## Word Families

Word families are groups of words that have a common pattern or groups of letters with the same sound. For example, the "ain" word family includes brain, chain, gain, pain, rain, and so on. The following list of common word families come from Wylie and Durrell, 1970.

| -ack attack back black crack hack Jack knack lack pack quack rack sack snack stack tack track whack Zack | -ad ad bad brad cad clad dad doodad glad had lad mad pad sad | -ail <br> ail <br> fail <br> hail <br> jail <br> mail <br> nail <br> pail <br> rail <br> sail <br> snail <br> tail <br> wail | -ain <br> brain chain complain explain gain grain main obtain pain plain rain slain Spain sprain stain strain train vain | -ake <br> awake bake brake cake fake flake Jake lake make quake rake sake shake snake stake take wake | -ale <br> ale bale dale gale kale male pale sale scale stale tale whale | -all all ball call fall gall hall install mall small squall stall tall thrall wall |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -am cam clam dam dram exam gram ham jam lam ma'am Pam ram Sam scam slam spam swam tam tram wham yam | -ame <br> blame <br> came <br> fame <br> flame <br> frame <br> game <br> lame <br> name <br> same <br> shame <br> tame | -an an ban bran can clan Dan Fan flan Fran Jan Japan man pan pecan plan ran scan span Stan tan than van | -ank bank blank crank dank drank flank frank Hank plank prank rank sank shrank spank tank thank yank | -ap <br> cap clap flap gap lap map nap rap sap scrap slap snap strap tap trap wrap yap zap | -ar <br> afar bar car far jar mar par scar spar star tar | -ash ash bash brash cash clash crash dash flash gash gnash hash lash mash rash sash slash smash splash stash thrash trash |


| -at <br> at <br> bat <br> brat <br> cat <br> chat <br> fat <br> flat <br> gnat <br> hat <br> mat <br> pat <br> rat <br> sat <br> slat <br> spat <br> tat <br> that <br> vat | -ate <br> abate <br> ate <br> crate <br> date <br> debate <br> fate <br> gate <br> grate <br> hate <br> Kate <br> late <br> mate <br> plate <br> rate <br> relate <br> sate <br> skate <br> state | -aw caw claw draw flaw gnaw jaw law paw raw saw slaw straw thaw | -ay <br> away <br> bay <br> bray <br> clay <br> day <br> decay <br> delay <br> display <br> flay <br> gay <br> gray <br> hay <br> jay <br> lay <br> may <br> nay <br> okay <br> pay <br> play <br> pray <br> quay <br> ray <br> relay <br> replay <br> say <br> slay <br> spray <br> stay <br> stray <br> sway <br> they <br> today <br> tray <br> way | -eat beat cheat cleat eat feat greet heat meat neat peat pleat seat treat wheat | -eel <br> eel <br> feel <br> heel <br> keel <br> kneel <br> peel <br> reel <br> steel <br> wheel | -eep <br> beep creep deep jeep keep peep seep sheep sleep steep sweep weep |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -eet beet feet fleet greet meet sheet sleet street sweet tweet | ```-ell bell cell dell dwell farewell fell hell sell shell smell spell swell tell well yell``` | -en <br> amen <br> Ben <br> children <br> den <br> glen <br> hen <br> men <br> open <br> pen <br> then <br> ten <br> when <br> wren | -ent bent cent dent event gent lent rent scent sent spent tent vent went | -est best chest crest jest nest pest quest rest test unrest vest west zest | -ice <br> dice <br> ice <br> mice <br> nice <br> price <br> rice <br> slice <br> spice <br> splice <br> thrice <br> twice <br> vice | -ick brick chick click flick kick lick nick pick quick sick slick stick thick tick trick wick |


| -ide bride decide glide hide pride ride side slide stride tide wide | -ife <br> fife knife life strife wife | -ight <br> bright <br> delight <br> fight <br> flight <br> fright <br> height <br> knight <br> light <br> might <br> night <br> plight <br> right <br> sight <br> slight <br> tight <br> tonight | -ile bile file mile Nile pile rile smile stile tile vile while | -ill <br> bill <br> chill <br> dill <br> drill <br> fill <br> frill <br> gill <br> grill <br> hill <br> ill <br> kill <br> mill <br> pill <br> quill <br> shrill <br> sill <br> skill <br> spill <br> still <br> swill <br> thrill <br> will | -in <br> bin <br> chin <br> din <br> fin <br> gin <br> grin <br> in <br> kin <br> pin <br> shin <br> skin <br> sin <br> spin <br> thin <br> tin <br> twin <br> win <br> within | -ine <br> 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 | admit <br> bit <br> fit <br> flit <br> grit <br> hit <br> it <br> kit <br> knit <br> lit <br> pit <br> quit <br> sit <br> skit <br> slit <br> snit <br> spit <br> split <br> twit <br> wit | -oat boat coat float gloat goat oat throat | -ock block clock cock crock dock flock frock hock jock knock lock mock rock shock smock sock stock | -0g <br> blog bog catalog clog cog dog fog frog hog jog log slog smog |


| -oil <br> boil <br> broil <br> coil <br> foil <br> oil <br> soil <br> spoil <br> toil | -oke <br> awoke <br> bloke <br> broke <br> choke <br> joke <br> poke <br> smoke <br> spoke <br> stoke <br> stroke <br> woke <br> yoke | -00 boo coo goo igloo moo shoo too woo zoo | $\begin{aligned} & \text {-ood } \\ & \text { good } \\ & \text { hood } \\ & \text { stood } \\ & \text { wood } \end{aligned}$ | -ood <br> brood food mood |  | -oof <br> hoof woof |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -ook book brook cook crook hook look nook rook shook took | $\begin{aligned} & \text {-oom } \\ & \text { bloom } \\ & \text { boom } \\ & \text { broom } \\ & \text { doom } \\ & \text { gloom } \\ & \text { groom } \\ & \text { loom } \\ & \text { room } \\ & \text { zoom } \end{aligned}$ | -ool cool drool fool pool spool stool tool | -00n <br> balloon <br> goon <br> loon <br> moon <br> noon <br> soon <br> spoon <br> swoon | $\begin{aligned} & \text {-oop } \\ & \text { coop } \\ & \text { droop } \\ & \text { hoop } \\ & \text { loop } \\ & \text { scoop } \\ & \text { snoop } \\ & \text { stoop } \\ & \text { troop } \end{aligned}$ | -oot <br> (long 00) <br> boot <br> hoot <br> scoot <br> shoot | -oot <br> (short 00) <br> foot <br> soot |
| -ore <br> bore <br> chore <br> core <br> gore <br> lore <br> more <br> ore <br> pore <br> score <br> shore <br> sore <br> spore <br> store <br> swore <br> tore <br> wore | -orn born corn forlorn horn morn scorn shorn thorn torn worn | -ot blot bot clot cot dot forgot got hot jot knot lot not plot pot rot shot slot spot tot trot | -ought <br> bought brought fought ought sought thought wrought | -ould <br> could <br> should <br> would | -ouse <br> douse house mouse spouse | -out <br> about <br> bout <br> clout <br> out <br> lout <br> pout <br> scout <br> shout <br> snout <br> spout <br> stout <br> tout <br> trout |



