

# Walcutt-McCracken Lippincott Basic Reading (1963) Cumulative Word Count for First Grade

## 2,108 Words taught BEFORE the Stories

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### Introductory Note

Sight-Words<sup>2</sup> (the superscript indicates word-taught as wholes, but with a knowledge of the letter and their usual sounds) are highlighted in yellow. Note many words, first presented as Sight-Words<sup>2</sup> in a **Reader**, are taught as decodable-words in later lessons. I did not list them twice, although they appeared twice in the list of words. There are so few Sight-Words<sup>2</sup> that they do not, in the least, affect the overwhelming phonic/linguistic nature of the program. The program unquestionable merits Geraldine Rodgers' Code 10 (pure phonics) rating. Note that these are words that are expressly taught before the stories. I did not count new words in the stories, which are not taught before the stories so the total vocabulary may be more than the figure given here. In 1966 Walcutt and McCracken claimed that there were 2,197 in the entire *Basic Reading* first-grade program. I get 2,108 words in my count. They may have counted words twice that were first introduced as sight-word<sup>2</sup> and then taught as decodable words. They may also have counted words in the stories, but not in the word lists. (**Sight-Words<sup>1</sup>** = high-frequency words taught as whole words without concern for letter knowledge: Look-and-Say. **Sight-Words<sup>2</sup>** = sight-words taught with letter knowledge but with a letter that has a different sound from that taught to-date in the program. These words are to make the story more fluent. **Sight-Word<sup>3</sup>** = any word which has been identified/decoded so many times that it is identified instantly (rauding, after Ronald Carver). There are NO sight-words<sup>1</sup> in *Basic Reading*. Walcutt-McCracken would expect that all the words in the program would become Sight-Words<sup>3</sup>. Most people mean Sight-Words<sup>1</sup> when they speak of sight-words, without any qualification. The phonic-linguistic method is totally apposed to all Sight-Word<sup>3</sup> instruction.

The number of Sight-Words<sup>1</sup> is zero. There are 23 Sight-Words<sup>2</sup> in the entire first-grade program. This contrasts significantly and starkly with the typical +/-350 Sight-Words<sup>1</sup> in the Look-and-Say reading programs of that era. It also contrasts sharply with the far higher numbers in the current so-called phonics basals. "Revolutionary" is the only word that accurately describes the Walcutt-McQueen phonics/linguistic program. Notice also the rich vocabulary and the large number of inflectional endings that grace the vocabulary. No account is taken here of words used in the stories that were not pre-taught in the phonic/linguistic words taught BEFORE the stories. That would increase the overall vocabulary somewhat.

a abound ache achieve action actor add added addition admission again age aim air alive  
all alone an anchor and Ann Annie ant any apple are arm armor art as ask asking at ate  
attention author autograph awe awful awning ax

back backward bad badge bag bail bait bake baked baker baking bald bale ball ban bank  
bar bare bark barn base baseball bass bat batch bath bawl bay be beach bead beak beam  
beaming bean **bear** beard beast beat beater beating beautiful beauty bed bedside bedtime  
bee beef beefsteak **been** beet before beg beggar behind belief believe belt Ben bench  
bend berries Bessie best bet better Betty bib bicycle bid big bigger bin bind bird birth bit  
bite biting bitterly black blacker blame blamed blaming blaze blazed blazing bled blew  
blimp bloating bloom blot blouse blow blue board boast boasted boasting boating Bob  
bog boil bolt bomb bond bone book boom boost boot bore born bottle bough bound bow  
bowl box boy boyhood brace brag braid brain bread break breaking breaks breast breath  
bride bridge brief bright brim bringing brisk broil brook broom brother brow brown  
bruise brute buck budge bug bulb bull bump bun bunch bunnies **burn** burned but butterfly  
buy buzz buzzer by

cab cage calf call called calm came camp camper camping can canal candies candy cane  
cap cape car card care cared carries carry cart cash catch catcher catching caught cause  
cave caw cease cedar ceiling celebrate celery cell cellar cement cent center central  
century certain chalk change chap character charm charmed chase chased chaser chasing  
chat cheat check checking cheek cheer cheese chemical chemist chemistry cherry chess  
chest Chet chew chick chief chill chilly chin chip chirp chirped chirping choice choose  
chop chopper chopping chorus chose chow Christmas chrome chum cider cigar cinch  
cinder cinnamon circle circus cities city claim clan clap clapper class claw clay clerk  
climb cloak clod cloud clown coal coarse coast coasted coasting coat cob coin colder  
collection college colt comb come conceive condition cone confusion coo cook cool coop  
copies copy cord core cork corn corner correction cough could count country couple  
course court cove cow crab crawl crew cried crime croak crook crow crowd crown crude  
cruise crumb cry cub cube cue cupcake curb cure curl cut cute cutter cutting cycle

dab daisies dam damp damper Dan danger dare dared dark darn dart darted dash date  
dated daughter dawn day daybreak dead dear debt deck deep deeper deer defeat delay den  
dent dented dew did die dig digger digging dike dim dime din diner ding dingy dining  
dinner dip dipped dipping dirt dish dishpan ditch dive diver diving dock doctor **does**  
**dog** dollar dome Don done dong dose dot dotted double doubt dough dove down  
dozing drag drain drank draw dread dreadful dream dreamed dreaming dressing drew  
dried drift drink drip driver drone droop drop drown drowsy drug drummer dry duck due  
dug Duke dumb dune dust dustpan dusty Dutch

each ear earn earth ease east eat eater eating eave echo Ed edge education Egypt eight  
eighteen eighty either elbow elephant empties empty end enjoy enough ever every  
exhaust expression

face fact fad fade faded fail faint fall fan fang fanning far fare farm farmer fast faster fat  
fate father fault favor fawn fear fearing feast feasting feather fed feed feeding feel feeler  
feeling feet fence fern fetch few field fierce fifteen fifties fifty fig fight fin find fine finer  
fir fire firm first fish fist fit fitter fitting fix fizz flag flame flamed flaming flapjack  
flapping flash flat flatter flee fleece fleecy flew flight flip flipped flipper floater floating  
flock flop flopped flopping flour flow flush flute fly foam foaming foe fog foggy foil fold  
folded folks folly food for ford fore forehead foreign forest fork form formed forth  
forward found four fowl fox Frank Fred freight fret fright fringe frog from front frown  
fruit fry fudge full fun funny fur fuss fussed fuzz

gag gain gait gale game gap garden gash gasp gate gauze gave gaze gazed gazing general  
gentle germ get getting ghastly ghost giant gible gilet gigantic ginger girl girth give glad  
gliding globe gloom glove glue gnarl gnash gnashes gnat gnats gnaw go goal goat goes  
good goose got gown grain grammar grandfather grandmother grass grate gray great  
greater grew grey grief grieve grin grind grinning grip gripping grit groan groaning  
groove ground group grow growl growth grunt gum gun Gus gym Gypsy

had hail hailstorm hair hall halt ham hand handed hang hanging happy harbor hard hare  
harm harmed has hash hat hatch hatching hate hated haul haunt have hawk hay he head  
heal health healthy heard heart hearth heat heating heavy hedge helmet helper helping  
Henry her herb herd here herself hid hide hiding high him himself hinge hip hire his hit  
hitch hitched hitting hive hoarse hoe hoist hold hole hollow holster home honest honor  
hood hook hoop hoot hop hope hoped hoping hopping horn horse host hot hotter hour  
house how howl hub hue hug huge hugging hum humming hunch hung hunt hunted  
hunter hurt hush hut

I ill in ink into inside into is it

jab Jack jag jail jam James Jan jar jaw Jean jeep Jeff jerk Jess jet

jig Jill Jim Joan job jog John joint joke joked joking Jones jot joy Joyce judge judgment  
jug jump jumped jumper jumping June junk just

Kate keen keep keeper keeping keg kept key kick kid kill killed killer kilt kin kind kinder  
kiss kit kite kitten kitties kitty knock kneading knee kneed kneel knew knife knit knitted  
knob knock knocked knocking knot know known

lack lad ladies lag lair lake lamb land landed lap lark lash last lasted latch late laugh  
laughter launch law lawn lay lead lead leader leading leaf leak lean leaner leaning leap  
leaping learn lease least leather leave ledge leg less let letter letting lick licking lie life  
light like liked liking limb lime line link lint lip lipstick list listed listing little live lively  
liver load loaded loader loaf lock locking lodge log loin lone longer longing look loop  
loose loot lope lord lore lost loud love lovely low luck Lucy lunch lung

mad magic maid mail main make maker making male man manage manager mane  
mansion many map mapping mar march marched marching mare mark marked marker  
mask mast mat match matching mate Max may meadow meal mean meant meat meet  
meeting men mend mended mender mention menu merry mess met mew might mile milk  
milkmaid milkman mill mind mine miner mink mint mirth miss mission mister mix moan  
mock moist mole mood moon mopping more most mother motion mound mount mourn  
mouse mouth move mow much mug **mule** muss must **my**

nail name named naming Nan nap napping nation near neat neater neck Ned need needed  
needing neigh neighbor neither nephew nest net never new nick niece night nine no  
nodding noise noisy nor north nose not note noted now nudge numb nut

oak oar oat oath oatmeal obey off oil old older on **once one** only or orchestra ore orphan  
other ought our out over overcoat owl ox oyster

pace pack packing pad page pail pain paint pale palm Pam pamphlet pan pancake pane  
pang pansies par pare pared park part pass past pasting pat Pat patch patching patting  
Paul pause pave paving paw pay pea peach peak pear pearl peck peek peeking peel  
peeled peeling peeping peg pen pencil pennies penny pepper peppermint perceive  
permission pest pet Pete petting pew phantom pharmacy Philip phonograph photograph  
Phyllis pick picker pie piece pierce pig pike pile pill pin pinch pinched pincher pine  
pineapple ping pink pinned pinning pipe pit pitch pitched pitcher pitching pity place plain  
plan planned planner planning plant planted planter planting play pleasant please pleat  
pledge plot plotted plow pluck plug plumber plunge plush pod point poise poke poked  
poker poking pole Polly pong ponies pool poor popping popular porch pore portion  
position post pot potted pouch pound pour pout praise prey priest print printed printer  
promotion proof proud prune pry puff puffed pull pullet punch punt puppies puppy pure  
purr push **put**

quack quacking quail quaking queen quick quicker quill quilt quilting quit

race rack rail raft rag rage railroad rain raincoat rainstorm rainy raise rake raking Ralph  
ram ran rang range ranger rank rap rash rat rate rattle raw ray reach reaching read read  
reader reading ready reap rear receive red redder reel reign reindeer reins relief rent  
repeat rest rested retreat revolt rib rice rich richer rid ride rider ridge riding right rim ring  
ringing rink rip ripe riper ripped ripping riser risk road roadside roam roaming roar  
roaring roasting rob robber robbing robe rock rocky rode Roger room root rope roped  
rose rot rotted rotting rough round Rover row Roy royal rub rubber rubbing ruby rude rug  
rule run rung runner running runs rush rust Ruth

sack sad safe sag sagging **said** sail sailor sake sale Sam same sand sang sank sap sash sat  
saucer save saved saving saw say scarf scheme scholar school schooner scoop scorch  
scour scowl screw sea seal sealing seam search seat seating section see seed seeding seek  
seem selling send sender sending sent set setting shade shaded shadow shaft shaking shall  
shame shamed shape shaped share shared shawl she shed sheep sheet shell **shepherd**  
shield shin shine shined shining ship shirt shock shone shook shoot shopper short shorter  
shot shotgun should shout **show** shriek shun shut shutting shy sick sicker side sidewalk  
sift sigh sight sign signboard silk sill silver since sing singe singer singing sink sinking  
sip sipped sipper sir sire sister sit sitter sitting six sixties skate skip skipped skipping sky  
slab slain slam slap slapping slat slate sledge sleigh slice slight slip slipper slit slop  
sloping slot slow sly smack smacking small smile smiled smiling smoke smoked smoker  
smoking smooth smudge snack snare snared snatch sniff sniffed snore snored snoring  
**snow** so soak soaking soap soaping soar soaring sock softly soil sole some song soon soot  
sore sorry soul sound soup sour south southern sox space spading pain span spare spared  
spent spicy spike spin spine spinner spinning spire spit spite splash splashed spoil spool  
spoon spot spotted spout sprain sprang spray spread spring sprung spy squaw stab stack  
stage stain stale stalk stall stalling stamp standing star stare staring start started starter  
state stated station steak steam steaming steed steel steep steeper stem step stew stick  
sticking stile still stingy stir stock stole stomach stone stoning stood stool stoop stop  
stopped stopping stories stout stove stow straight strain strange stranger straw streetcar  
strew stride strike string strong stronger strung stub stuck study stuff stuffed stump  
success such suit sum summer sun sung sunk sunning sunny sunshine sunspot  
supermarket supper suppertime swarm swat sweat swimmer swine swinging

tack tag tail tailor take taking tale talk talking tall tame tamed taming tan tank tap tape  
taped tapping tar tart task taste tasted taster tasting taught tax tea teach teaching team tear  
tearing tease teasing Ted teeth telegraph telephone television ten tend tender tennis tent  
term test than thank thanked thanking that **the** their them then there these they thick  
thicker thief thieves thigh thin think thinking thinner third thirst this Thomas thorn those  
thought thread three threw thrift throat throb through throw thrown thrush thumb thump  
thus tick tie tile till Tim time timer tin ting tip tipped tipping tire **to** toad toast toasted  
toasting toe together toil told Tom tone tong **too** took tool toot tooth top topcoat topmost  
torch tore torn tot touch tour tourist town toy trace track tracking trade traded trader  
trading trailer train trash tray tree trick tried trip tripped troop trouble trough trout truck  
trudge true try tub tube tuck Tuesday tug tune turkey turn twenty twice twinge **two**

under upon upper us use

vacant vacation valley van veil vein vent vest vile voice volt vote voting vow

wag wagon waist wait waking walk walking wall want war ware warm wart was wash  
wasp waste wasted watch water wave waved waving wax way we wealthy wear weather  
weave wedge week weigh weight well went were west western wet what wheat  
wheatcake wheel when where whether they which while whip whirl whirling whisper  
white who why wick wide wife wig will willing win window windy wing wink winking  
winner winning winter wish wished with woe wolf wood wool word wore work world  
worn worse worth would wove wrap wreath wreck wren wrench wring wringer wringing  
wrist write writer writing wrong wrote

yard yarn yawn yawning year yell yellow yelp yes yet yield you  
young your

zebra zero zest zip zone

### **23 Sight-Words<sup>2</sup> Taught in the 1963** Lippincott Basic Reading Phonic/Linguistic Program

#### **Pre-primer:**

a, to, the, put, for

#### **Primer:**

her, said, been, I, my, does, once, self

#### **Reader 1-1:**

two, one, two, mule, you, bear, snow, burn, forehead, shepherd

#### **Reader 1-2:**

No Sight-Words<sup>2</sup>, or any other kind of sight-words, are taught in Reader 1-2.

Note that the Sight-Words<sup>2</sup> are taught with their word patterns, i.e. “does” is introduced with the oe spelling pattern, although it is not a long ō sound. No sight-word<sup>2</sup> is introduced before all its letters are taught. This is very important and accords with my precise definition of Sight-Words<sup>2</sup> contrasted with Sight-Words<sup>1</sup>. The Dolch List Sight Vocabulary would be a good example of Sight-Words<sup>1</sup>, which is generally taught by whole-word memorization with an effort to teach the students to identify the words instantly without letter or sound-to-symbol correspondence knowledge.

Sight-Words<sup>1</sup> are **totally** avoided in the phonic-linguistic model of reading, especially as taught by the 1963 Lippincott Basic Reading program.

For the best in reading and phonics information visit my website: [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net)