

Word Families



Word families are groups of words that have a common feature or pattern - they have some of the same combinations of letters in them and a similar sound. For example, at, cat, hat, and fat are a family of words with the "at" sound and letter combination in common.

The 37 most common word families in English (according to [Wylie and Durrell](#)) are: ack, ain, ake, ale, all, ame, an, ank, ap, ash, at, ate, aw ay, eat, ell, est, ice, ick, ide, ight, ill, in, ine, ing, ink, ip, it, ock, oke, op, ore, ot, uck ,ug, ump, unk.

The following is a list of the most common word families in English (from Wylie and Durrell, 1970, plus a few extra word families) and examples of each.

ack	ad	ail	ain	ake	ale	all
attack back black crack hack Jack knack lack pack quack rack sack snack stack tack track whack Zack	ad bad brad cad clad dad doodad glad had lad mad pad sad	ail fail hail jail mail nail pail rail sail snail tail wail	brain chain complain explain gain grain main obtain pain plain rain slain Spain sprain stain strain train vain	awake bake brake cake fake flake Jake lake make quake rake sake shake snake stake take wake	ale bale dale gale kale male pale sale scale stale tale whale	all ball call fall gall hall install mall small squall stall tall thrall wall
am	ame	an	ank	ap	ar	ash
cam clam dam dram exam gram ham	blame came fame flame frame game lame	an ban bran can clan Dan fan	bank blank crank dank drank flank frank	cap clap flap gap lap map nap	afar bar car czar far gar guitar	ash bash brash cash clash crash dash

jam lam ma'am Pam ram Sam scam slam spam swam tam tram wham yam	name same shame tame	flan Fran Jan Japan man pan pecan plan ran scan span Stan tan than van	Hank plank prank rank sank shrank spank tank thank yank	rap sap scrap slap snap strap tap trap wrap yap zap	jar mar par scar spar star tar tsar	flash gash gnash hash lash mash rash sash slash smash splash stash thrash trash
at at bat brat cat chat fat flat gnat hat mat pat rat sat slat spat tat that vat	ate abate ate crate date debate fate gate grate hate Kate late mate plate rate relate sate skate state	aw caw claw draw flaw gnaw jaw law paw raw saw slaw straw thaw	ay away bay bray clay day decay delay display flay gay gray hay jay lay may nay okay pay play pray quay ray relay replay say slay spray stay stray sway they today tray way	eat beat cheat cleat eat feat greet heat meat neat peat pleat seat treat wheat	eel eel feel heel keel kneel peel reel steel wheel	eep beep creep deep jeep keep peep seep sheep sleep steep sweep weep

eet	ell	en	ent	est	ice	ick
beet feet fleet greet meet sheet sleet street sweet tweet	bell cell dell dwell farewell fell hell sell shell smell spell swell tell well yell	amen Ben children den fen gentlemen glen Gwen hen men open pen then ten when wren yen	accent bent cent dent event gent lent rent scent sent spent tent vent went	best chest crest jest nest pest quest rest test unrest vest west zest	dice ice mice nice price rice slice spice splice thrice twice vice	brick chick click flick kick lick nick pick quick Rick sick slick stick thick tick trick wick
ide	ife	ight	ile	ill	in	ine
bride decide glide hide pride ride side slide stride tide wide	fife knife life strife wife	bright delight fight flight fright height knight light might night plight right sight slight tight tonight	bile file mile Nile pile rile smile stile tile vile while	bill chill dill drill fill frill gill grill hill ill Jill kill krill mill pill quill shrill sill skill spill still swill thrill thrill till trill will	bin chin din fin gin grin in kin pin shin skin sin spin thin tin twin win within	brine decline define dine fine line mine nine pine shine shrine sine spine swine tine twine vine whine wine

ing bring cling fling king ping ring sing sling spring sting string swing thing wing wring zing	ink blink brink drink fink ink link mink pink rink shrink sink stink think wink	ip blip chip dip drip flip grip hip lip nip quip rip ship sip skip slip snip strip tip trip whip zip	it admit bit fit flit grit hit it kit knit lit mit pit quit sit skit slit snit spit split twit wit	oat boat coat float gloat goat oat stoat throat	ock block clock cock crock dock flock frock hock jock knock lock mock o'clock rock shock smock sock stock	og blog bog catalog clog cog dog fog frog hog jog log slog smog
oil boil broil coil foil oil soil spoil toil	oke awoke bloke broke choke joke poke smoke spoke stoke stroke woke yoke	oo boo coo goo igloo moo shoo too woo zoo	ood good hood stood wood	ood brood food mood	oof goof proof roof spoo	oof hoof woof
ook book brook cook crook hook look nook rook shook took	oom bloom boom broom doom gloom groom loom room zoom	ool cool drool fool pool spool stool tool	oon balloon goon loon moon noon soon spoon swoon	oop coop droop hoop loop scoop snoop stoop troop	oot (long oo) boot hoot scoot shoot	oot (short oo) foot soot

<p>ore</p> <p>bore chore core fore gore lore more ore pore score shore sore spore store swore tore wore yore</p>	<p>orn</p> <p>adorn born corn forlorn horn morn scorn shorn thorn torn worn</p>	<p>ot</p> <p>apricot blot bot clot cot dot forgot got hot jot knot lot not plot pot rot shot slot spot tot trot</p>	<p>ought</p> <p>bought brought fought ought sought thought wrought</p>	<p>ould</p> <p>could should would</p>	<p>ouse</p> <p>douse grouse house louse mouse spouse</p>	<p>out</p> <p>about bout clout gout grout out lout pout scout shout snout spout stout tout trout</p>
<p>ow (rhymes with cow)</p> <p>bow cow chow how now plow sow vow wow</p>	<p>ow (rhymes with low)</p> <p>bow blow crow flow glow grow low mow row show slow snow sow stow throw tow</p>	<p>own</p> <p>brown crown down drown frown gown nightgown town</p>	<p>uck</p> <p>buck chuck cluck duck luck muck puck pluck stuck struck truck tuck yuck</p>	<p>ug</p> <p>bug dug hug jug lug mug plug pug rug shrug smug snug thug tug</p>	<p>ump</p> <p>bump clump dump grump hump jump lump plump pump rump slump stump thump trump</p>	

