

AVKO's ALL NEW

Word Families
in
Sentence Context

by

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um	
bum	Most prisoners claim they were sent there on a bum rap.
bums	Tramps, hoboes, and bums aren't quite the same thing.
bumped	My uncle has bumped rides all across the country.
bumming	My cousin is always bumming cigarettes. I wish she would quit.
slum	Many famous people grew up in a slum.
slums	There are as many kinds of slums as there are cities.
gum	My teachers never let us chew gum in class.
gums	If you don't brush your gums, you could lose your teeth.
hum	I forgot the tune. Can you hum a couple bars.
hums	If he hums the tune, maybe I can remember some of the words.
hummed	Do you know the name of the tune he just hummed?
humming	Have you ever heard a hummingbird humming?
rum	I have an uncle who drinks too much rum.
drum	I hope Santa Claus doesn't bring my little brother a drum.
drums	My older brother always wanted to learn how to play the drums.
sum	I wish he would just sum it up and get it over with.
sums	Tom sums things up faster than anybody I know of.
summed	Jack summed it up pretty good—for Jack.
summing	There's a real trick to summing things up.
summary	A summary is something that has been summed up.
summaries	Are you any good at writing summaries?
summer	What are you going to do this summer?
summery	The weather outside is quite summery.
chum	You can chum around with a friend and befriend a chum.
chums	Jack, Don, Tom and Jim have lots of chums.
chummed	We have chummed around with a lot of different people.
chumming	My ma doesn't like me chumming around with those guys.
plumbing	We need some plumbing work done in our bathroom.
plumber	We really need to have a good plumber do the work.
dumb	It's really dumb the way the words crumb, plumb (as in plumber), and dumb end with a dumb b.
dumber	The plumber is dumber than I though he was. He's plumb loco.
dumbest	That plumber is the dumbest plumber ever.
dummy	Charlie McCarthy is a real dummy, if you know what I mean.
plum	I would rather eat a peach or an apple than eat a plum.
plums	My brother eats plums just as if they were candy. My sister, too.

lock	We need a new lock on our door—one <i>you</i> can't unlock.
block	Go run around the block and find a lock, clock, or rock.
flock	Can you find a lock in a flock of birds?
clock	A clock ticks and clocks tock? Jock won a clock at one o'clock.
rock	Jock likes to rock and roll.
rocks	Mr. Fox throws rocks at any fox around his flocks of chicks.
rocked	Mr. Cox rocked the boat. Jock's fox was locked up.
rocking	Jock loves to rock in his rocking chair.
docking	When Jock is docking his boat, you shouldn't be rocking it.
shocking	It shouldn't be shocking news that Jock's car needs new shocks.
stockings	Do you stock stockings? Can Jock be stocking stockings?
knocking	Who came knock, knock, knocking at my door but Mr. Knox.
knocks	Mr. Knox went to the school of hard knocks.
mock	Have you ever had any mock turtle soup?
mocked	Not even Mr. Knox likes to be knocked or mocked.

uck (UK)

luck	It's just my luck to have Chuck and Buck drive my truck.
lucky	It's lucky that Bucky and Chuckie never got stuck with my truck.
luckily	Luckily Chuck and Buck are truckers who never get stuck.
duck	When Huck yelled, "Fore!" I knew I had to duck.
ducks	Everybody ducks when Huck yells, "Fore!"
ducked	Everybody ducked. Even Huck ducked.
clucked	The chicken clucked and the little chicks ducked.
cluck	Chickens cluck. Ducks quack. Chicks cheep. Dogs bark.
pluck	My mother used to pluck chickens on her uncle's farm.
plucker	She was a chicken plucker who plucked both chickens and ducks.
chuck	How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if Chuck said Duck!
tuck	Tell Chuck to tuck in his shirttail.
tucked	Huck tucked his little boy in bed and turned out the light.
shucks	Shucks, I wanted to shuck some corn and Chuck shucked it all.
trucks	Chuck's trucks never get stuck in muck.
struck	Chuck struck out four ¹ batters in the first inning.
puck	When Buck cooks, his stew tastes like boiled hockey puck.
sucker	I hate to hear the words, "So long, sucker!"

¹The catcher dropped the ball on one of the strikeouts and the batter was safe at first.

ie (YH)	
die	Six is the highest number you can get when you roll a die.
dies	If the cat dies, you can roll the dice to see who buries it.
died	The cat died. I lied. I rolled just one die.
dying	I'm just dying to tell you about this guy who is dyeing his hair.
tying	By now all of you should be experts at tying your shoes.
tied	The score was tied the last time I knew. Can you sing the song, "Ebb Tide ?"
ties	Do you think Jeff would like some new ties for his birthday?
tie	What kind of tie is made out of wood? A railroad tie.
pie	Do you like apple pie?
pies	How many pies should we bake for Thanksgiving?

ye (YH)	
eye	Wiley Willie has an eye on the presidency.
Popeye	Is Popeye, pop-eyed, blue-eyed or brown-eyed?
eyes	When he eyes things, he really goes after them.
eyeing	If guys are eyeing the gals, are gals eyeing the guys?
aye	I said, " Aye , aye, sir." I don't want a black eye .
ayes	The motion was passed with seven ayes and four nays.
byes	The two teams with the best records drew byes for the first round in the playoffs.
bye	By the way, have you seen the musical, " Bye, Bye, Birdie "?
goodbye	We said goodbye . That car isn't exactly a good buy .
good-bye	Good-bye . Good luck. And be good, by the way.
dye	Did you know your hair is already dead when you dye it?
dyes	Pat dyes his hair green every St. Patrick's day.
dyeing	Did you know Guy has been dyeing his hair for ages?
rye	What would happen if a body met a body coming through the rye?

igh (YH)	
high	How high is the sky? How high is a high school? Sky-high?
higher	If you hire Hiram, he'll only ask for higher wages.
sigh	Did you hear Cy sigh ?
sighs	Cy's sighs come in only one size —large.
sighed	As an aside, whose side were you on when Cy sighed .
nigh	Captain Bligh got high on rye nigh onto a hundred years ago.
thigh	The words <i>thy thigh</i> is an example of voiced and unvoiced <i>th's</i> .
thighbone	Does thee know which of thy bones is connected to the thighbone?

eam (eem) rhymes with the -eem and -eme rimes.

beam	Did you ever want to chase a moon beam?
beamed	You should have seen the way she beamed at me.
beaming	She was really beaming. Her face lit up with a great big smile.
ream	How many sheets of paper in a ream?
dream	Do you dream in color or just black and white?
dreams	My dreams are in living color.
dreaming	I enjoy dreaming and especially daydreaming.
cream	You're the cream in my coffee.
ice cream	I scream. You scream. We all scream for ice cream.
scream	Doesn't that make you want to scream?
screaming	Remember, there's to be no screaming in here.
stream	Is this a form of stream of consciousness?
streams	I enjoy walking and fishing upstream in small trout streams.
teams	Are you on any teams at all?
team	My sister is the anchor on her bowling team.
steam	You could see the steam coming out of his ears.
steaming	He was steaming mad.
seam	It would seem that Jill would know what a seam is.
seams	It seems that Jack know what seams are and Jill doesn't.

eem rhymes with the -eam and -eme rimes.

seem	Does it seem to you that Jill should be able to sew a seam ?
seems	It seems that Jack is good at sewing seams .
seemed	It seemed to me that both guys and gals should be able to sew.
deemed	I deemed it politically correct to say it that way.
redeemed	Some people think I haven't redeemed myself yet.
teeming	That stream was just teeming with small fry.
esteem	Jack holds himself in very high esteem. He's stuck up.
self-esteem	Everyone should have a lot of self-esteem and humility.

oam rhymes with the -ome (home) rime.

foam	Here's to the oceans white with foam!
roam	Just where do the deer and the antelope roam ? In Rome ?
roamed	We roamed all over the city of Rome.
loam	Our soil is a nice sandy loam.

oom rhymes with the -ume and -omb (tomb) rimes.

room	There was room in her womb but none in the inn.
broom	Take a broom and sweep out the tomb.
bloom	Judy Blume loves flowers in bloom .

ain (AY'n) rhymes with the -ane and -ein (vein) rimes.

wa (wah) or qua (KWah)

swab	Would you rather scrub the floor or swab the deck?
swabbed	As a sailor, my brother swabbed many a deck.
squab	Does squab leave a fowl taste in your mouth or a foul taste?
wad	Who threw that paper wad on the floor?
wadded	Who wadded up all that paper?
tightwad	You shouldn't call that skinflint an old tightwad. That's not nice.
quad	Is one out of four a quad?
squad	Have you ever heard of a life squad?
squadron	My uncle has a lot of war stories about his squadron.
waft	A feather will just gently waft through the air.
wafted	It just wafted through the air like a feather.
waffles	Would you rather have pancakes or waffles for breakfast?
wallet	Has anybody seen my wallet?
walloping	The Lions gave the Cowboys a real walloping.
quality	My sister believes in buying only things of high quality.
qualities	She has many good qualities, but being thrifty is not one of them.
quantity	My neighbor likes to buy food in quantity to get a better price.
quantities	He buys food in super quantities.
squalor	Until you've been in India, you really don't know squalor.
swamp	Pogo met the enemy in the swamp and found it was us.
wan	A wan face is pale, but Juan is not a pale face.
swan	The ugly duckling turned out to be a beautiful swan.
Juan	Juan is a very common name among many of my relatives.
Juanita	My sister Juanita gets mad when I call her Johnnie.
wand	Sometimes I wish I had a magic wand.
wander	Please don't wander off.
want	Now what do you want?
swap	Tom wanted to swap a dead frog for a broken slingshot.
wash	Did your mother ever wash your mouth out with soap?
squash	I like to eat squash at least once every twenty years or so.
wasp	Have you ever been stung by a wasp?
watch	You had better watch out and better not cry or pout.
swatch	Could you give me a swatch of that material to take with me?
water	Would anybody like a glass of ice water?
swat	What's the most number of flies you've killed with one swat?
squat	I hate to squat down. It hurts my knees.
suave	Are you as suave and debonaire as Archie Bunker?