

***Phonemic
Awareness
Training***

by

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Listening Skill: a method.

When we talk, the sounds of language blur, merge and even disappear altogether. We do not say “The cat sat on the mat” – we say “'ca'sa'oth'ma'”. Only those who already spell know that cat has a “t” in it. Conversational listening must rely heavily on context and uses criteria too woozy for spelling purposes.

When seeking a candidate spelling, a legitimate strategy is to replay the sounds of the word mentally or aloud and listen to the result. To do this, though, you need to differentiate these sounds far more precisely than you do when the word comes in a conversational flood of smeary sound. The ear must be much more tightly “tuned up” for spelling than it is for talk, must train itself to use tighter criteria and seek finer detail. This “tuning up” turns out to be “phonemic awareness”.

Phonemic awareness is easily taught. Although even as a novice tutor I could dimly see the need for the skill of accurate listening I did not, initially, realise how easily it can be taught, nor what a difference to performance (and, very importantly, to confidence) it can make, cheaply and in a very short time. Using the technique was a real eye-opening experience. My method is as follows:

1. Make lists of words. Each word should contain only one of two or three alternative sounds which your student confuses and needs to distinguish.

For example: a list might exercise the ear in distinguishing between the sounds of “cl” and “cr”, or those of the “short e” and the “short i”.

In the first case your list might read “*cream, climb, crumb, clean, cliff, creek, clone, criminal ...*and so on. In the second case your list might go “*will, well, till, bill, end, spend, better, hit, blister, bitter ...*and so on.

2. Make the student aware of the need for detailed listening and of how this exercise goes in practice.
3. Tell the student which letter or letter patterns to listen for in an upcoming list. (These may be jotted down as an aide memoire if this is felt helpful – eg “s / sh” or “er / y” or a / o.)
4. Read the list aloud to the student one word at a time. All the student does is to listen and declare, after each word, which of the letter patterns it contains. The student sings out, for example, either “bee / ell” or “bee / ar”, (if the list is rehearsing *bl* & *br*) or perhaps “eye / enn / gee” or “why” (if rehearsing *-ing* or *-y* endings).

Note that the student sings out letter names – not weird noises. Learning to listen carefully is not the same as learning that spelling is primarily a phonic activity!

The student is very specifically not asked to do any more than recognise the previously agreed letter patterns, particularly not to spell any of the words. This must be made clear from the very beginning. The exercise is pure listening, pure aural letter pattern discrimination, nothing more.

Place the student under no additional pressure – such a choice exercise is stress enough. Make sure that you allow time to assimilate and that the student can “hear” any errors before banging on. As with any such exercise, if it doesn't go well and easily, stop. Keep it light and this will make a cheerful break with big payoffs in terms of learning to listen accurately and of becoming just a little, but precious, bit more confidently autonomous.

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Short i / e

his win when net pet pit bit sit set bet

pin Fred did link Tim Ken Bill sell tell well

fill sill fell grim sin zen send pill pen stem

bend bent dip step sled Kent pink drink sink next

debt wish hill risk wreck peck pick neck stick nick

grip guess kids hip will crisp dim den bliss grill

this list miss mess kick speck rest nest wrist hiss

disc deck sick stink men less dill smell spill slipped

step bill slept sex them beck slim slip peg pig

wren mint sent limb hem wig big dig beg rig

Short a / e

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| hat | pet | mat | gnat | pat |
| went | had | band | bent | bend |
| ban | zen | rat | net | send |
| ten | tan | man | men | bat |
| bet | wreck | sack | pack | pen |
| rack | rap | wrench | ram | clam |
| when | lent | hand | sand | sent |
| grand | mess | best | test | ham |
| next | fax | fan | map | tap |
| clap | celt | tramp | wet | wham |
| jet | stamp | jab | lamp | stem |
| tell | mash | crash | dash | cash |
| pelt | sad | grab | flab | stab |
| step | leg | brag | lag | rag |
| match | fetch | catch | wretch | desk |
| slang | knack | hemp | gran | gland |
| bell | kept | cat | rent | rant |
| mad | yell | spell | spam | slam |
| jam | jelly | rally | sell | bank |

Short a / e

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| hat | pet | mat | gnat | pat |
| went | had | band | bent | bend |
| ban | zen | rat | net | send |
| ten | tan | man | men | bat |
| bet | wreck | sack | pack | pen |
| rack | rap | wrench | ram | clam |
| when | lent | hand | sand | sent |
| grand | mess | best | test | ham |
| next | fax | fan | map | tap |
| clap | celt | tramp | wet | wham |
| jet | stamp | jab | lamp | stem |
| tell | mash | crash | dash | cash |
| pelt | sad | grab | flab | stab |
| step | leg | brag | lag | rag |
| match | fetch | catch | wretch | desk |
| slang | knack | hemp | gran | gland |
| bell | kept | cat | rent | rant |
| mad | yell | spell | spam | slam |
| jam | jelly | rally | sell | bank |

Short a / o

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| hot | shop | hat | not | spot |
| cot | cat | match | mat | mock |
| long | rang | rank | song | sang |
| on | am | and | off | lamb |
| hand | bomb | Tom | wrong | slang |
| top | cop | tap | lap | God |
| glad | shot | spat | pod | bad |
| man | slop | bag | bog | slog |
| slag | slap | moggy | boggy | baggy |
| bap | plot | flat | plonk | plank |
| pot | gnat | knock | knack | plan |
| stop | toss | moss | sock | sack |
| lack | lock | tack | stock | stack |
| gone | nod | had | fan | fond |
| blonde | bland | fog | fag | ban |
| sop | sap | dock | back | rock |
| pop | pap | rap | hop | wrap |
| romp | stamp | pomp | camp | maths |

Short a / u

| | | | | |
|-------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| nut | fun | gnat | sang | lamb |
| slam | slum | but | ram | rum |
| bum | sand | clump | strand | man |
| stamp | stump | stumble | rump | ramp |
| stand | stunned | rat | rut | cap |
| cup | suck | muck | sap | sack |
| crash | cab | sad | crush | duck |
| sun | pack | patch | band | clutch |
| grunt | gap | buck | land | lump |
| sung | bang | stunt | bung | flung |
| stung | slat | slut | gut | hat |
| grab | mud | grub | dud | dad |
| clunk | clank | tank | gas | bunk |
| sap | sally | rally | gully | funny |
| bag | sag | bug | rug | hug |
| lack | fag | luck | stuck | ham |

Short e / o

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| when | wet | net | not | pod |
| ten | God | sex | song | long |
| men | Fred | bed | nod | kept |
| cop | neck | sock | wreck | knock |
| fell | tell | sell | gone | top |
| jet | crop | them | Tom | hop |
| stop | step | then | shop | pen |
| pet | zen | set | hot | tot |
| cod | next | Kent | lots | sled |
| slops | bomb | bond | bend | bell |
| job | shot | shed | shod | hod |
| help | hock | cross | mess | loss |
| less | body | rest | crock | nest |
| lost | letter | knocker | hopper | cropper |
| stroppey | message | copy | knotty | settle |
| bottle | bottom | borrow | belly | hollow |

Short e / u

| | | | | |
|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| west | vest | clutch | net | hum |
| bum | nest | Fred | crest | duck |
| nuts | crumb | bet | but | bud |
| dud | slum | jet | jut | bent |
| dump | them | fell | smell | smut |
| tell | dull | sump | cull | rest |
| rust | must | mess | dust | best |
| fuss | bust | guest | next | suck |
| peck | deck | luck | muck | buck |
| neck | pun | strut | stretch | clutch |
| gun | hen | pet | pest | bunk |
| lent | lend | skunk | sunk | sex |
| ten | zen | spud | spend | run |
| tug | beg | bug | wreck | ruck |
| crush | mesh | telly | supper | number |
| member | jelly | dumped | dugout | beggar |

Short i / o

| | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|--------|
| his | not | Tom | bond | sin |
| will | top | song | sing | pick |
| pill | zip | slop | not | knock |
| soft | rift | gift | sift | golf |
| sick | stick | stock | crop | stop |
| stiff | till | wrong | will | ring |
| sip | sop | wing | pong | nod |
| rid | dip | did | rod | pop |
| job | sit | rot | big | rig |
| God | limb | dog | dig | pip |
| lop | lip | sink | drink | plonk |
| dock | nick | romp | limp | bomb |
| with | toff | snotty | little | bottle |
| tipple | toss | bliss | cross | boss |
| miss | moss | kiss | bother | bitter |
| hopping | shopping | winning | cobble | riddle |

Short i / u

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| pig | pug | stick | stuck | sick |
| suck | duck | luck | lick | fudge |
| fridge | bridge | sump | grudge | nudge |
| tip | tup | fin | mug | fun |
| rig | fig | big | rug | bug |
| but | sit | nit | hit | till |
| hut | dull | sill | putt | mill |
| grill | mull | cull | grunt | gust |
| grist | chip | mumps | puff | mist |
| Dutch | much | clutch | glitch | pitch |
| ditch | hitch | hutch | muck | pup |
| pip | did | nip | nipple | pick |
| shut | slum | slit | spud | prim |
| dumb | crush | fish | him | mush |
| hum | gut | gun | gin | whist |
| rugby | lumber | riddle | muddle | humble |

Short o / u

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| God | dog | hum | hug | dug |
| log | dud | lug | fun | stun |
| rug | cod | slug | Mum | slop |
| sock | rod | mud | mug | duck |
| dock | suck | muck | nut | not |
| got | hop | hot | such | much |
| stop | gum | gone | gun | sludge |
| drudge | budge | bodge | cost | rust |
| must | bun | clutch | botch | moss |
| rump | stomp | sorry | slurry | hurry |
| curry | lorry | soft | dust | knob |
| rub | run | rob | fudge | mock |
| muck | long | song | strong | sung |
| strung | plonk | rum | luck | stock |
| knock | lock | cluck | clock | lung |
| long | mock | buck | dung | wrong |
| spun | bottle | huddle | muddle | copy |

Short Vowels A E I O U

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| hand | pond | fun | shut | hat |
| pen | pin | still | hell | next |
| stop | step | strip | strut | back |
| nap | cap | help | hutch | much |
| rich | bet | but | bat | hop |
| long | will | hum | man | stamp |
| can | next | grill | blot | blush |
| mushy | sand | if | on | am |
| wrong | bent | sorry | handy | welly |
| smell | rest | band | song | moss |
| happy | silly | rust | wish | miss |
| crush | crash | dish | pill | dull |
| tell | pal | cringe | gunge | hubby |
| nappy | lorry | curry | battle | little |
| bottle | rattle | kettle | riddle | muddle |
| weld | cup | stuck | sick | stock |
| suck | pack | muck | under | off |
| chock | chick | check | chuck | stack |
| blonde | fund | clump | clamp | chimp |
| stamp | wimp | ban | bit | land |
| bend | willing | shopping | standard | lamp |
| man | win | sin | Mum | men |
| is | up | in | of | it |
| gong | gang | wing | dung | clang |

s / sh

| | | | | |
|----------|------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| simmer | shimmer | summer | shut | ship |
| silk | shot | shape | show | soft |
| simple | silly | soppy | shopping | shiver |
| sit | same | shame | shine | sign |
| save | shave | shift | sift | silver |
| seem | sheep | sieve | she | saint |
| shake | shore | shove | sip | sump |
| shudder | sill | supper | sheet | sauce |
| sausage | side | shoe | soggy | shilling |
| sun | sand | sea | shy | sharp |
| sergeant | shaft | shifty | sad | shone |
| shop | sop | shambles | seen | suffer |
| some | shuffle | subtle | shunt | seam |
| shameful | similar | satisfaction | shambolic | surreptitious |
| syllabus | shopaholic | salivate | shaving | soup |

Er / y endings

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|
| happy | snappy | silly | bitter | letter |
| zipper | proper | copy | paper | potty |
| pepper | slobber | sloppy | chatter | Paddy |
| sweater | faster | slower | easy | cheesy |
| harder | randy | copper | windy | winner |
| bigger | policy | fatter | nappy | body |
| spotty | grotty | hotter | handy | winter |
| summer | sunny | funny | many | any |
| noisy | tiny | never | brother | ever |
| father | city | after | mother | other |
| picky | sticker | lucky | mucky | rugby |
| soccer | supporter | sorry | mugger | story |
| drinker | gambler | singer | filly | dancer |
| belly | runner | teacher | welly | telly |
| rider | older | smelly | water | holly |

or / ar

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| pork | north | car | army | dart |
| part | start | port | sport | for |
| star | far | mark | storm | lord |
| fort | lark | lard | sort | cork |
| park | born | normal | market | farm |
| Norfolk | Portsmouth | dark | marmite | starve |
| porter | marksman | Yorkshire | carpenter | gargle |
| chortle | cordless | inform | report | harmful |
| torture | carnival | corn | fortune | farce |
| forgo | carpet | corner | garbage | horse |

sm / sl beginnings

| | | | | |
|---------|--------------|----------|----------|---------|
| small | smile | sleep | slip | slug |
| smell | slipper | smart | smallpox | sly |
| smack | slap | slope | smother | slumber |
| slot | smoke | Smith | smudge | sludge |
| smuggle | smallholding | slime | slut | smash |
| slave | slander | smutty | slither | slate |
| slang | smiling | smarmy | slant | smock |
| smear | smog | slender | sliver | slide |
| smoky | sleek | slippery | slum | smooth |

ay / oy

| | | | | |
|--------|------|-------|-------|------|
| day | boy | stay | delay | may |
| ploy | away | annoy | pay | Roy |
| toy | play | stray | enjoy | gay |
| employ | hay | way | say | pray |

th / f

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| thirsty | first | thirst | thing | fond |
| free | three | fat | think | finger |
| fool | this | that | then | them |
| after | bath | if | path | thought |
| though | thimble | food | forecast | thumb |
| forest | croft | soft | lift | with |
| throw | these | those | there | fender |
| fair | funny | thump | fix | thistle |
| fall | thaw | thanks | front | frost |
| floor | thief | flimsy | flannel | thin |
| thermometer | fabulous | force | theatre | fame |

bl / br

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|---------|-----------|
| bridge | brick | broken | blood | bleed |
| blind | break | Bristol | blister | brandy |
| broad | blemish | brim | black | breed |
| broody | block | broom | bloom | bleep |
| bright | brine | bride | blast | blow |
| blink | brink | abrupt | sublime | abroad |
| feeble | bloke | blame | brush | blush |
| able | comfortable | reasonable | brittle | blinkered |
| brilliant | blade | brim | bristle | blonde |
| blight | bliss | brunette | blue | broly |

sh / ch

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| chip | shop | ship | chop | shape |
| she | show | choke | cheap | wish |
| push | teach | reach | rush | cheese |
| speech | smooch | sheep | ash | cash |
| crush | chatter | shatter | rash | shallow |
| sharp | chap | charm | much | each |
| shudder | children | shutter | shiver | shine |
| chime | dash | chest | challenge | shed |
| dish | wish | wash | shambles | chin |
| chocolate | chopper | chisel | shoddy | shelf |
| share | torch | march | fashion | churn |

ng / nk

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|
| bang | bank | sting | stink | sing |
| sink | sung | lung | drunk | plank |
| ring | pink | rink | link | spring |
| bunk | mink | dung | pong | stink |
| wink | bring | string | honk | rang |
| hank | hung | bring | brink | sung |
| sang | fling | hanker | belong | among |
| long | rank | blank | wrong | tanker |
| hangman | bongo | bonkers | sprinkler | angry |
| sprinkle | mingle | angle | ankle | dangle |
| tinkle | wrangle | wrinkle | single | monk |
| think | thing | wonky | drinker | singer |

pl / bl

| | | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| blink | plonk | blue | plough | please |
| blind | plan | plywood | blister | plug |
| blow | blood | plumber | bladder | platform |
| pleasure | plaster | bleeding | blade | blast |
| bloke | plate | plastic | bluff | pleasant |
| plenty | black | pledge | plunge | blank |
| blatant | place | plain | play | blonde |
| bleach | explain | plutonium | explosion | complain |

ing / er / ed endings

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| pepper | peeping | potted | canned | peeped |
| spanner | spanned | banner | banned | standing |
| roller | smoker | smoked | smoking | spelling |
| writer | writing | sister | sitting | walked |
| runner | running | paper | painted | stopped |
| blender | shopping | stopped | stopper | driver |
| driving | danger | sleeping | mother | father |
| baking | baker | baked | heaped | noticed |
| liver | screwdriver | locked | knocker | locker |
| locked | worked | sanded | making | working |
| authenticated | manufacturing | manufacturer | manufactured | liberated |

sp / st

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| stay | spill | spell | spy | storm |
| space | style | stage | spider | stew |
| stop | sponge | stray | specimen | stitch |
| spindle | stopcock | strict | sparrow | stubborn |
| spare | stare | stomach | spade | steep |
| spanner | staple | stable | strike | spring |
| stock | spot | spit | spectacular | stupendous |
| stool | strap | spike | stone | sponsor |
| spinster | spin | strange | straw | stigma |
| spaghetti | splinter | standard | stamp | spelling |
| aspirin | astrology | conspiracy | instinct | desperate |
| history | inspection | insist | consistency | inspire |

spl / spr

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|
| sprinkle | spray | sprout | splint | splinter |
| spruce | splendid | sprain | spread | splice |
| spring | spleen | sprint | sprung | sprocket |
| split | sprat | splash | splutter | sprawl |

cl / cr

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| climb | crime | clamp | cramp | cluster |
| crawl | creep | crumb | claw | cream |
| cry | cross | climate | clothes | criminal |
| crazy | client | creature | clutch | clever |
| clip | crib | craft | cranberry | clean |
| claret | clinic | crackling | crab | crumpet |
| club | clap | clotted | creepy | crash |
| cloudy | crunch | class | cliff | critical |
| claustrophobic | clairvoyant | crucifixion | cleanliness | creation |

ing / y endings

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| nappy | willing | silly | shilling | lazy |
| baking | driving | early | penny | happy |
| shopping | easy | many | any | sorry |
| writing | fatty | fattening | greasy | gravy |
| sleeping | dozy | sleepy | charming | reading |
| spelling | welly | lorry | evening | handy |
| telly | viewing | stunning | lightning | mighty |
| lady | waiting | amazing | nothing | party |
| parting | anything | somebody | something | only |
| army | enemy | attacking | defending | definitely |

scr / str

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| scream | stream | stroll | scroll | scrawl |
| strong | scrum | strain | stroke | struck |
| screw | strike | straw | scrape | scratch |
| strategy | strength | scramble | scribble | stretch |
| strut | stripe | straight | scrabble | scrub |
| screech | scrawny | scripture | street | stranger |
| describe | Australia | inscription | destroy | destruction |

Triple consonant beginnings

scr / spr / spl / str / shr

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| shred | strike | spring | shrimp | shrug |
| string | string | strong | splint | sprint |
| strategy | stroke | spleen | sprout | scrape |
| scramble | shrub | strung | sprocket | strychnine |
| stretcher | sprawl | scrawny | shroud | sprinkle |
| scrub | strength | spray | strap | spread |
| strip | scripture | scream | scramble | stroppey |
| shrink | sprightly | sprawling | splinter | strange |
| shrapnel | sprain | splendid | sprang | shrill |

Double consonant beginnings

| | | | | |
|----------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| blue | brick | plonk | primitive | creek |
| small | grease | plywood | glands | fly |
| try | spy | cry | frown | brown |
| crown | swallow | speak | spoken | tree |
| plumber | driver | priest | free | clutch |
| crutch | break | bloke | bloomers | broken |
| slippers | transformer | twenty | small | stall |
| smoulder | spanner | glow | snow | smile |
| pray | play | spot | droopy | glider |
| blind | frame | breed | crime | prune |
| trumpet | spider | twin | glitter | grim |
| treat | trump | standard | blister | slave |
| sniper | sting | sleep | click | block |
| prove | drove | clove | black | block |
| brave | spindle | stone | brink | blunder |
| glue | frozen | dream | trouble | cross |
| twice | trip | trap | clue | true |
| spend | blend | stop | grow | friend |
| brake | blow | Brighton | flicker | fraud |
| fright | bright | flight | spite | speech |
| crime | bride | blonde | brunette | brilliant |
| speed | blinkers | grudge | green | flop |
| drink | brink | France | grapple | brittle |
| fragile | brother | fresh | planning | pretty |

p / b

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| pink | bath | patio | biscuit | Beethoven |
| peace | post | pumpkin | bumpkin | puzzle |
| potato | beast | pest | best | bottom |
| picture | public | better | bottle | puppy |
| bingo | bundle | politics | boredom | balance |
| pizza | book | picnic | bicycle | basket |
| piano | percent | pathology | partner | pond |
| boundary | botany | become | petrol | payment |
| perspiration | pesticide | billiard | ball | pot |
| bovine | pet | bullock | portrait | belly |
| bun | pin | pass | bin | bet |
| big | pig | pong | bang | bung |

qu / cl / cr

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------------|---------|------------|
| quite | crime | climb | cream | clean |
| quick | crawl | crumb | clamp | cramp |
| queen | crystal | client | clutch | quadrangle |
| quack | creepy | claustrophobia | cross | quantity |
| club | claw | clouds | crash | quiz |
| cluster | criminal | creature | clever | clinic |
| quote | quid | cranberry | crazy | clip |
| clothes | cry | climate | quiet | cracker |
| clap | creation | quilt | click | clock |
| cress | creep | crutch | quote | quit |
| crucify | craft | claret | quiver | crud |
| clarinet | class | cruelty | crib | quota |
| quirky | credible | quantum | cricket | clam |
| clay | crisps | clear | query | clerk |

n / m

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| nail | mail | Nile | mile | mint |
| mister | never | night | might | miserable |
| not | naughty | nippy | misty | most |
| nuts | natural | much | many | may |
| net | my | mine | normal | modest |
| nibble | muddle | melon | nettle | number |
| another | amount | rain | green | harm |
| harmless | arms | harmless | window | Spain |
| danger | claim | some | painful | somewhere |
| any | anything | sun | sunset | broken |
| time | pint | smile | indoors | inside |
| impossible | indirect | inspect | into | on |
| down | round | enthusiastic | impolite | sound |
| taken | dream | made | make | nitpicking |
| antique | ambulance | America | Andover | Amsterdam |
| plane | cram | clan | clandestine | hamster |
| handle | camera | candle | same | stain |
| nasty | mouse | nice | meet | mortgage |

g / c

| | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| gun | cunning | good | cop | collar |
| candle | gamble | gorgeous | Cornwall | calendar |
| cook | go | gum | cap | cast |
| cow | gown | gumption | Cumbria | general |
| gin | game | cure | garden | cotton |
| grow | crow | climb | grime | crime |
| glands | grand | green | club | grub |
| grunt | glimmer | clamber | creepy | crawl |
| gristle | crystal | claw | glue | clue |
| acorn | agree | become | ago | across |
| agony | concert | concern | catch | grisly |
| grateful | incoherent | ungrateful | describe | description |
| disgusting | disgrace | discord | disgraceful | disgruntled |
| argue | committee | argument | calculator | commitment |

ck / k endings

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| luck | lock | lack | lick | neck |
| nick | look | cook | book | took |
| duck | sick | sack | seek | soak |
| week | walk | talk | tack | back |
| beck | buck | beak | speak | Greek |
| dark | park | lark | mark | muck |
| stuck | stick | stock | steak | stork |
| work | shark | shirk | jerk | jack |
| smack | sleek | creek | sneak | snick |
| tick | teak | hook | crook | cheek |
| tuck | track | truck | bleak | pork |
| perk | clerk | hack | knack | weak |

Double consonant endings

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|
| act | insect | reject | pact | contract |
| connect | correct | instruct | reflect | conduct |
| inspect | detect | construct | deduct | concoct |
| mend | send | grand | band | hand |
| found | round | sound | ground | pond |
| wind | mind | bland | blend | fond |
| weld | mild | mould | old | told |
| sold | fold | bold | gold | wild |
| bald | scald | cold | hold | held |
| nest | boast | best | toast | roast |
| cast | last | past | coast | fast |
| test | nest | lost | post | insist |
| assist | consist | desist | most | must |
| sink | drunk | link | stank | pink |
| sunk | honk | plonk | drink | drank |
| chunk | monk | kink | wink | bank |
| thank | think | mink | spank | sank |
| lamp | wimp | limp | lump | stamp |
| clump | pimp | hemp | stump | hump |
| bits | lots | rats | hits | gets |
| spots | pockets | bets | spits | guts |
| lilt | tilt | wilt | halt | cult |
| twins | buns | pins | pens | sins |
| went | hint | grunt | lent | dent |
| count | want | amount | account | mint |
| stint | hunt | meant | pant | spent |
| long | song | sing | thing | sung |
| fling | wrong | thong | ring | rung |
| bung | sting | stung | hang | hung |
| bring | gang | dung | pong | strong |

pre / pro beginnings

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| precaution | prepare | precise | precious | previous |
| probable | probation | problem | proceeds | process |
| precipice | precision | precocious | precondition | predator |
| proliferate | prolong | prohibit | procure | procedure |
| precursor | predestination | predicament | prefab | predict |
| prodigal | professor | profile | professional | prolong |
| preparation | predatory | predictable | prescription | preserve |
| profound | promise | project | promenade | programme |
| present | Presbyterian | prescribe | premature | prefect |
| proper | promote | pronounce | property | protein |
| predominate | presentation | prepared | prediction | preparation |
| protective | provide | proviso | protest | protestant |
| pregnant | presume | preliminary | presumably | pretend |
| produce | propose | production | promotion | progress |
| prefer | prediction | preferably | prejudice | premonition |
| prospect | proposal | productivity | problematic | prosecution |

in / en beginnings

| | | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| infatuated | individual | incorrect | insufficient | indifferent |
| entire | enthusiasm | envelope | enjoy | engage |
| interrupt | intention | invention | inability | institute |
| entrance | engine | engaged | entitled | enclose |
| instead | install | interrogate | interpret | inbuilt |
| enough | encourage | enthusiastic | endurance | enlarge |
| instruct | inform | instruction | information | intelligent |
| enable | engineer | enjoyment | enterprise | environment |
| intimidate | income | invitation | intermediate | invite |
| entice | entertainment | enlist | envisage | enumerate |

of / off

Stop the world, I want to get off!

A pound of sugar.

A lot of nonsense.

Shove off!

Off the record.

A cup of tea.

Did you see her off on the train?

I owe, I owe, so off to work I go!

They drove off into the sunset.

Quick off the mark.

And they're off!

A matter of time.

A piece of cake.

Of all the bars in all the world ...

The prawns have gone off.

Off you go!

What a waste of time.

The offside wing mirror is cracked.

Off with his head!

The battle of Britain.

We all want more time off.

A pint of lager.

A bottle of plonk.

That's a bit off, don't you think?

Lift off; we have lift off!

Th- / thr- beginnings

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Threw | those | though | through | three | threequarters |
| Thanks | thumb | throat | thrifty | thought | think |
| Thimble | thin | thread | threadbare | throw | throwaway |
| Thermometer | thud | thriller | throb | threaten | theatre |
| Thursday | threshold | thrash | this | that | thunder |
| There | throne | therefore | throughout | then | thermodynamic |
| Throughput | thrust | thoughtful | thistle | thrice | thinktank |