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ABSTRACT

This booklet discusses a procedure to assist students experiencing difficulty in learning the "Dolch Basic Sight Vocabulary of 220 Words" and rearranges a list of 220 words to make it easier for students to learn. The procedure discussed in the booklet is based on the "word family" approach, in which words like "all call, fall, and small" are taught as part of the "-all" family of words. Using this approach, the booklet lists 170 Dolch sight words (arranged by vowel sound) that can be taught using the word family approach. The booklet also includes a list of the 50 Dolch words that can be taught using sight methods, as well as advice on daily, short drills to learn the words. (RS)

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# 220 Names/Faces 220 Dolch Words Are Too Many for Students with Memories like Mine

by  
Don McCabe

AVKO "Great Idea"  
Reprint Series #601

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220 Dolch Words  
are too many words for students  
with memories like mine**

by

Don McCabe

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## What is AVKO?

AVKO is a non-profit tax-exempt 501 (C) 3 membership organization.

AVKO was founded in 1974.

AVKO is subsidized by donations and grants.

AVKO is open to membership to anyone interested in literacy.

AVKO is run by members from as far away as Hawaii and Quebec.

AVKO's daily operations are handled by volunteers.

AVKO plans to build and operate a model reading research center in a year-around camp setting that would economically and efficiently service the needs of dyslexics of all ages.

AVKO hopes to spread the concept that family involvement in tutoring of literacy skills can be successfully taught in adult community education classes.

AVKO provides newsletters and economical opportunities to pursue individual research projects and to take part in large scale cooperative research projects that have immediate practical applications for helping the literacy movement.

AVKO is attempting to accomplish these goals primarily through the profits generated by the sale of services and special materials developed for the special needs of students, parents, and adults.

**220 Names**  
**220 Faces are too many for me**  
**220 Sight Words are too many words for students**  
**with memories like mine\***

By

Don McCabe

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.

I took those words from the Dolch list that I felt could be taught by the word family approach. 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 or pencil.

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\* Abridged versions published in: *The Reading Teacher*, April 1978 & *SPELD NEWS* (Australia's Specific Learning Difficulties Publication), March 1979

all  
all  
all  
all  
all  
all  
all  
all  
all  
all  
all  
all  
all

Then I would have the student change the first **all** to *tall* by having a black **t** in front of the green **all**. Then I would have him/her change the second **all** first to **fall** and then change that **fall** to **stall** by adding a black **s** to **fall**. The next **all** would be changed first to **fall**, then to **stall**, and finally to **install** and maybe even **installment**. Other **alls** became **call**, **recall**, **ball**, **fall**, and so on.

all  
tall  
stall  
install  
call  
recall  
wall  
ball  
baseball  
basketball  
fall  
rainfall  
waterfall  
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 170 clearly patterned Dolch sight words. On the back of each card I put other words that fall into the same family pattern.

In the list of words that begin on the next page, the words in the left-hand column are Dolch words. The right-hand

column consists of family words that I write on the back side of the cards.

### HARDER HALF, EASIER HALF

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. (For a more complete discussion of the problems involved using frequency counts, see *A Common Sense Approach to Controlled Word Lists* (.25) AVKO Foundation, Birch Run.)

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 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 "sight" words.

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* will be together, the LONG E sounds spelled *ee* will be together, the LONG A sounds spelled *Vce* (Vowel Consonant Silent E) will be together, etc. In this list of 220 words, most of the common patterns are represented at least once.

**Dolch Words**

**FAMILY WORDS**

SHORT A

<b>back</b>	back tack rack clack smack lack hijack	lack attack crack knack quack slack shack	black Jack track snack tack stack	sack jack hack pack unpack whack
<b>black</b>	(Same as above)			
<b>had</b>	ad Tad lad	bad Brad glad	sad brad fad	dad mad pad
<b>bad</b>	(Same as above)			
<b>after</b>	aft after shaft	raft rafter	craft draft	aircraft graft
<b>wagon</b>	wag wagon swag bag shag	rag slag lag brag jag	drag dragon gag sag	tag stag nag snag
<b>am</b>	am jam wham lam slam	ram cram scram mam clam	Sam Pam Bam dam	ham swam Bam-Bam Bambi
<b>an</b>	an Jan plan clan pan span	man Dari Van van can scan	ran bran Fran van	tan Stan fan cranberry Nan
<b>can</b>	(same as above)			
<b>ran</b>	(Same as above)			





## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

<b>man</b>	(Same as above)			
<b>and</b>	and grand command stand understand misunderstand	band brand strand hand overhand grandstand	grand grandpa grandma	land bland gland grandfather grandmother
<b>hand</b>	(Same as above)			
<b>grandfather</b>	(Same as above)			
<b>grandmother</b>	(Same as above)			
<b>thank</b>	bank tank shank prank	Hank spank Frank shrank	lank blank flank	rank drank crank
<b>cap</b>	nap snap gap map	tap gap sap chap	rap trap strap gap	lap slap flap clap
<b>ask</b>	mask Trask basket	task tasket gasket	cask casket	bask
<b>basket</b>	(Same as above)			
<b>grass</b>	pass sass glass	lass class grass	mass brass	bass
<b>fast</b>	last blast caster	past cast plaster	mast master aster	fast faster
<b>at</b>	at bat vat cat scat slat	rat brat frat drat chat flat	hat Nat gnat tat Pat blat	fat mat sat that pat spat

**Dolch Words****that**

(Same as above)

**cat**

(Same as above)

**FAMILY WORDS****LONG A**

<b>table</b>	able unable unstable	table stable	fable	cable
--------------	----------------------------	-----------------	-------	-------

<b>made</b>	fade spade blade Homophones: made/maid	wade parade glade	shade invade	grade trade
-------------	---	-------------------------	-----------------	----------------

<b>take</b>	take stake sake rake awake	Jake shake snake brake	lake flake quake wake	fake bake cake make
-------------	--	---------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------

Homophones: stake/steak brake/break

**cake** (Same as above)

<b>came</b>	came became tame name	lame blame flame frame	same shame James	dame fame game
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<b>paper</b>	cape caper	tape taper	scrape scraper	paper
--------------	---------------	---------------	-------------------	-------

<b>ate</b>	date hate mate cremate rate	ate Kate skate locate crate	gate irrigate create irritate grate	late plate slate state
------------	---	---	---	---------------------------------

Homophones: grate/great ate/eight gate/gait

<b>gave</b>	Dave shave knave slave	save gave forgave behave	rave grave engrave misbehave	cave wave brave
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## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

<b>away</b>	way	day	bay	ray
	away	today	pay	pray
	sway	lay	repay	spray
	play	delay	may	tray
	display	relay	dismay	stray
	replay	stay	spay	fray
	slay	flay	clay	bray
	defray	gray		

Homophones: way/weigh gray/grey slay/sleigh pray/prey

<b>tail</b>	ail	tail	fail	bail
	sail	detail	jail	nail
	mail	retail	rail	snail
	hail	cocktail	trail	frail

Homophones: ail/aile tail/tale bail/bale jail/gaol mail/male hail/hale

<b>rain</b>	rain	chain	pain	lain
	train	stain	Spain	plain
	strain	gain	main	explain
	restrain	grain	remain	complain
	brain	drain	slain	

**train** (See above)

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

<b>chair</b>	air	fair	pair	hair
	chair	unfair	repair	stairs
	flair	airplane		upstairs
	airport			downstairs
	airway	stairway		

Homophones: air/heir/Eire fair/fare pair/pare hair/hare

**airplane** (See above)

<b>carry</b>	Larry	marry	Harry	tarry
	parry	carry	Harriet	

Homophones: marry/merry/Mary carry/Cary/Carric parry/Perry  
tarry/Terry Harry/hairy

## Dolch Words

**bear**

wear  
swear  
underwear

pear  
tear down

tear up  
bearings

bear

Homophones: bear/bare/Bayer wear/ware pear/pare

## FAMILY WORDS

### A + R Control

**far**

car  
scar  
far  
afar  
Gar  
Garfield

tar  
star  
char  
charcoal  
par  
garbage

jar  
mar  
margin  
market  
marble  
garden

tar  
target  
bar  
bargain  
spar  
harden

**car**

(See above)

**garden**

(See above)

**farm**

arm  
disarm  
forearm

charm  
farm  
farmer

harm

alarm

**barn**

darn

yarn

harness

**start**

art  
part  
start  
compartment  
apart

Bart  
mart  
smart

cart  
chart  
impart  
department  
apartment

dart  
part

**party**

art  
part  
mart  
smart

arty  
party  
Marty  
smarty

parties  
smarties

Homophones: bear/bare wear/ware/where  
Antonyms: tear ("TEER")/tear ("TAYR")

**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS****W- Control over A**

<b>watch</b>	wa = "wah" as in: water	quash
	wand	squash
	wander	squad
	wallow	squadron
	swallow	squat
	want	squalk
	wash	
	waffle	
	watch	
	walk	
	wad	

The letter **u** that follows **q** is really the consonant **w** (double u) in disguise. When the **w** (or u) comes before "a," the short (or long) sound of "a" changes to the sound of the short "o" or to the "ah" that doctors want you to say when you stick out your tongue.

**water** (See above)

<b>warm</b>	war = "w-or" as in:	war	
		warm	wart
		swarm	quart
		ward	quarter
		award	warn
		reward	

The **w** & the **r** both fight for control over the letter "a." Neither the **w** nor the **r** win the war. They compromise and make the sound of the LONG O modified.

<b>father</b>	father	lather
	rather	gather

**grandfather** (Same as above)

THE "AW" SOUND

because cause pause clause because

Homophones: pause/paws clause/claws

saw raw law "naw" saw
draw outlaw gnaw chaw
craw flaw haw jaw
straw slaw paw thaw

draw (See above)

all all wall call fall
tall squall recall rainfall
stall thrall pitfall
install enthrall waterfall
installment ball
mall baseball basketball football
small racketball baseball

LONG E

we he be she me
we the

he (Same as above)

be (Same as above)

she (Same as above)

Homophones: be/bee/Bea me/mi we/wee the/thee

to read bead lead read
beady leader reader

Homophones: read/reed/Reid

clean lean mean bean Jean
clean wean jean
cleaners

**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS**

<b>please</b>	ease disease	tease	please displease	appease
<b>eat</b>	eat peat repeat eater neat	meat seat treat retreat bleat	beat beater cheater cheat heat cleat	feat defeat wheat pleat reheat heater

Homophones: meat/mecet/mete beat/bceet feat/feet/fete peat/Pete

**meat** (Same as above)

<b>tree</b>	free tree spree tee	bee knee Lee glee	see spree decree agree disagree	fee wee gee squeegee
-------------	------------------------------	----------------------------	---	-------------------------------

Homophones: flee/flea be/bec/Bea see/sea/si we/wec/oui tee/tea/ti

<b>green</b>	keen	seen	sheen	spleen
<b>keep</b>	keep steep sheep deep	sleep asleep oversleep seep	weep sweep peep cheep	creep jeep beep

Homophones: cheep/chcwap

**sleep** (See above)  
**sheep** (See above)

<b>feet</b>	sheet greet street	meet skeet feet	sweet tweet	sleet fleet
-------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	----------------	----------------

Homophones: feet/feat/fete sweet/suite

<b>here</b>	here adhere severe	mere merely severely	sincere sincerely insincere	revere Revere persevere
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Homophones: here/hear

## SHORT E

red	red	Ed	led	shed
	bred	Fred	sled	Ted
	well-bred	shred	bled	Ned
	thoroughbred	fed	fled	sped
	Jed	bed	bedspread	

Homophones: red/read bred/bread led/lead

head	read*	tread	stead	spread
	ready	bread	steady	bedspread
	already	thread	Bumstead	lead
	all ready	head	dead	instead

\* Both **read** and **lead** are heteronyms. There's no reason why you can't **read** a book that you have already **read**. You can **lead** a horse to water but you can't make **lead** float.

leg	beg	keg	peg	meg
	leg	Meg	egg	eggs
	begging	leggings		

eggs (See above)

myself	elf	self	himself	herself
	shelf	itself	yourself	

bell	fell	sell	tell	well
	bell	cell	spell	swell
	shell	jell	misspell	dwell
	smell	jello	dell	
	hello	quell		

well (See above)

tell (See above)

Homophones: sell/cell

yellow	bell	fell	yell
	bellow	fellow	yellow



**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS****help**yelp  
yelps  
yelped  
yelpinghelp  
helps  
helped  
helpinghelper  
helpers  
kelp  
helpings**them**hem  
Clem

them

stem

gem

**when**ten  
wren  
Len  
Glen  
Jenmen  
hen  
yen  
sevenBen  
den  
garden  
openthen  
pen  
pencil  
stencil**hen**

(See above)

**men**

(See above)

**seven**

(See above)

**ten**

(See above)

**open**

(See above)

**went**pent  
spent  
rent  
parent  
different  
gent  
agentbent  
tent  
intent  
extent  
sent  
absent  
presentdent  
accident  
incident  
moment  
cement  
vent  
inventcent  
scent  
descent  
ascent  
assent  
decent  
prevent

Homophones: assent/ascent

**best**rest  
arrest  
interest  
crest  
infest  
nestjest  
lest  
blest  
vest  
invest  
inquesttest  
protest  
retest  
west  
questpest  
chest  
suggest  
digest  
best

Homophones: blest/blessed

**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS**

<b>let</b>	bet better let letter jet net	set upset setter quiet fret secret	wet Chet diet market get forget	pet Bret yet regret target
------------	--	---	--	--

**get** (See above)

<b>better</b>	let letter	bet better	set setter	wet wetter
---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

**letter** (See above)

<b>never</b>	ever sever several	lever clever however	ever forever whatever
--------------	--------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------

every everyone everywhere never nevermore nevertheless	whoever whenever wherever whatsoever whosoever
---	--

**every** (See above)

<b>monkey</b>	key turkey monkey	money honey
---------------	-------------------------	----------------

<b>SHORT I</b>
----------------

<b>pick</b>	chick wick quick nick rick limerick	lick slick flick click trick	kick Dick hick thick prick	sick tick stick pick maverick
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<b>chicken</b>	chick chicken stricken	thick thicken	sick sicken	quick quicken
----------------	------------------------------	------------------	----------------	------------------

## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

**did**

kid  
skid  
rid  
grid  
quid

bid  
forbid  
Sid  
did  
splendid

hid  
mid  
pyramid  
stupid  
squid

lid  
slid  
valid  
invalid

**pig**

big  
wig  
twig  
swig

dig  
jig  
gig  
fig

pig  
prig  
sprig  
brig

rig  
trig  
trigger

**big**

(See above)

**milk**

ilk

silk

milk

bilk

**hill**

ill  
kill  
skill  
fill  
refill  
shill  
Jill

pill  
spill  
dill  
mill  
sill  
chill  
frill

bill  
Bill  
will  
swill  
rill  
drill  
gill

quill  
till  
still  
until  
trill  
shrill  
thrill

**will**

(See above)

**him**

slim  
shim  
Tim  
Jim

rim  
trim  
prim  
grim

dim  
Kim  
skim  
chimney

swim  
vim  
whim

**in**

kin  
skin  
napkin  
chin  
thin

grin  
sin  
tin  
win  
twin

pin  
spin  
begin  
gin  
origin

fin  
shin  
bin

**window** See above for the **win** of **window**. For the **-ow** of **window** as in **slow** see **low** below.

**low**

slow  
flow  
blow  
below  
shadow  
window

row  
glow  
crow  
sow  
snow  
know

bow  
grow  
outgrow  
throw  
overthrow  
show

elbow  
rainbow  
mow  
tow  
snow

Homophones: sow/sew/so/sol know/no

**Dolch Words**

**FAMILY WORDS**

<b>sing</b>	ring	wing	thing	sling
	bring	swing	anything	sting
	string	swinger	everything	fling
	spring	sing	something	ringer
	wring	singer	nothing	
	string	stringer	humdinger	

**bring** (See above)

**ring** (See above)

Homophones: ring/wring

<b>drink</b>	ink	sink	rink	stink
	link	think	drink	chink
	clink	wink	brink	fink
	blink	pink	shrink	slink
	mink			

**think** (See above)

<b>into</b>	kin	grin	pin	fin
	skin	sin	spin	shin
	napkin	tin	begin	bin
	chin	thin	win	gin
	twin	origin		

<b>fish</b>	dish	wish	polish	abolish
	fish	swish	Polish	devilish
	vanish	varnish	childish	perish
	banish	squish	English	parish
	finish	astonish	foolish	cherish

Homophones: parish/perish

<b>it</b>	it	pit	lit	fit
	bit	spit	slit	outfit
	quit	kit	split	benefit
	acquit	sit	flit	hit
	wit	skit	grit	admit
	outwit	nitwit	commit	permit
	nitwit	commit	submit	remit
	rabbit	transmit		

**sit** (See above)

## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

<b>its</b>	pits admits permits spits	fits spits splits kits	hits benefits nitwits skits	wits knits
------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------

Homophones: its/it's

<b>kitten</b>	mitten	bitten	smitten	kitten
---------------	--------	--------	---------	--------

<b>little</b>	little belittle	whittle spittle	brittle	
---------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------	--

<b>with</b>	with arithmetic Miss Smith	smith blacksmith goldsmith Mrs. Smith	myth Mr. Smith Ms. Smith	
-------------	----------------------------------	--	--------------------------------	--

<b>give</b>	give forgive giver river shiver	live relive outlive liver sliver quiver	negative relative executive	positive consecutive affirmative competitive narrative comparative
-------------	---	--	-----------------------------------	---

<b>six</b>	fix	mix	nix	Trix
------------	-----	-----	-----	------

Homophones: nix/nicks

## LONG I

<b>ride</b>	ride bride guide divide provide collide	bide snide preside reside re-side chide	tide confide abide side aside wayside	wide decide suicide coincide homicide
-------------	--	--	--	---

Homophones: tide/tied side/sighed

<b>like</b>	like unlike pike	alike dislike spike	trike strike bike	dike hike mike Mike
-------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------------

## Dolch Words

**fire**

ire  
Ireland  
tire  
retire  
attire  
entire  
expire  
transpire

**write**

write  
rewrite  
kite  
quite  
white  
polite  
impolite

## FAMILY WORDS

fire  
fireman  
spire  
inspire  
conspire  
aspire  
perspire  
esquire

hire  
mire  
sire  
desire  
wire  
rewire  
dire  
enquire

umpire  
vampire  
empire  
entire  
quire  
acquire  
inquire

rite  
trite  
contrite  
bite  
invite  
ignite  
unite

spite  
despite  
sprite  
cite  
recite  
incite  
excite

mite  
dynamite  
site  
parasite  
satellite  
reunite

Homophones: write/right/rite cite/site/sight mite/might

**five**

dive  
five  
drive  
hive  
jive

live  
alive  
shrive  
thrive  
contrive

arrive  
survive  
revive  
derive  
deprive

arrival  
survival  
revival  
connive

Heteronyms: live/live "I live for live music."

**right**

right  
upright  
downright  
right  
fight  
slight  
flight

fright  
light  
tight  
uptight  
oversight  
hindsight  
insight

frighten  
lighten  
tighten  
sight  
foresight  
nearsighted  
farsighted

night  
midnight  
nightfall  
overnight  
knight

Homophones: right/rite/write night/knight

**kind**

kind  
unkind  
mankind  
rind  
find

mind  
remind  
hind  
behind  
finder

bind  
binder  
wind up  
rewind

blind  
blinder  
grind  
grinder

## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

find

(See above)

Homophones: mind/mined find/fined

Heteronyms: wind/wind "The wind can affect a pitcher's wind up."

fly

why	tries	tried	trying
try	cries	cried	crying
cry	fries	fried	frying
fry	pries	pried	prying
pry			
spry			
ply	plies	plied	plying
reply	replies	replied	replying
supply	supplies	supplied	supplying
comply	complies	complied	complying
apply	applies	applied	applying
lie	lies	lied	lying
rely	relies	relied	relying
sly			
shy			
deny	denies	denied	denying
defy	defies	defied	defying
sky	skies		
by			
my			

my

(See above)

by

(See above)

try

(see above)

## LONG O

no

go	fro	zero	so
ago	afro	hero	Toledo
outgo	Afro	ditto	hobo
pogo	tomato	torpedo	no
Jo	potato	Negro	domino
Flo	mosquito	bravado	piano
avocado	Mexico	volcano	
Toronto	Tonto	buffalo	

so

(See above)

**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS****go**

(See above)

**goes**

(See o go above + oes ending)

tomato	tomatoes
potato	potatoes
hero	heroes
Negro	Negroes
zero	zeroes
toe	toes

**going**

go	going
zero	zeroing
ditto	dittoing

**pony**

Tony pony

**road**

road	toad	load
railroad	goad	unload
overload	reload	

Homophones: road/rowed toad/towed load/lode/lowed

**coat**

oat	goat	bloat	coat
oatmeal	moat	boat	overcoat
throat	gloat	boatload	
float	bloat		

**boat**

(See above)

**old**

old	hold	bold	cold
told	uphold	mold	sold
retold	withhold	gold	unsold
untold	behold	marigold	scold
fold	manifold	household	
unfold	scaffold	stronghold	

**hold**

(See above)

\*Homophones: told/tolled hold/holed mold/mould



## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

snow	low	slow	flow	glow
	below	blow	overflow	tow
	bow	yellow	throw	undertow
	elbow	fellow	overthrow	stow
	rainbow	shallow	know	crow
	row	snow	scarecrow	
	grow	snowball	show	escrow
	outgrow	show	showboat	
	scarecrow	showcase		

grow	(See above)
know	(See above)
show	(See above)

Homophones: no/know tow/toe row/rho

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

Homophones: grown/groan shown/shone thrown/throne

nose	close*	rose	those	pose
	disclose	prose	compose	expose
	enclose	arose	decompose	suppose
	inclose	transpose	propose	
	foreclose	impose	oppose	

Homophones: nose/knows rose/rows pose/Poe's close/clothes

\* Heteronym as in "Close (KLOH-z) the door," and "The game was very close (KLOH-SS);" also a homophone with the word *clothes*!

over	over	clove	stove
	Rover	clover	Stover, Smokey

before	ore	core	more	tore
	fore	score	evermore	store
	before	encore	nevermore	restore
	foreground	wore	sore	bore
	forehead	swore	pore	snore
	forehand	lore	shore	spore
	foreman	galore	ashore	gore
	Baltimore	adore	deplore	implore
	sophomore	ignore	explore	sycamore

## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

**store** (See above)

Homophones: ore/or fore/for/four pore/pour/poor bore/boar sore/soar

<b>or</b>	or orbit	for order	nor border	Thor
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**for** (See above)

<b>corn</b>	corn acorn popcorn unicorn	horn morn morning scorn	born reborn unborn thorn	forlorn lovelorn shorn
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<b>door</b>	door doorway frontdoor backdoor	doors indoors outdoors	floor floorboard
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**floor** (See above)

<b>THE SHORT O (SAY "AH")</b>
-------------------------------

<b>sock</b>	knock cock poppycock peacock mock	lock unlock padlock shock smock	clock o'clock flock block crock	tock stock hock rock
<b>dog</b>	jog frog flog	hog clog	log	fog

(DIALECTS REALLY VARY WITH THESE -OG WORDS)

<b>doll</b>	doll dolly dollie	loll Lolly Lolli	holler
<b>on</b>	on don Don	upon con python	bonbon bonfire pylon
			Lon nylon

**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS**

<b>long</b>	long along prolong belong	song strong wrong prong	tong thong gong	
<b>top</b>	top stop sop mop hop	cop pop popular chop Whopper	lop clop slop flop plop	shop prop proper properly property

**stop** (See above)

<b>got</b>	got hot jot rot trot knot	pot spot dot shot blot	lot slot clot plot a lot allot	cot Scott Scotland not snot
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Homophones: not/knot

<b>box</b>	ox oxen boxer boxers	box boxes	fox foxes Fox in Socks White Sox	sox Red Sox
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Homophones: sox/socks

<b>THE SHORT OO SOUND</b>
---------------------------

<b>good</b>	good goodness sisterhood fatherhood motherhood neighborhood	wood*	stood	hood
		brotherhood		

**wood** (See above)

<b>could</b>	would couldn't couldn't have shouldn't have	should wouldn't wouldn't have	shouldn't
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**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS****would**

(See above)

Homophones: wood/would

**book**

book	hook	look
cook	hooky	rook
cookbook	cooky	crook
bookmark	cookie	crooked
bookcase	took	brook
bookkeeper	shook	

**look**

(See above)

**LONG "OO" SOUND****new** (If, in your dialect, you say NOO as in "BOO")

new	crew	flew	dew
knew	screw	blew	stew
renew	drew	slew	Jew
threw	brew	strew	shrew

**new** (If, in your dialect, you say "NYOO")

new	few	mew	dew
renew	nephew	pew	askew
whew	skewer		

Homophones: new/knew/gnu flew/flu dew/do

**two**

to	two	too	who
today	into	whoever	
tomorrow	unto	whomever	
together	do	whosoever	
altogether	undo		
all together			

**do**

(See above)

**to**

(See above)

Homophones: to-too-two do-dew-due

**school**

cool	fool	pool	tool
drool	spool	stool	

**soon**

spoon	boon	coon	goon
-------	------	------	------

## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

teaspoon	baboon	raccoon	lagoon
tablespoon	cartoon	cocoon	swoon
spoonful	pontoon	tycoon	croon
lampoon	spittoon	typhoon	buffoon
loon	noon	soon	monsoon
balloon	afternoon	bassoon	saloon

### blue

Lue	Sue	rue	due
blue	sue	true	overdue
glue	pursue	trueblue	subdue
flue	ensue	construe	cue
flu	misconstrue	queue	
value	avenue	virtue	
argue	continue	statue	
discontinue			

Homophones: duc-do-dew    fluc-flu-flew    cue-queue-Q

### to use

to use	a fuse	to excuse
to abuse	to refuse	
muse	infuse	
amuse	accuse	diffuse
enthuse		

### the use

What's the use?  
 There's no excuse for child abuse.  
 There is no good use for refuse.  
 The ruse worked.

## THE "OW" AS IN COW

### found

round	round	found
surround	ground	dumbfound
surrounded	underground	confound
sound	aboveground	profound
astound	wound up	bound
pound	expound	compound

### round

(See above)

### house

house	house	louse	mouse
outhouse	madhouse	blouse	douse
doghouse	warehouse		
roundhouse	penthouse		

**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS**

<b>out</b>	out	shout	bout	lout
	outside	grout	about	clout
	outdoors	snout	gout	flout
	outdo	scout	pout	tout
	output	spout	rout	stout
	outlet	sprout	trout	
	outline			
	outlook			
	outcome			

**about** (See above)

<b>how</b>	ow	wow	cow	how
	vow	powwow	scow	anyhow
	now	pow	chow	somehow
bow	your head		plow	a sow
	prow	a noisy row		a hay mow
	brow	rowdy	allow	
	eyebrows	rowdies	allowance	

**now** (See above)

<b>flower</b>	pow	tower		
	power	flower		
	powerful	shower		
	powerfully	cover (cowards	cover)	
		Howard		

<b>down</b>	down	town	clown	crown
	gown	downtown	drown	frown
	nightgown	uptown	brown	
	brownie			

**brown** (See above)

<b>"OY" SOUND</b>
-------------------

<b>boy</b>	joy	boy	soy	toy
	enjoy	ahoy	alloy	play
	overjoy	cloy	annoy	employ
	Roy	coy	employer	
	Troy	decoy	employment	
	destroy	unemployment		

## Dolch Words

toys  
joys  
enjoys  
overjoys  
Roy's toys  
Troy's boys

## FAMILY WORDS

boys  
alloys  
cloys  
decoys  
toys  
ploys  
annoys  
destroys  
employs

### THE SHORT U (& SCHWAH)

<b>much</b>	such	much		
<b>duck</b>	luck cluck pluck puck struck	buck chuck Chuck Huck	duck suck "snuck" truck	muck shuck tuck stuck
<b>jump</b>	dump pump ump umpire	bump plump thump	lump trump jump	rump chump
<b>run</b>	fun run sun	bun nun stun	dun shun spun	gun pun
<b>sun</b>		(See above)		
<b>under</b>	under underground underneath asunder	thunder thunders thundered thundering	plunder plunders plundered plundering	
<b>funny</b>	funny punny	bunny gunny sack	sunny	runny nose
<b>up</b>	pup upon	cup supper	sup upper	up
<b>upon</b>		(See above) & see -on		
<b>puppy</b>	(See <i>up</i> above)	puppy guppy yuppy	puppies guppies yuppies	
<b>us</b>	us	bus	pus	plus

**Dolch Words****FAMILY WORDS**

	thus	Gus	surplus	
<b>bus</b>	(See above)			
<b>must</b>	bust robust rust trust	must dust lust readjust	just unjust adjust	dust gust
<b>just</b>	(See above)			

Homophones: bust-bussed must-mussed trust-trussed

<b>but</b>	nut jut putt butt button	but strut gut hut mutton	cut shut but mutt glutton	rut smut glut glut
<b>cut</b>	(See above)			

Homophones: but/butt

<b>mother</b>	other grandmother	mother smother	brother Smothers	another brothers
<b>hurt</b>	hurt unhurt	curt curtain	Burt blurt	spurt
<b>girl</b>	twirl	swirl	Shirley	girl
<b>first</b>	thirst thirsty first	fir firs worst	sir sirs ,	burst
<b>birthday</b>	birth girth	birthday worth	mirth	

We recommend that you buy a package of the DOLCH cards from GARRARD Publishing Company or your local school supply dealer and have an ART CLASS or an ADVANCED TYPING CLASS make small word family charts on the blank back sides such as the "first" family above.



## Dolch Words

## FAMILY WORDS

More complete charts can be found in *The Basic Patterns of English Spelling*. The words can be found already put into sentences in *Readings for Fluency*. Both these books may be obtained from the AVKO Foundation, 3084 W. Willard Road, Birch Run, Mich. 48415. Phone (313) 686-9283.

THE DOLCH WORDS THAT NEED TO BE TAUGHT BY THE "LOOK - SAY" OR OTHER SIGHT METHODS.

You will notice that even some of the following words follow regular phonic patterns such as off, both, children, you, is, his, and baby. If you wish to use a phonic approach on these words, fine. However, we feel it doesn't hurt to use the sight methods for these few words that have relatively few other words that share the same patterns.

The following words represent the fifty words that students can master by sight if they have the same basic memory problem that I do. That is, finding it fairly easy to systematically learn fifty names and faces but almost impossible to learn all 220.

Note: EVEN FIFTY WORDS are almost impossible to master IF we attempt ALL FIFTY at one time.

**PLEASE** 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 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 those below 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 (').

If a student misses, put a small period (.).

If a student hesitates but gets it right, mark it (!).

Sample:	Days		
.....		who (21 days to learn)	21
!.....		who (Weekly reviews showed loss after three weeks (15) days -- returned to daily drills)	15
!.....		who (7 days to re-learn)	7
!!.....		who (Weekly reviews showed loss -- returned to daily drills)	40
.....		who (5 days to re-learn)	5
!.....		who (8 weeks later we believe has achieved MASTERY)	40
TOTAL number of school days that MAY be required for a student who has problems with the who/how words _____			123

DOLCH WORDS to be learned as SIGHT WORDS
--

off	does	our	what
once	buy	these	said
pretty	the	your	four
was	their	elephant	eye
shall	any	many	laugh
together	yes	again	very
been	her	put	were
where	have	wash	work
work	as	has	there
don't	both	only	which
baby	apple	children	shoe

FROM THE DOLCH WORDS "HARDER" HALF!  
 Technically of lower frequency but it should illustrate why  
 frequency lists should be tempered with common  
 sense.

you	they	I	if
from	of	a	are
is	his		

Please notice that I deliberately put **our** as a sight word rather than as a patterned family word because in my personal dialect the word **our** sounds exactly the same as the word **are** and does NOT rhyme with **sour** or **hour**. If in your dialect **our** is a patterned word, then perhaps you should teach it with **sour** and **hour**.

## REFERENCES:

Dolch, E. W. "Dolch Basic Sight Vocabulary of 220 Words." *Teaching Primary Reading*, pp. 205-07. Champaign, Ill.: Garrard Press, 1941.

McCabe, Don. *Word Families Plus*. Birch Run, Mich.: AVKO Educational Research Foundation, Inc. 1982.

McCabe, Don. *A Common Sense Approach To Controlled Word Lists*. Birch Run, Mich.: AVKO Educational Research Foundation, Inc. 1982.

If you are interested in purchasing DOLCH CARDS contact GARRARD PRESS or your local educational supply dealer.

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### **Sequential Spelling I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII**

You can send away for a free copy of the first ten lessons of Sequential Spelling I. It is the only series in which students have nothing to study and teachers have nothing to correct! Reason: It uses immediate student self-corrected daily tests of carefully sequenced words such as all-tall-stall-install. Students learn from their own mistakes.

### **The Patterns of English Spelling**

Ten volumes of all the word families and word patterns in the English language from the easy -at (cat, rat, sat) family to the more advanced -cious (delicious, vicious, precious, spacious) family.

### **English Spelling: The "Simple," the "Fancy," the "Tricky," the "Insane," and the "Scrunched Up."**

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