

The Teaching of Reading: a Continuum from Kindergarten Through College



A Supplementary Textbook for College Education Majors
with Practical Classroom Diagnostic Tests and
Answers to the Phonics vs. Whole Language Controversy

and Especially for
College Reading Instructors
Willing to Try New Approaches to Old Problems

and for the Training of Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutors
and Parents Who Want to Homeschool Their Children

By

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Section 2, Chapter 16

220 Names/Faces 220 Dolch Words

Are Too Many Words

for Students with Memories Like Mine

As a teacher I have had the terrifying experience of trying to match the names of students with their faces. I was given many tips on how to remember names, but with five classes of nearly 40 students each and with students transferring in and out, every September was a nightmare.

When I became a reading specialist with a caseload of only 50 students, I found I could learn the names quickly. The problem before was that I felt overloaded with too many names and faces. So, when I applied this difficulty to the problem of my students who didn't know the Dolch Basic Sight Vocabulary of 220 Words (Dolch, 1941), I thought it might be easier for them if I limited the number of words for them to learn by sight.

In examining the Dolch list, I found that about 170 of the 220 Dolch words were sufficiently patterned to teach via the word family approach. Words like *all*, *call*, *fall*, and *small* were to be taught as part of the *-all* family. For example, if a student were to miss any one of those four words on a drill, I might ask him/her to write the word **all** ten times with a green felt tip pen.

all
all
all
all
all
all
all
all
all
all

Then I would have the student change the first all to tall by adding a black letter **t** in front of the green all. Then I would have him/her change the second **all** first to **tall** and then change that **tall** to **stall** by adding a black letter **s** to **tall**. The next **all** would be changed first to **tall**, then to **stall**, and finally to **install**. Other all's became **call**, **recall**, **ball**, **fall**, and so on.

all
tall
stall
install
call
recall
ball
fall
mall
small

To make the list easier to use with students, I use the commercial Dolch cards (Garrard Publishing) available from nearly any educational supplier. I separate out the 179 clearly patterned Dolch sight words. On the back of each card I put other words that fall into the same word family pattern.²⁶

²⁶The current academic jargon is *rime* for word family pattern and *onsets* for the beginning consonants (Gunning, 1995).

Although the Dolch list is often divided into a harder half and an easier half (Dolch Popper Cards), I did not use this convenient division. The reason is that during the process of restructuring the sight words, I became aware of the inherent problem of relying exclusively on frequency counts to determine which words should be taught first. For example, the words *fall* and *small* are in the easier half while *all* and *call* are in the harder half! Dolch designates words as “easy” on the basis of frequency of occurrence.

However, from a phonemic standpoint, the word *all* should be designated easy and taught before *fall* and *small*. Rather than accept the arbitrary division of easier half and harder half of the sight words — which leads to such anomalies as teaching *train* before *rain*, I just mix up all the Dolch words and work with those that the student doesn’t know.

Using these Dolch words diagnostically, I can find out which word families (rimes), a student needs to learn. Using the cards, I run through the sight words that follow family patterns and find four or five that the student doesn’t know—and I stop. I let the student choose which word or words to learn. And I teach my student the words that are on the back of the card as a method of learning the targeted sight word.

The following Dolch words are not listed in the traditional alphabetical order. However, they are in an order. For example, the LONG E sounds spelled ea are grouped together. The LONG E sounds spelled ee are grouped together. The LONG A sounds spelled VCe (Vowel Consonant Silent e) will be together, etc. In this list of 220 words, many of the more common patterns are represented at least once.

Short A CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

had

had	Tad	lad
ad	Brad	glad
sad	fad	
dad	pad	
mad	bad	

bad

had	Tad	lad
ad	Brad	glad
sad	fad	
dad	pad	
mad	bad	

am

ram	Sam	ham	jam
cram	Pam	slam	swam
scram	mam	dam	clam
		lamb	

Short A CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

an

an	Nan	tan	pan
can	fan	Stan	Van
scan	Dan	Jan	van
ran	plan		
bran	clan		
Fran			

can

an	Nan	tan	pan
can	fan	Stan	Van
scan	Dan	Jan	van
ran	plan		
bran	clan		
Fran			

ran

an	Nan	tan	pan
can	fan	Stan	Van
scan	Dan	Jan	van
ran	plan		
bran	clan		
Fran			

man

an	Nan	tan	pan
can	fan	Stan	Van
scan	Dan	Jan	van
ran	plan		
bran	clan		
Fran			

cap

cap	nap	rap	wrap
lap	snap	trap	tap
clap	map	strap	gap
flap	chap	scrap	zap
slap	pap	sap	yap

Short A CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

at

bat	rat	hat	mat
cat	brat	Nat	fat
scat	frat	gnat	flat
pat	drat	Pat	slat
spat	chat	that	blat

that

bat	rat	hat	mat
cat	brat	Nat	fat
scat	frat	gnat	flat
pat	drat	Pat	slat
spat	chat	that	blat

cat

bat	rat	hat	mat
cat	brat	Nat	fat
scat	frat	gnat	flat
pat	drat	Pat	slat
spat	chat	that	blat

wagon

wag	rag	tag	nag
swag	brag	stag	snag
bag	drag	lag	sag
shag	gag	flag	jag
		slag	
dragon			

Short A CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

and

See footnote²⁷

hand	band	stand
overhand	Rand	understand
underhand	brand	misunderstand
command	grand	
land	grandfather	
bland	grandmother	

hand

hand	band	stand
overhand	Rand	understand
underhand	brand	misunderstand
command	grand	
land	grandmother	
bland	grandfather	

grandmother

hand	band	stand
overhand	Rand	understand
underhand	brand	misunderstand
command	grand	
land	grandfather	
bland	grandmother	

grandfather

hand	band	stand
overhand	Rand	understand
underhand	brand	misunderstand
command	grand	
land	grandmother	
bland	grandfather	

²⁷ The –and rime rhymes with the –anned rime as in planned, fanned, and canned.

Short A CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

back

lack	rack	tack	sack
black	crack	stack	hack
slack	track	attack	jack
smack	quack	pack	hijack
snack	back	unpack	Jack
shack	knack		

black

lack	rack	tack	sack
black	crack	stack	hack
slack	track	attack	jack
smack	quack	pack	hijack
snack	back	unpack	Jack
shack	knack		

thank

bank	Hank	lank	rank
tank	spank	blank	drank
sank		clank	crank
dank		plank	prank
		flank	shrank
			Frank

after

aft	raft	shaft
after	draft	
rafter	craft	
	aircraft	
	graft	

ask

ask	asks	asked	asking
bask	basks	basked	basking
task	tasks		
cask	casks		
casket	caskets		
basket	baskets		
gasket	gaskets		

Short A CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

fast

last past mast master
blast cast caster
aster
fast faster
plaster

Homophones: past/passed, mast/massed

grass

lass lasses
glass glasses
class classes
pass passes passed passing
sass sasses sassed sassing
mass masses massed massing
brass
bass

Short E CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

red

red Red's led
Fred Fred's bled
Ned Ned's fled
Ted Ted's shed
Jed Jed's shred
sped bred

Homophones: red/read, led/lead, bred/bread

head

head lead
ahead stead
read ready instead
bread spread
dread Bumstead
tread
thread

Homophones: red/read, led/lead, bred/bread

Short E CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

leg

leg	legs		
beg	begs	begged	begging
keg	kegs		
peg	pegs	pegged	pegging
Meg	Meg's		
egg	eggs		

eggs

leg	legs		
beg	begs	begged	begging
keg	kegs		
peg	pegs	pegged	pegging
Meg	Meg's		
egg	eggs		

them

them	
hem	hems
stem	stems
gem	gems
Clem	Clem's

hen

ten	den
hen	wren
men	Jen
Amen	Len
then	Ben
pen	when

men

ten	den
hen	wren
men	Jen
Amen	Len
then	Ben
pen	when

Short E CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

ten

ten	den
hen	wren
men	Jen
Amen	Len
then	Ben
pen	when

let

let	net
bet	yet
get	vet
forget	wet
set	Chet
upset	Bret
fret	

get

let	net
bet	yet
get	vet
forget	wet
set	Chet
upset	Bret
fret	

better

better	letters	lettered	lettering
letter			
setter			
Mr. Fretter			
wetter			
go-getter			

letter

better	letters	lettered	lettering
letter			
setter			
Mr. Fretter			
wetter			
go-getter			

Short E CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

bell

bell well spell spelling
 fell swell misspell
 sell dwell jell
 cell quell tell
 shell dell misspelling
 tell

Homophones: sell/cell

well

bell well spell spelling
 fell swell misspell
 sell dwell jell
 cell quell tell
 shell dell misspelling
 tell

Homophones: sell/cell

tell

bell well spell spelling
 fell swell misspell
 sell dwell jell
 cell quell tell
 shell dell misspelling
 tell

Homophones: sell/cell

yellow

yellow
 fellow fellows
 mellow
 bellow bellows bellowed bellowing

help

help helps helped helping
 yelp yelps yelped yelping
 kelp
 helper
 helpers

Short E CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

myself

elf	elves
self	
myself	ourselves
yourself	yourselves
himself	
herself	themselves
shelf	shelves

went

went	bent	sent
rent	tent	cent
pent	intent	scent
spent	extent	
vent	dent	
invent		

Homophones: cent/sent/scent

best

best	test	chest	guest
west	protest	jest	infest
rest	crest	digest	
arrest	lest	suggest	
vest	blest	quest	
invest	pest	bequest	

Homophones: guest/guessed

Short i CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

did

did	bid	hid	lid
kid	forbid	mid	slid
skid	Sid	pyramid	valid
rid		quid	invalid
grid		squid	
splendid			

pig

big	rig	wig
pig	brig	twig
jig	prig	swig
dig	sprig	
gig	fig	

Short i CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

big

big **rig** **wig**
pig **brig** **twig**
jig **prig** **swig**
dig **sprig**
gig **fig**

six

six **sixes**
fix **fixes** **fixed** **fixing**
mix **mixes** **mixed** **mixing**
nix **nixes** **nixed** **nixing**
Trix

Homophones nix/nicks/Nick's, Trix/tricks

him

him **slim** **rim** **dim**
Tim **Jim** **grim** **swim**
shim **trim** **Kim**
 prim **skim**

Homophones Jim/gym, him/hymn

in

in **kin** **grin** **fin**
pin **skin** **shin** **sin**
thin **napkin** **win** **begin**
bin **tin** **twin**

Homophones in/inn

window

For the win of window
 see the in card

For the dow of window
 see the *know, snow, grow or show* cards

Short i CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

it

it	lit	fit	bit
sit	slit	outfit	kit
pit	split	grit	skit
spit	wit	admit	permit
hit	outwit	nitwit	commit
rabbit	quit	acquit	flit

sit

it	lit	fit	bit
sit	slit	outfit	kit
pit	split	grit	skit
spit	wit	admit	permit
hit	outwit	nitwit	commit
rabbit	quit	acquit	flit

pick

pick	lick	kick	Nick
wick	slick	Dick	tick
Rick	flick	hick	stick
thick	sick	chick	quick
thicken	sicken	chicken	

chicken

pick	lick	kick	Nick
wick	slick	Dick	tick
Rick	flick	hick	stick
thick	sick	chick	quick
thicken	sicken	chicken	

Short i CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

ring

sing **sling** **thing**
wing **fling** **nothing**
swing **sting** **anything**
ring **something**
bring **string** **wring**

Homophones ring/wring

bring

sing **sling** **thing**
wing **fling** **nothing**
swing **sting** **anything**
ring **something**
bring **string** **wring**

Homophones ring/wring

sing

sing **sling** **thing**
wing **fling** **nothing**
swing **sting** **anything**
ring **something**
bring **string** **wring**

Homophones ring/wring

think

ink **sink** **wink** **link**
rink **stink** **chink** **blink**
drink **mink** **fink** **clink**
brink **pink** **slink**
shrink

drink

ink **sink** **wink** **link**
rink **stink** **chink** **blink**
drink **mink** **fink** **clink**
brink **pink** **slink**
shrink

Short i CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

fish

with

Related Family Words on Back

fish	fishes	fished	fishing
wish	wishes	wished	wishing
swish			
dish	dishes	dished	dishing
foolish		childish	
varnish		vanish	

with		without
myth	myths	within
smith	smiths	
blacksmith		
Mrs. Smith		

Short O CVC

Dolch Word on Front

on

top

stop

Related Family Words on Back

on			
don	dons	donned	donning
con	cons	conned	conning
Lon	Don's		
nylon		upon	

top	cop	shop	topping
stop	pop	chop	popping
sop	lop		shopping
mop	plop		stopping
hop	slop		hopping

top	cop	shop	topping
stop	pop	chop	popping
sop	lop		shopping
mop	plop		stopping
hop	slop		hopping

Short O CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

got

got	hot	pot	lot
cot	rot	spot	slot
Scott	trot	shot	plot
jot	not	knot	clot
Mr. Mott	snot	a lot	allot

Homophones a lot/allot/"alot"(common misspelling); not/knot

box

ox	oxen		
box	boxes	boxer	boxing
fox			
lox			
Red Sox			

Homophones lox/locks; sox/socks

dog

dog	dogs		
log	logs		logging
frog	frogs		
clog	clogs	clogged	clogging
flog	flogs	flogged	flogging
bog	bogs		

sock

sock	lock	tock	dock
mock	unlock	stock	cock
smock	flock	hock	peacock
rock	block	shock	
crook	clock	o'clock	

doll

doll	dolls	dolly	dollies
		holly	
		by golly	
		Molly	

Short O CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

long

**long wrong gong bong
 along strong tong thong
 belong stronger
 prolong strongest
 longest
 longer**

Short U CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

run

**run runs runner running
 gun guns gunner gunning
 shun shuns shunnedshunning
 stun stuns stunned stunning**

**fun nun dun
 pun spun**
Homophones nun/none; dun/done; sun/son

sun

**run runs runner running
 gun guns gunner gunning
 shun shuns shunnedshunning
 stun stuns stunned stunning**

**fun nun dun
 pun spun**
Homophones nun/none; dun/done; sun/son

funny

**fun funny funnies
 bunny bunnies
 run runny
 funnier
 funniest**

Short U CVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

up

up upon upper
pup pups
cup cups
sup sups supper

puppy

up puppy puppies
pup guppy guppies

us

us buses bused busing
bus
plus
surplus
Gus
pus
thus

bus

us buses bused busing
bus
plus
surplus
Gus
pus
thus

but

but rut butt butter
nut strut putt putter
cut jut mutt mutter
shut gut mutton shutter
glut button gutter

Homophones but/butt

Short U CVC

Dolch Word on Front

cut

Related Family Words on Back

but	rut	butt	butter
nut	strut	putt	putter
cut	jut	mutt	mutter
shut	gut	mutton	shutter
glut		button	gutter

Homophones but/butt

Short U CVCC

Dolch Word on Front

duck

Related Family Words on Back

duck	buck	tuck	muck
luck	Chuck	stuck	truck
cluck	puck	Huck	struck
pluck			

jump

jump	dump	pump	bump
lump	thump	rump	
plump	ump	trump	
clump	chump	slump	mumps

must

must			
bust	busts	busted	busting
just			
adjust	adjusts	adjusted	adjusting
rust	rusts	rusted	rusting
trust	trusts	trusted	trusting
dust	dusts	dusted	dusting
gust	gusts	gusted	gusting

Long A CVCe

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

made

made trade blade
fade grade glade
wade parade spade
shade jade invade

Homophones made/maid; grade/grayed; wade/weighed

ate

ate gate late Kate
date mate relate skate
rate cremate slate locate
crate hate state create
grate

Homophones ate/8/eight; grate/great; gate/gait

gave

gave save rave cave
forgave slave brave wave
Dave shave grave behave
pave nave misbehave
knave

Homophones nave/knave; wave/waive

Long A CVV

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

away

way day bay ray
away today pay pray
sway lay repay spray
flay play may tray
slay replay dismay gray
clay display delay fray

Homophones way/weigh

Long A (CVVC)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

tail

ail tail fail bail
sail detail rail nail
mail retail frail snail
hail cocktail trail hail

Homophones: ail/ale; tail/tale; bail/bale; sail/sale; mail/male; hail/hale

rain

rain chain pain lain
train stain Spain plain
strain gain main explain
restrain drain slain complain
brain

Homophones: rain/rein/reign; pain/pane; lain/lane; plain/plane

train

rain chain pain lain
train stain Spain plain
strain gain main explain
restrain drain slain complain
brain

Homophones: rain/rein/reign; pain/pane; lain/lane; plain/plane

Long E CV, CVV

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

we

we we'll (we will)
he he'll (he will)
she she'll (she will)
me
the
be

Homophones: we/wee; be/bee; the/thee; he'll/heel/heal

he

we we'll (we will)
he he'll (he will)
she she'll (she will)
me
the
be

Homophones: we/wee; be/bee; the/thee; he'll/heel/heal

Long E (CV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

be

we	we'd	(we would)
he	he'd	(he would)
she	she'd	(she would)
me		
the		
be		

Homophones: we/wee; be/bee; the/thee; he'd/heed; we'd/weed

she

we	we're	(we are)
he	he's	(he is)
she	she's	(she is)
me		
the		
be		

Homophones: we/wee; be/bee; the/thee; we're/were;

me

we	we'll	(we will)
he	he'll	(he will)
she	she'll	(she will)
me		
the		
be		

Homophones: we/wee; be/bee; the/thee; he'll/heel/heal

Long E (CV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

see

see	bee	Lee	free
fee	gee	flee	tree
thee	squeegee	glee	agree
knee	tee		disagree
			three

Homophones: see/sea/si; bee/be; thee/the; tee/tea

monkey

key	keys
monkey	monkeys
turkey	turkeys
honey	
money	

Long E CVVC

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

to read

bead beads
read reads reading reader
lead leads led leader

Homophones: read/reed/Reid; led/lead
 Heteronyms: lead/lead; read/read

have read

read ready
bread
tread treads
lead

Homophones: read/red; lead/led
 Heteronyms: read/read; lead/lead

clean

lean leans leaning
clean cleans cleaners
mean means meaning
bean beans
Jean Jean's

Homophones: Jean/Gene/gene

eat

eat meat treat feat
peat seat retreat defeat
repeat bleat cleat pleat
neat beat cheat heat
neater beater cheater heater

Homophones: beat/beet; feat/feet; meat/meet;

meat

eat meat treat feat
meat seat retreat defeat
peat repeat cleat pleat
neat beat cheat heat
neater beater cheater heater

Homophones: beat/beet; feat/feet; meat/meet;

Long E (CVVC)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

green

green greens greener greenest
keen keener keenest
seen
sheen
spleen

Homophones seen/scene

keep

keep jeep deep weep
sleep creep steep sweep
asleep sheep seep peep
oversleep beep cheep

Homophones cheep/cheap

sleep

keep jeep deep weep
sleep creep steep sweep
asleep sheep seep peep
oversleep beep cheep

Homophones cheep/cheap

sheep

keep jeep deep weep
sleep creep steep sweep
asleep sheep seep peep
oversleep beep cheep

Homophones cheep/cheap

feet

feet meet sheet sweet
fleet greet skeet tweet
street

Homophones: feet/feat; meet/meat

Long E (CVVCe)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

please

ease eases easy
 please pleases pleased pleasing
 tease teases teased teasing
 displease
 disease diseases

Homophones: tease/tees/teas; please/pleas;

Long I (CV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

fly

fly flies flying
 ply plies plying
 apply applies applied applying
 supply supplies supplied supplying
 comply complies complied complying

my

my	sly		
why	shy		
lie	lies	lied	lying
die	dies	died	dying
sky	skies		

Homophones: lie/lye; die/dye; died/dyed; dying/dyeing

by

by	why	sly	shy
goodby			
sky	skies		
deny	denies	denied	denying
defy	defies	defied	defying

Homophones: by/bye/buy; goodby; goodbye

try

try	tries	tried	trying
cry	cries	cried	crying
fry	fries	fried	frying
pry	pries	pried	prying
spry			

Long O (CV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

going

go	goes	going	gone
ditto	dittoes	dittoing	dittoed
zero	zeroes	zeroing	zeroed
go	goes	going	gone
tomato	tomatoes	hero	heroes
potato	potatoes	Afro	Negroes

Long O (CVV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

own

own	grown	known	shown
flown	thrown	unknown	
own	owns	owned	owning
		owner	

Homophones; grown/groan; thrown/throne; shown/shone

coat

oat	oats	boat	boats
coat	coats	float	floats
goat	goats	gloat	gloats
bloat	bloats	throat	throats
moat	moats		

road

road	roads	load	loads
railroad	railroads	unload	unloads
goad	goads	reload	reloads
toad	toads	overload	overloads

Homophones; road/rowed/rode; toad/towed

Long O (CVCC)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

old

old	older	oldest	
cold	colder	coldest	coldly
bold	bolder	boldest	boldly
gold	hold	fold	mold
sold	scold	hold	told

Homophones; bold/bowled; hold/holed; told/tolled

hold

hold	holder	holding	
fold	folder	folding	bold
unfold	cold	sold	told
uphold	scold	unsold	retold
withhold	household	stronghold	scaffold

Homophones; bold/bowled; hold/holed; told/tolled

Long O (CVCe)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

nose

nose	noses		nosy
rose	roses		rosy
close	closes	closing	
disclose	those	prose	pose
enclose	arose	oppose	compose
inclose	foreclose	propose	decompose

Homophones; nose/knows; rose/rows; close/clothes;

Long OO (CV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

to

to into unto
do undo redo
who who's whose
 Homophones: to/too/two; do/dew; who's/whose

do

to into unto
do undo redo
who who's whose
 Homophones: to/too/two; do/dew; who's/whose

two

to into unto
do undo redo
who who's whose
 Homophones: to/too/two; do/dew; who's/whose

Long OO (CVV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

new

new crew flew dew
knew screw blew stew
renew slew Jew threw
drew brew strew shrew
 Homophones: new/knew; blew/blue; dew/do/du

blue

Lue Sue rue due
blue sue true overdue
glue pursue trueblue subdue
value avenue argue continue
flue
 Homophones: Lue/Lew; due/do/dew; flue/flew/flu

Long "OW!" (CVV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

how

ow wow cow pow
 now powwow scow plow
 how chow vow a noisy row
 anyhow a fat sow brow
 somehow a hay mow
 bow your heads

Heteronyms: bow/row/mow
 Homophones; plow/plough; chow/ciao

flower

flower flowers flowered flowering
 power powers powered powering
 tower towers towered towering
 shower showers showered showering

Homophones: flower/flour

Long "OW!" (CVVC)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

down

down clown gown town
 brown nightgown downtown
 frown uptown
 crown

brown

down clown gown town
 brown nightgown downtown
 frown uptown
 crown

out

out bout lout rout
 shout about clout trout
 pout gout flout sprout
 spout snout tout
 outside outdoors outdo
 outdone output outlet
 outlook outcome outsmart

Long "OW!" (CVVCC)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

found

sound found pound round
bound profound compound around
confound expound ground
dumbfound aboveground
expound underground

round

sound found pound round
bound profound compound around
confound expound ground
dumbfound aboveground
expound underground

Long "OW!" (CVVCe)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

house

house louse
madhouse blouse
outhouse mouse
warehouse grouse
penthouse douse
roundhouse

Long "AW!" (CVVCe)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

because

cause causes caused causing
pause pauses paused pausing
clause clauses

Homophones: claws/clause/Claus, Santa

Long "AW!" (CVV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

saw

saw	raw	jaw	jaws
law	draw		laws
slaw	straw		straws
flaw	craw	paw	paws
claw			claws
outlaw	thaw	Shaw	

Homophones: paws/pause; claws/clause

draw

saw	raw	jaw	jaws
law	draw		laws
slaw	straw		straws
flaw	craw	paw	paws
outlaw	thaw	Shaw	

Homophones: flower/flour

Long "OY!" (CVV)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

boy

boy	toy	joy	soy
Roy	coy	enjoy	ploy
Troy	decoy	overjoy	employ
destroy	cloy	ahoy	annoy

toys

boys	toys	joys	plays
Roy's		enjoys	employs
Troy's	decoys	overjoys	annoys
destroys	cloys		

Homophones: annoys/a noise

-R Controlled Vowels (CVRC)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

far

far	car	tar	jar
afar	scar	star	par
Gar	char	bar	spar

car

far	car	tar	jar
afar	scar	star	par
Gar	char	bar	spar

farm

arm	arms	armed	arming
farm	farms	farmed	farming
harm	harms	harmed	harming
alarm	alarms	alarmed	alarming
charm	charms	charmed	charming

barn

barn	barns		
yarn	yarns		
darn	darns	darned	darning

start

art	Bart	cart	part
tart	mart	chart	apart
start	smart		depart
			impart

-R Controlled Vowels (CVRC)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

party

party parties partied partying
smarty smarties
Arty
Marty

or

or for nor Thor
order orders ordering
border borders bordering
orbit

Homophones: or/ore; for/four/fore

for

or for nor Thor
forgot
order orders ordering
border borders bordering
orbit

Homophones: or/ore; for/four/fore

corn

corn horn born forlorn
acorn scorn reborn lovelorn
popcorn morn unborn shorn
unicorn morning

Homophones: morn/mourn; morning/mourning

door

door doors doorway
indoor indoors
outdoor outdoors
floor floors

R- Controlled Vowels (CVR/C)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

floor

door doors doorway
indoor indoors
outdoor outdoors
floor floors

chair

air fair pair hair
chair unfair repair stair
flair
airplane airport stairway

Homophones: air/heir; fair/fare; pair/pear/pare; hair/hare;
 stair/stare

airplane

air fair pair hair
chair unfair repair stair
flair
airplane airport stairway

Homophones: air/heir; fair/fare; pair/pear/pare; hair/hare;
 stair/stare

bear

bear bears bearing
pear pears
to tear tears tearing
wear wears wearing
swear swears swearing

Homophones: bear/bare; pear/pair/pare; wear/ware

carry

carry carries carried carrying
marry marries married marrying
Larry Larry's
parry parries parried parrying

Homophones: carry/Cary; marry/merry/Mary; parry/Perry

R- Controlled Vowels (CVR/Ce)

Dolch Word on Front

Related Family Words on Back

here

here here + is = here's
 adhere mere merely
 sincere sincerely
 severe
 persevere
 revere
 adhere

Homophones: here/hear

never

ever lever whatever
 never clever however
 nevertheless wherever
 every whatsoever
 everywhere sever
 everyone several

every

ever lever whatever
 never clever however
 nevertheless wherever
 every whatsoever
 everywhere sever
 everyone several

girl

girl girls a girl's hat
 two girls' hats
 twirl twirls twirled twirling
 swirl swirls swirled swirling
 Shirley

Homophones: Shirley/surely

first

first
 1st
 thirst thirsts thirsted thirsting
 thirsty

Homophones: 1st/first

-R Controlled Vowels (CVR/Ce)

Dolch Word on Front

birthday

Related Family Words on Back

birth	births	
mirth		
girth		
birthday birthdays		
Homophones: birth/berth		

W- Controlled Vowels (WVR/Ce)

Dolch Word on Front

watch

Related Family Words on Back

watch	wa = "wah"	qua = K'Wah
	as in:	as in
water	wash	quash
	wand	squash
	wander	squad
	want	squat
	water	squalk

water

watch	wa = "wah"	qua = K'Wah
	as in:	as in
water	wash	quash
	wand	squash
	wander	squad
	want	squat
	water	squalk

W- & -R Controlled Vowels (WVR/C/e)

Dolch Word on Front

warm

Related Family Words on Back

war	wars	
ward	wards	
warden	wardens	
warm	warms	
warmer	warmest	
wart	warts	
quart	quarts	

work

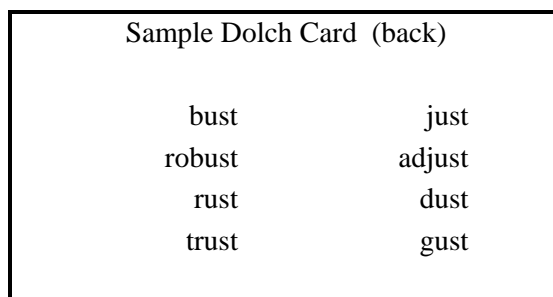
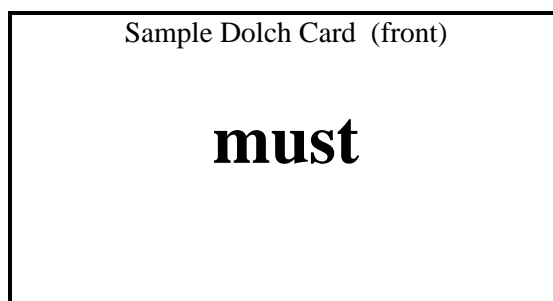
	wor = "wur"	
	as in:	
work	works	worker
word	words	wording
worm	worms	wormy
world	worlds	worldly
worth	worse	worst

Dolch Words to be Learned as Sight Words

a	elephant	off	they
again	eye	only	together
any	four	once	very
apple	from	our²⁸	you
are	has	pretty	your
as	have	put	was
baby	her	said	were
been	his	shall	what
both	I	shoe	where
buy	is	the	which
children	laugh	their	yes
does	many	there	
don't	of	these	

²⁸ In many dialects, including mine, the word *our* rhymes with *car* and is a homophone of the word *are*. If in your dialect the word *our* rhymes with *sour* and *hour*, then teach those words, too.

Save *your* time and give a worthwhile project to your local school's art class or advanced typing class. Have them make small word family charts on the back sides of commercially prepared Dolch cards which you can buy from your local school supply dealer.



Some Dolch words need to be taught by the “Look—Say” or other sight methods. These are the 50 words on page 88. Even then, some of those are close to being phonetic. Some should be taught in pairs, e.g., *any* and *many*, *where* and *there*. If you wish to use a phonic approach on some of these words, fine. However, we feel it doesn't hurt to use sight methods for these few words that have relatively few other words that share the same patterns.

Those 50 words represent the fifty words that most students can master even if they have the same basic problem with memory that I do. That is, I found it fairly easy to learn fifty names and faces, but nearly impossible to learn all 220. But remember, just as I could not master all 50 names of students in one sitting, don't ever expect students to learn all 50 Dolch sight words at one time.

My suggestion is to work on only two or three at a time. Work daily. Drill daily. Work only for a few minutes at a time. Work as many times as possible during the day. Ten two-minute drills are far more effective than one drill for thirty minutes straight. If a student can read a word the first time it is flashed on five consecutive days, the student MAY have learned it.

Review once a week all the “SIGHT” words learned. If a student misses the same word two weeks in a row, put the word back with those that need daily drilling. Mastery is what counts. We don't consider a sight word such as these Dolch words to be truly mastered unless the student can instantly call the word on first flashing on five separate occasions each of which is separated by at least one week.

If a student gets the word right upon first flashing put a small mark like this: (').

If a student hesitates or misses put a small period (.).

If a student gets it right after hesitating, put a (') over the (.) so that it becomes a (!).

See Sample Record Sheets for little Johnny Jones on next page

Name: Johnny Jones. Daily quick quiz of sight word. Only the first response of the day is recorded. Use as many quick quizzes during the day as you deem appropriate.

Word to learn: **who**. To go from Learning stage to mastery stage, 5 consecutive days with first response correct and automatic are needed.

Total actual days: 16 first time through. 7 second time through. 5 days the third time through. Fourth time through—not necessary.

Daily Chart									
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
who	.	.	!	'	'	.	!	'	'
!	'	'	'	'	'	<i>Moved to once weekly</i>		'	'
<i>Returned to daily</i>					.	!	'	'	'
'	'	<i>Moved to once weekly</i>							
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F

Word to learn: **who** 5 Consecutive Mondays (weeks) with first response correct and automatic needed for demonstrating advancement from mastery to automaticity. Total actual weeks: 15

Weekly Chart									
M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
who	'	!	.	<i>Returned to daily</i>					
!	'	'	'	!	.	<i>Returned to daily</i>			
'	'	'	'	'	<i>Mastered! Finally!</i>				

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