The *PAF Test of Single Word Reading* assesses a student’s ability to read single words in isolation. The ability to read single words automatically, at the word-recognition level, is crucial for maximizing comprehension. The test provides an opportunity to show **quantitative** growth in reading from year-to-year. It offers an alternative assessment tool for students who cannot yet read the uncontrolled text on standardized reading tests. This test supplements the *Proficiency Tests* found in the *PAF* handbook, which provide more detailed and qualitative reading evaluations.*

The *PAF Test of Single Word Reading* consists of 240 words divided into twelve subtests based on phonetic patterns that follow the *PAF* sequence. Progress is demonstrated by a student reading more words accurately from year-to-year or recognizing more words automatically, rather than having to sound them out.

**ADMINISTRATION**

The test is administered to each student individually.

1. Give the student a **Student Copy** and a large index card to help keep his place.
   
   Tell the student:

   **Most of the words you are going to read are real but the words in the boxes are nonsense words. Read across the page and then go to the next line. Keep reading until I tell you to stop.**

2. Record the student’s performance on the **Examiner’s Copy** as he or she reads each word aloud.
   
   - Mark one check over each word read automatically or immediately self-corrected.
   - Mark two checks over each word decoded (sounded-out) accurately.
   - Circle the words read incorrectly, not attempted, or not read correctly in 5 seconds.

---

* The *PAF Test of Single Word Reading*, combined with oral reading of the *Merrill Readers*, can be used for placement of new students.