

Ros Wilson's
Talk Write

Word Lists

Dolch Words, Tier 2 Words, Tier 3 Words

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Dolch Words

The lists below are the work of Edward Dolch who researched the most frequently used words for children of each age. It is recommended that they are taught as weekly spellings, learnt in school and as homework, and 'tested' weekly in a non-threatening manner.

You could use flash cards or matching packs of playing cards to play snap and fish. Also use in sentences through make me up and suave it up and expect to see them correctly spelt and used in weekly writing.

Age 4 to 5

- a
- and
- away
- big
- blue
- can
- come
- down
- find
- for
- funny
- go
- help
- here
- I
- in
- is
- it
- jump
- little
- look

- make
- me
- my
- not
- one
- play
- red
- run
- said
- see
- the
- three
- to
- two
- up
- we
- where
- yellow
- you

Age 5 to 6

- all
- am
- are
- at
- ate
- be
- black
- brown
- but
- came
- did
- do
- eat
- four
- get
- good

Age 6 to 7

- have
- he
- into
- like
- must
- new
- no
- now
- on
- our
- out
- please
- pretty
- ran
- ride
- saw
- say
- she
- so
- soon
- that
- there
- they
- this
- too
- under
- want
- was
- well
- went
- what
- white
- who
- will
- with
- yes
- after
- again
- an
- any
- as
- ask
- by
- could
- every
- fly
- from
- give
- giving
- had
- has
- her
- him
- how
- just
- know
- let
- live
- may
- of
- old
- once
- open
- over
- put
- round
- some
- stop
- take
- thank
- them
- then
- think
- walk
- were
- when

Age 7 to 8

- always
- around
- because
- been
- before
- best
- both
- buy
- call
- cold
- does
- don't
- fast
- first
- five
- found
- gave
- goes
- green
- its
- made
- many
- off
- or
- pull
- read
- right
- sing
- sit
- sleep
- tell
- their
- these
- those
- upon
- us
- use

- very
- wash
- which
- why
- wish
- work
- would
- write
- your

Age 8 to 9

- about
- better
- bring
- carry
- clean
- cut
- done
- draw
- drink
- eight
- fall
- far
- full
- got
- grow
- hold
- hot
- hunt
- if
- keep
- kind
- laugh
- light
- long
- much
- myself

- never
- only
- own
- pick
- seven
- shall
- show
- six
- small
- start
- ten
- today
- together
- try
- warm

Nouns

- apple
- baby
- back
- ball
- bear
- bed
- bell
- bird
- birthday
- boat
- box
- boy
- bread
- brother
- cake
- car
- cat
- chair
- chicken
- children

- Christmas
- coat
- corn
- cow
- day
- dog
- doll
- door
- duck
- egg
- eye
- farm
- farmer
- father
- feet
- fire
- fish
- floor
- flower
- game
- garden
- girl
- goodbye
- grass
- ground
- hand
- head
- hill
- home
- horse
- house
- kitty
- leg
- letter
- man
- men
- milk
- money
- morning

- mother
- name
- nest
- night
- paper
- party
- picture
- pig
- rabbit
- rain
- ring
- robin
- Santa Claus
- school
- seed
- sheep
- shoe
- sister
- snow

- song
- squirrel
- stick
- street
- sun
- table
- thing
- time
- top
- toy
- tree
- watch
- water
- way
- wind
- window
- wood

Tier 2 Words

Tier 2 words may be used across the curriculum to enrich writing in any subject, but are also relevant to the processes of subjects.

All parts of speech have Tier 2 equivalents e.g. nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc. They are always suave words in the contexts in which they are used, and some are truly sophisticated words. They are always generic words – that means they can be used in lots of different situations or subjects and for different purposes. Many have more than one meaning (and be a different part of speech) and it is important to know the different meanings for the same word.

These words are examples and they are appropriate for pupils aged between 8 and 12.

Nouns

The teacher should make clear that many of these words may also be used as verbs. They should ensure the children understand the difference and can use them correctly as either, when appropriate.

These are only examples.

A

- account
- approach
- article

B

- basis
- benefit
- bonus

C

- catastrophe
- cause
- creation

D

- demonstration
- devastation
- discovery

E

- empathy
- enormity
- epicentre

F

- facade
- feature
- foundation

G

- generalisation
- genius
- gradient

H

- habitat
- hemisphere
- hydration

I

- incident
- incline
- issue

J

- junction
- juvenile
- juxtaposition

L

- latitude
- legality
- limitation

M

- magnitude
- margin
- momentum

N

- nether
- normality
- nuance

O

- onus
- opportunity
- origin

P

- perimeter
- pinnacle
- privacy

Q

- quest
- question
- quota

R

- rampage
- regime
- rivulet

S

- sequence
- stimulus
- symbol

T

- terminal
- torrent
- trajectory

U

- user
- utility
- utensil

V

- validity
- variety
- venture

W

- wastage
- wealth
- wilderness

Y

- yacht
- yield
- youth

Adjectives

These are only examples.

A

- anticipated
- aspirational
- authentic

B

- beneficial
- bountiful
- breath-taking

C

- catastrophic
- cavernous
- ceremonial

D

- dastardly
- delightful
- devious

E

- emotional
- empathetic
- equivocal

F

- fearsome
- flamboyant
- fortified

G

- garrulous
- glacial
- gravitas

H

- harrowing
- holistic
- hostile

I

- illicit
- indecisive
- irresistible

J

- joyous
- jubilant
- juvenile

L

- laudable
- lax
- luscious

M

- massive
- menial
- minuscule

N

- nebulous
- notorious
- noxious

O

- onerous
- opulent
- original

P

- particular
- patient
- principle

Q

- quake
- queasy
- quiver

R

- ravaged
- repetitive
- robust

S

- scandalous
- scintillating
- sporadic

T

- taciturn
- torrential
- trepidation

U

- unsightly
- urban
- unique

V

- various
- visible
- vivid

W

- wasteful
- weird
- wondrous

Y

- yawning
- yearning
- yonder

Verbs

The teacher should make clear that many of these words may also be used as nouns. They should ensure the children understand the difference and can use them correctly as either, when appropriate.

A

- analyse
- apply
- assemble

B

- balance
- benefit
- build

C

- calculate
- compare
- construct

D

- debate
- decide
- deduce

E

- eliminate
- evaluate
- explore

F

- favour
- finalise
- fulfil

G

- generate
- gloss
- guarantee

H

- hail
- heave
- hinder

I

- identify
- initiate
- investigate

J

- judge
- juggle
- justify

K

- keel (over)
- kindle
- know

L

- label
- list
- locate

M

- manage
- measure
- monitor

N

- name
- note
- notice

O

- omit
- order
- organise

P

- portray
- present
- prove

Q

- query
- question
- quote

R

- raise
- review
- revise

S

- select
- specify
- sustain

T

- terminate
- transfer
- trial

U

- uplift
- urge
- utilise

V

- vary
- verify
- vote

W

- weigh
- wield
- wonder

Y

- yawn
- yearn
- yield

Z

- zig zag
- zone (in on)
- zoom

Adverbs

To be used within sentences to qualify verbs, but particularly to be used as suave sentence openers in presentations and writing. E.g.

- Aggressively, the irate dog owner towed his pet away.
- Newly-baked bread smells so delicious.

These are only examples.

A

- aggressively
- angrily
- anxiously

B

- better
- boldly
- bombastically

C

- carefully
- confidently
- creatively

D

- daringly
- doubtfully
- drastically

E

- eagerly
- endlessly
- energetically

F

- ferociously
- fiercely
- frantically

G

- generously
- gently
- gratefully

H

- hardly
- hastily
- hopefully

I

- idly
- importantly
- inexplicably

J

- jealously
- jointly
- jubilantly

K

- kindly
- knowingly

L

- laughingly
- lengthily
- longingly

M

- mentally
- minutely
- musingly

N

- nastily
- naughtily
- newly

O

- obviously
- openly
- originally

P

- patiently
- persistently
- purposefully

Q

- questioningly
- quickly
- quietly

R

- rapidly
- readily
- realistically

S

- separately
- sternly
- studiously

T

- tearfully
- tightly
- truthfully

U

- untidily
- urgently
- usefully

V

- vaguely
- valiantly
- viciously

W

- wearily
- widely
- worryingly

Z

- zany
- zealously

Tier 3 Words

Tier 3 words are technical words associated with a subject. Some may be used for different purposes in more than one subject.

Teachers should list such words prior to starting a new aspect of learning, display them, explain them, ask children to define them, and teach children to spell them.

Art

- form
- hue
- impression
- interpretation
- palette
- texture
- wash

Geography

- climatic
- delta
- eruption
- flood plains
- lava
- seasonal
- tributary

History

- century
- civil war
- democracy
- dictatorship
- invasion
- prehistoric
- rebellion

Mathematics

- calculation
- computation
- decimalisation
- parallelogram
- subtraction

Science

- condense
- condensation
- evaporate
- evaporation
- osmosis
- photosynthesis