactly why a word is spelled that way. We've seen this happen thousands of times.

We've taken many third graders through Level 8. If they're being tutored only twice a week, they may be a fifth grader by the time they complete Level 8.

By that time, they may have a large enough vocabulary to be able to tackle Levels 9 and 10. If not, work on growing their oral vocabulary and delay those last two levels until seventh grade.

Level 9, the *Influence of Foreign Languages*, and Level 10, *Latin Roots and Greek Words*, ideally would be taught before a child enters high school.

Those two levels will ensure that the student can read and spell all of

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I was very impressed with the care you used in making sure that tutors are knowledgeable about the phonology of the English language when teaching their students. Your program is structured carefully with step-by-step instruction involving all the components of reading that are so crucial to student success.

*Dr. Carol Tolman
Spofford, NH*

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the sophisticated words they'll encounter in high school and college science, social studies, and math courses.

Q: Does the Barton System come with any software?

A: Yes. We have created extra practice games to reinforce the skills taught in Levels 2, 3, and 4 of the Barton System.

These games reside on the Internet, so you do **not** have to purchase software to access them.

When you get the Barton System, just go to the Games section of the tutor manual. It will show you the web address for our games.

Q: I know the Barton System contains many one-page stories at the end of every lesson. Are there any stand-alone books that my child can read while going through your system?

A: Yes. Once children with dyslexia realize that they CAN read – without guessing or memorizing words – they're eager to read books.

But until they've been taught all of the rules in the first 8 levels, they can't read most library books – without reverting to guessing.

So we've hired authors to create stand-alone controlled-text books for every level of the Barton System.

To download an order form for these stand-alone books, [click here](#).

We also search libraries and other sources for controlled-text books. Books written by other authors are listed in the Games section of our tutor manuals.

Q: I am a Resource Specialist. I cannot tutor one-on-one, but I can teach small groups of 3 students. How many levels will I need for a nine-month school year?

A: Unfortunately, progress is much slower when you teach a small group than when you tutor one-on-one.

You will need at least Levels 1, 2, and 3.

If you are teaching older students, you might even be able to reach Level 4.

Q: If I teach 3 students at the same time, do I need to modify your system or get extra supplies?

A: One set of color-coded letter tiles is included with each Barton Level. But it helps students stay actively involved with the lesson if they **each** have their own set. So we recommend you purchase an extra set of tiles for each student.

If you do not **already own** the Barton System, we will not sell you the tiles. But if you already own the system, you can order extra sets. To download the Extra Tiles Order Form, just [click here](#).

Q: Can I teach the Barton System to my entire class?

A: No. The Barton System is **not** designed to be a classroom package. So if you are a regular education teacher, do not purchase the Barton System.

It was designed for intervention, which if possible, should be done one-on-one. The maximum group size allowed with the Barton System is three-on-one.

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