

My Very Own Book of Words

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The 220 Dolch list key words, making up 60% of all ordinary reading, plus the 95 Dolch nouns.
Includes extra spaces to record new words as you learn them with handwriting line guides to keep handwriting neat, plus information on phonemes/graphemes and literacy exercises featuring word ladders, homophones, homographs, heteronyms, letter strings and contractions.



Name _____

Teacher _____

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Speech Sounds: Phonemes & Graphemes

Words in every language are made up of speech sounds, usually referred to as phonemes or phones. In the English language, these sounds are made up of individual letters or combinations of letters (graphemes) and are listed below, with example words showing how the combination might be used in certain words. You may discover a few other combinations not included here, but most common ones have been considered. (numbers are only for reference.)

Grapheme(s)

Sound (in brackets) within the example words

1) a	(a)nt
2) a, ar, al, au	ban(a)na, p(ar)t, h(al)f, l(au)gh
3) a, o, ach	sw(a)n, p(o)nd, y(ach)t
4) a, ai, ay, ei, eigh, ey, ea	pl(a)y, n(ai)l, pr(ay), b(ei)ge, (eigh)t, h(ey) br(ea)k
5) air, are, ear	f(air), st(are), b(ear)
6) a, au, aw, or, oor, ore, ough augh, our, ar,	c(a)ll, s(aw)ce, p(aw), f(or), p(oor), s(ore), b(ough)t c(augh)t, c(our)t, w(ar)n
7) a, e, ir, o, u, ar, er, or, ae ure, re, ur, ier, our	zebr(a), sudd(e)n, s(ir) li(o)n, disc(u)s, coll(ar), fath(er), doct(or), treas(ure), ti(re) f(ur), sold(ier), an(ae)sthetic, fav(our) (b)all, (b)u(bb)le, ba(be)
8) b, bb, be	
9) c, k, ck, ch, q, ke,	(c)at, (k)ick, ba(ck), (ch)rome, (q)ueen, ma(ke)
10) ch, tch, t, c	(ch)ips, wa(tch) (t)une, (c)ello
11) d, dd, de	(d)uck, pa(dd)le, ma(de)
12) e, ea, ie	r(e)d, br(ea)d, fr(ie)nd
13) e, ea, ee, ae, ey, i, ie, y hoe (hoe... UK only)	b(e), fl(ea), b(ee), h(ae)mophilia, k(ey), bik(i)n(i), hipp(ie), lovel(y), diarr(hoe)a (UK only)
14) ear, eer, ere	h(ear), st(eer), h(ere)
15) f, ff, ph, fe, gh	(f)un, sti(ff), tele(ph)one, sa(fe), rou(gh)
16) g, gg, gh	(g)ive, (g)i(gg)le, (gh)ost
17) g, j, ge, dge, d	(g)iant, (j)am, bei(ge), he(dge), sol(d)ier
18) h, wh	(h)ole, (wh)ole
19) i, e, u, y, ai	p(i)n, pock(e)t, m(i)n(u)te, rh(y)thm, barg(ai)n
20) i, ie, igh, y, ye, ais, is eigh	t(i)le, p(ie), s(igh)t, m(y), goodb(ye), (ais)le, (is)le h(eigh)t
21) l, ll, le	(l)ick, (l)o(ll)y, ho(le)
22) m, mm, mb, me	su(m), su(mm)er, nu(mb), so(me)
23) n, nn, kn, ne, gn	thi(n), thi(nn)er, (kn)ee, no(ne), (gn)at
24) n, ng	i(n)k, thi(ng)
25) u, o, oo, ou	n(u)t, l(o)ve, fl(oo)d, r(ou)gh
26) o, oa, ow, oe, ough	n(o)se, b(oa)t, b(ow), d(oe), d(ough)
27) ou, ow, ough	c(ou)ch, b(ow), b(ough)
28) oi, oy	c(o)in, t(o)y
29) oo, ew, ue, ui, o, wo, ou	m(oo)n, fl(ew), gl(ue), j(ui)ce, pr(o)ve, t(wo)
30) oo, ou, u,	b(oo)k, w(ou)ld, f(w)ll,
31) p, pp, pe	(p)en, a(pp)le, po(pe)
32) r, rr, wr, rh	(r)un, hu(rr)y, (wr)ite, (rh)yme

33) s, ss, se, c, ce	(s)un, me(ss), hor(se), (c)ity, for(ce)
34) s, ss, sh, ti, ch	(s)ugar, (sh)ape, sta(ti)on, (ch)ef
35) t, tt, te	ma(t), ma(tt)er, ma(te)
36) th	(th)ing
37) th	fea(th)er
38) u, o, ou	(o)ther, r(u)n, r(ou)gh
39) v, ve, f	(v)ase, mo(ve), o(f)
40) w, wh, u	(w)ater, (wh)eel, q(u)ilt
41) x, xe, cks, cc	fle(x), a(xe), che(cks), su(cc)ess
42) y	(y)ellow
43) z, zz, ze, s, se	(z)oo, da(zz)le, ama(ze), la(s)er, chee(se)
44) s, ge	trea(s)ure, bei(ge)
45) u, ew, eau	amb(u)lance, f(ew), b(eau)ty
46) x	e(x)ample (where “ex...” sounds like “egz...”)

Some words can be pronounced with regional variations in both the UK and USA. For example, the “ge” combination of letters in the word “beige” can be pronounced in a way that sounds like “j” (as in jump), or “zh” (as in measure). Some will pronounce the word exit as “egzit”, others as “eksit”.

It is generally accepted that the vowel sounds a, e, i, o and u, are made from the combinations ae, ee, ie, oe and ue, with a letter in between, such as:

gae, fine, these, bone and tune

For the purposes of this book we have listed the letter combinations and sounds these combinations of letters make when placed next to each other, which should help you more easily recognise the possible sounds these combinations make when reading, taking into account the context in which each word is used.

This list shows the main letter combinations making up all of the recognized speech sounds from which you can make up every word in the English language.

You will notice that the same letter, or combination of letters, can be pronounced differently, depending on the word. For example, consider how the letter ‘o’ is pronounced differently in the words, ‘hop’, ‘love’, ‘prove’ and ‘nose’.

Commonly Confused Spellings

Homophone Horrors!

The most common spelling mistakes are often those words that sound the same when spoken, but are spelled differently and have a different meaning entirely. These are known as homophones, and of all the different homophones you will come across, the most common spelling mistakes centre on the following common words:

to, too and two and there, their and they're

If ever there were words designed to drive your teacher mad, these are the ones! If you can master the correct use of each word, you will make your teacher very happy!

~~Hear~~ Here are some examples of these words in use:
oops!

I am going to the fair.

I am going to the fair too.

The two boys went to the fair too.

- In the first sentence, “to” is followed by more words to show where the person is going. It can therefore be thought of as a ***motion or destination*** word. Consider also *thirty miles to go*.
- In the second sentence, “too” means....as well...or...also.
- In the last sentence, “two” means....2 (the number 2).

I live over there.

There is another house down the hill.

The Smith family are nice. That's their house over there.

Their house is over there and they're at home!

- In the first sentence, “there” is used to suggest a place or position.
- In the second sentence, “there” is used to suggest the existence of something.
- In the third sentence, “their” means belonging to or associated with the people (in this case the Smith family) previously mentioned.
- In the fourth sentence, “they're” is known as a ***contraction***. It means ***they are***, with the apostrophe replacing the letter ***a*** in ***are*** and shortening the two words to a single word (***they're***). An apostrophe is often used like this when you are writing something informal that someone is saying or has said in speech.

When reading and writing, if you are not sure how a word should be pronounced, or spelled, it may help you to look at or think about the words that come before and after (the context in which it is used).

More Common Homophones

Look at these common homophones and write a short phrase for each one showing how they might be used:

no

I can't say no to apple pie!

know

I know when to say no.

for

four

pair

pear

red

read

past

passed

hair

hare

your

you're

wait

weight

ate

eight

pray

prey

pause

paws

Letter Strings & Words Within Words

Find as many other words within the words listed here, from consecutive letter strings. We have given you an example and some more words to work with, but think of more examples like your school name, your surname and anything else to challenge yourself.

teacher

showering

yourself

tea

a

teach

each

ache

her

nightingale

imagination

information

Contractions

The following phrases can be shortened with the use of an apostrophe to make a new single word that means the same. The apostrophe replaces a letter or letters to make the shorter (contracted) word. Can you work out which letter or letters the apostrophe would replace to make the new word? Say the phrase out loud to give yourself clues, then write an example showing how the contracted word might be used. There is space for a few more examples your teacher may give you to work with.

I am

I'm very happy

you are

she is/has

we are

I would

you will

she will

he would/had

they would

cannot

are not

were not

we have

they have

Aa a... as in apple

@ b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

a

and

away

all

am

at

ate

after

again

an

any

as

ask

always

around

about

apple

Can you think of an insect, beginning with "a"?

Bb b... as in boy

a **b** c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

big

birthday

blue

boat

be

box

black

bread

brown

brother

but

by

because

been

before

best

both

buy

better

bring

baby

back

ball

bear

bed

bell

bird

Can you think of an animal, beginning with "b"?

Cc c... as in cat

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

can

come

came

could

call

cold

carry

clean

cut

cake

car

cat

chair

chicken

children

Christmas

coat

corn

cow

Something you wear on your head, beginning with "c".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Dd d... as in dog

a b c **d** e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

down

did

do

does

don't

done

draw

drink

day

dog

doll

door

duck

The opposite of up, beginning with "d".

Ee e... as in egg

a b c d **e** f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

eat

every

eight

eye

The opposite of enter, beginning with “e”.

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Ff f... as in father

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

find

for

funny

four

fly

from

fast

first

five

found

fall

far

full

farm

farmer

feet

fire

fish

floor

flower

An animal that lives in a den, beginning with "f".

Gg g... as in girl

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

go

get

good

give

going

gave

goes

green

got

grow

game

garden

girl

goodbye

grass

ground

You wear these on your hands, beginning with "g".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Hh h... as in hat

a b c d e f g **h** i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

help

here

have

he

had

has

her

him

his

how

hold

hot

hurt

hand

head

hill

home

horse

house

Something bees make, beginning with "h".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

li i... as in ice

a b c d e f g h **i** j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

l

in

is

it

into

its

if

You scratch this, beginning with "i".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Jj j... as in jump

a b c d e f g h i **j** k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

jump

just

Something you eat with ice cream, beginning with “j”.

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Kk k... as in kettle

a b c d e f g h i j **(k)** l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

know

keep

kind

kitten

Underline the correct spelling: crab or krab?

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Ll l... as in little

a b c d e f g h i j k **l** m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

little

look

like

let

live

laugh

tight

long

leg

letter

Something you do to ice cream, beginning with "l".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Mm m... as in mother

a b c d e f g h i j k l (m) n o p q r s t u v w x y z

make

me

my

must

may

made

many

much

myself

man

men

milk

money

morning

Something a cat might chase, beginning with "m".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Nn n... as in night

a b c d e f g h i j k l m **(n)** o p q r s t u v w x y z

not

new

no

now

never

name

nest

The opposite of horrible, beginning with "n".

Oo o... as in orange

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

one

on

our

out

of

old

once

open

over

off

or

only

own

A month of the year, beginning with "O".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Pp p... as in pear

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o **p** q r s t u v w x y z

play

please

pretty

put

pull

pick

paper

party

picture

pig

Something you write with, beginning with "p"

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Qq q... as in Queen

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p **q** r s t u v w x y z

quick

The opposite of noisy, beginning with "q".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Rr r... as in red

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q **(r)** s t u v w x y z

red

run

ran

ride

round

read

right

rabbit

rain

ring

robin

Trains run on these, beginning with "r".

Ss s... as in school

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r (s) t u v w x y z

said

snow

see

song

saw

squirrel

say

stick

she

street

so

sun

soon

some

stop

sing

sit

sleep

seven

shall

show

six

small

start

seed

sheep

shoe

sister

Something you do in water, beginning with "s".

Tt t... as in teacher

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s (t) u v w x y z

the

table

three

thing

two

time

to

top

too

toy

that

tree

there

they

this

take

thank

them

then

think

tell

their

these

those

ten

today

together

try

A hot drink, beginning with "t".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Uu u... as in unde

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t (u) v w x y z

up

under

upon

us

use

Something to keep you dry when it rains, beginning with "u".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Vv v... as in victory

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u (v) w x y z

very

A colour of the rainbow, beginning with "v".

Ww w... as in woman

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v (w) x y z

we

watch

where

water

want

way

was

wind

well

window

went

wood

what

white

who

will

with

walk

were

when

wash

which

why

wish

work

would

write

warm

You wear these on your feet, beginning with "w".

Words are not listed alphabetically because new words will not be added alphabetically. They are listed according to the Dolch list sequence.

Xx, Yy, Zz

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w **x** **y** **z**

yellow

you

yes

your

x-ray

zoo

An instrument, beginning with "x".

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