

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

2,108 Words taught BEFORE the Stories

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April 5, 2010

Introductory Note

Sight-Words² (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-Words² 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-Words² 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-word² and then taught as decodable words. They may also have counted words in the stories, but not in the word lists. (**Sight-Words¹** = high-frequency words taught as whole words without concern for letter knowledge: Look-and-Say. **Sight-Words²** = 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-Word³** = any word which has been identified/decoded so many times that it is identified instantly (rauding, after Ronald Carver). There are NO sight-words¹ in *Basic Reading*. Walcutt-McCracken would expect that all the words in the program would become Sight-Words³. Most people mean Sight-Words¹ when they speak of sight-words, without any qualification. The phonic-linguistic method is totally apposed to all Sight-Word³ instruction.

The number of Sight-Words¹ is zero. There are 23 Sight-Words² in the entire first-grade program. This contrasts significantly and starkly with the typical +/-350 Sight-Words¹ 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 dodge
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 wey 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-Words² 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-Words², or any other kind of sight-words, are taught in Reader 1-2.

Note that the Sight-Words² 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-word² is introduced before all its letters are taught. This is very important and accords with my precise definition of Sight-Words² contrasted with Sight-Words¹. The Dolch List Sight Vocabulary would be a good example of Sight-Words¹, 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-Words¹ 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