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

-at	-ate	-aw	-ay	-eat	-eel	-еер
at bat brat cat chat fat flat gnat hat mat pat rat sat slat spat tat that vat	abate ate crate date debate fate gate grate hate Kate late mate plate rate relate sate skate state	caw claw draw flaw gnaw jaw law paw raw saw slaw straw thaw	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 stray sway they today tray	beat cheat cleat eat feat greet heat meat neat pleat seat treat wheat	eel feel heel keel peel reel steel wheel	beep creep deep jeep keep peep seep sheep sleep sweep weep
-eet	-ell	-en	-ent	-est	-ice	-ick
beet feet 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 glen hen men open pen then ten when wren	bent cent dent event gent lent rent scent scent 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 sick slick 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 night night sight slight tonight	bile file mile Nile pile rile smile stile tile vile while	bill chill dill drill fill frill gill grill hill ill kill mill pill quill shrill skill skill skill skill skill skill skill skill	bin chin din fin gin grin in kin pin shin skin shin skin spin thin tin twin win within	brine decline define dine fine line mine nine pine shine shrine shrine spine swine tine twine vine whine wine
-ing bring cling fling king ping ring sing sling string string string string swing thing wing wring zing	-ink blink brink drink fink ink link mink pink rink shrink shrink stink think wink	-ip blip chip dip drip flip grip hip lip nip quip rip ship slip skip slip slip strip tip trip tip	-it admit bit fit flit grit hit it kit knit lit pit quit sit skit slit spit split twit 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 smock sock stock	-og blog bog catalog clog cog dog fog frog hog jog log slog smog

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

-ow	-ow	-own	-uck	-ug	-ump	
(rhymes with cow) bow cow chow how now plow sow vow wow	(rhymes with low) bow blow crow flow glow grow low mow row show show slow slow sow stow throw tow	brown crown down drown frown gown town	buck chuck duck luck muck puck pluck stuck struck truck tuck yuck	bug dug hug jug lug mug plug pug rug shrug shrug snug thug tug	bump clump dump grump hump jump lump plump rump slump stump thump trump	