

**Vocabulary of 2,685 Words (including various inflections of base words) in  
*Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it*  
In Alphabetical Order**

Prepared by Donald Potter  
April 6, 2003

able accident ace active actor actors acts added addition address advice afternoon age agreement  
aided aim aimed air Alice all alphabet always amazing American amuse amusing and angle  
angling ankle Ann annoy answer answers anxious ape aping appearance apple arch arc hark arm  
armies around art ash ask asks asparagus at ate attention attentive attractive auction August  
autograph away awful awkward awkwardly awning ax

babies baby back badge badly bag bait bake baked bald balked ball balm banana band bangle  
bangs banisters banjo bank bar bare bark barn base bashful basket bat bathe bathtub bats bawl  
bay be beach bead beak beam bear bears beast become bed bedding beds beef beer bees beets  
beg begging beginning belief believe believes bell bellhop belt Ben bench bend bent berries  
berry Bert best bet better betting Betty bib Bible big bigger biggest bike Bill bills Billy bind  
birch bird birth birthday bit bite bitter blacker blade blame blare blaze blend blessed blew blind  
blink blinker blister block bloom blow blue blueberries boast boat Bob Bobby bodies boil  
boiled bold bolt bond bone book booklet boom boost boot booth born borrow boss both bother  
bottle bought bouncing bound bowl box boxed boxer boy braces brag braid brain branch brand  
brat brave brawl bray bread break breakfast breaks breath breathe breed brew bride bridge brief  
bright brim brimming bring brink brisk bristles brittle broil broke brood broom broth brother  
brought brown brownie Bruce bruise brush brute buck bucket buckskin bud budding budging  
bug buggies buggy bugs bulb bulge bulging bulk bull bullet bump bun bunch bunnies bunny  
buns burn burr burst bus bush bustle but butcher butterfly buzz buzzed buzzer by

cab cabbage cage Cain cake call called calm came camp camps can candies candle candy cane  
canned canning cap cape captive car card care careful caring Carl carried carries carry cart  
cartoons case cash castle casual cat catch catnip cats cattle caught cautious cave cell cent center  
cents chain chair chalk chance chances change changed chap charge charged charging Charlie  
charm charmed chart chase chat cheap cheat check cheek cheerful cheerfully cheese cherries  
chest chew chick chicken chief child chill chillier chilly chime chin chink chipmunk chirp choice  
choke choose chop chore christen christened chum chunk church churn cider cigar cigarette  
cigars cinch cinder Cinderella cinders circle circus citizen city clamp clap classroom claw  
clay clear clerk clew click climb climber clinch clip clipping clock close closed closing cloth  
cloud clown cloy club clump clutch coach coal coast coat cob cobbler cod coil coin coke cold  
colt Columbus comb coming committee complain concert conductor cone confess confidence  
conversation coo cook cool coop cop cope cops copy cord core cork corn correction cot couch  
cough coughing coughs count counted counter countries country couple couples courage cousin  
cousins cow coy cozy crab crack cracked crackers crackle cramp crash crashed crashing crate  
crawl crawled crazy cream creep crest crew crib cries crime cripple crippling croak crook  
crossing crossings crouch crow crown crude crumb crumbs crunch crust crutch cry cub  
cube cuddle cue cuff cuffs cup cups curb cure curious curl cushion cut cute cuts cutting

dabbing dad daddy daily daisy damage damaged damp Dan danced dancer dances dancing dandy danger dangerous dangling dare dark darn dart dash date daughter Dave dawn day daze dead deaf deal death debt December decision deck deed deep deer delicious democracy den dentist desk detective dew Dick dictionary did die died difficulty dig digging digs dike dim dime dine dining dinner dip dipper dipping dirt dirtiest discover dish dishpan ditch dive dizzy dock doctor dodge doe dog doll dome Don dose dot dote double doubt down doze drab drain drank drape draw drawn dreaded dream dreamy dress dresser drew dried drift drill drink drip drive drizzle drizzly drool droop dropped dropper drove drown drug drum drummer drumming drunk dry duck ducks due duke dull dumb dumbest dump dunk dusk dust dustpan dusts

each ear earth east Easter easy eat Ed edge edgy education egg eight eighteen eighty electric elephant elevator elf Elizabeth elms emergency emperor empty end energy engine engineer enjoyment enormous enough entertain Eskimo Eve exception exchanging exciting exclaiming excuse exit expensive expression expressions

face faces fact facts fad fade fading fail faint fair fairies fairy faith fake fall family famous fan fancy far fare farm farmer fashionable fast fasten fat fate father fault favor favorite fear feather featured February feed feel feet felt fences fencing fern fetch fib fibbing fiction fiddle fidget fidgety field fiend fierce fifth fifty fig fight file files filing fill filled filling find fine fins fir fire firing firm first fish fished fishpond fishy fist fit fitting five fix fixed fixtures fizzle flag flake flame flap flare flash flavor flavors flaw flea flee fleet flew flicker flies flight flint flip float flock flop flour flow flowers flue fluke flute fly foam foe foggy foil foist fold folk followed follower fond food fool foot for force forced forge fork form fort forty ought foul found fowl fox fraction fractions frail frame Fran France frank fraud Fred free freight fresh fried fright frightened frill frills fringe fringes frock frog frosting frown froze fruit fruitful fry fudge full fully fumble fun funnier funniest funnily funny fur furl furry fuse fuses fuss fussed fussy future fuzz

gadget gadgets gain gale game gang gap gape garbage gardener gas gash gate gathered gave gaze gazing gear gem Gene generous gentle gentleman gently George germ German Germans germs get ghost gift gifts ginger girl glad glade gladly glance glanced glances glare glide glimmer glint globe glow glue gnarled gnash gnashing gnat gnaw gnome gnomes gnu go goal goat goblin God gold good goodness gorgeous gorilla got gown grabbing grace gracious grade grain grand grape grate grateful gratefully grating grave gravy gray great greatness green greeted grief grill grin grind grip gripe gristle groan grocer groceries grocers grope grouch ground grove grow growl grown growth grudge grumble grunt gulp gulps gum gun guns Gus gush guzzle gym gypsy

hack had hag hail hair half hall halt ham hamburger hamster handbag handful handily handle hands handsome handsomely handy hang happier happiest happily happy hard hardly hare harm harp hash haste hasten hat hatbox hatched hate hatrack hats haul hawk hay haze he head heal health healthy heap hear heard heat heaven heavier heavy hedge height help helped helper helpful helpfully helps hen hens her Herbert herd here hers herself hide high highest hike hill hills him hinges hint hints hip hire hissed hit hitch hitched hive hobble hoe hog hoist hold hole holiday honest honor hood hoof hook hoop hop hope hoping hopping hops horn hose hot hound hour hours how howl hue huff huffed hug huge hugging hum humble hump hums hunch hungrier hungrily hunt hurl hurried hurries hurry hurt hush hushed hustle hut hymns hyphen

ice icing impatience importance impossible income independence influence ink innocence instead instructor invitation itch ivy

Jack jail jam Jane janitor January jar jaw jay jazz jealous Jean Jefferson jelly jerk jerked jet Jew jeweler Jill Jim Jimmy jingle job Joe John Johnny join joint joke jolt jostle joy judge juggler juice juicy jump jumped jumper jumps June jungle junk juries jury just

Kate keel keen keep keg kept kettle kick kicking kill kind kindly king kiss kissed kisses kit kitchen kite kitty knack knave knaves knee kneel knelt knew knife knight knights knit knitting knob knock knocking knot knots know known knuckles

lace lack lacy lad ladder ladies ladle lady lair lake lamb lame lamp land lane lantern lap lapdog lard larger lark lash last latch late lather laugh laughing laughter launch law lawn lay lazily leaf lean leap leaped leapfrog learn learned leather lecturer ledge left leg lemon lend lent less let letter letting liberty lick licking lid lie lies life lift lifts light lighting lightning like liked likely liking limb lime limp line lining link lip lips lipstick lisp lisps list listen live load loaf loan loathe lobe lobster lock locket lodge log loin lonesome long longest look loop lord lot loud low luck luckier Luke lump lumps lunch lungs lute

ma mad made magic maid mail mailbox main make male malt man manager mane mangle mansion map march marched mare Marge mark married marsh marvelous Mary mash masks mass mastiff mat match matched mate mats matted matting Max may me mean meant measure measured meat meddle meddling medicine meek meet melt melts men mend mends mention mentioned merchandise mercy mess messy Mexico mice midget midnight might mighty Mike mild mile milk milks mill mince mincing mind mine mink mint miserable miss missing Mississippi mist mistress mix mixed moist mole Monday monk moo mood moon mop mope more moss moth mother motor mouth mow much mud muddle muddy muff mug mule murderer mush musician must mustang mustard mute mutt my mysterious nagged nagging name naming Nancy nap napkin napping Nat nation native natural naturally nature naughty navy near nearly neat neck Ned need needed needle neighbor nephew nervous nest nestle nests net new New York news newspaper next Nick niece nieces night nip no nod noise noisy noodles nook noon north nose not notch note notice November now nude nudge nudges nudging nuisance numb numbers nun nutty

oak oar oath oatmeal oats occasion office often oil old or orange orphan other ouch ought ounce  
ounces our out outcome owl ox

pa pace pack package packages padded padding padlock page paid pail pain pair palm palms Pam  
pamphlet pan pane pansy pants parcel pardon paring park parked parking part parties party pass  
passage passengers passive past paste pat patch patched patience patient Paul pause pave paw pay  
peace peach peak peal pear pearl pearls pears peas peddler peek peel peevishly peg Peggy pen  
pencil penny pension pepper perch perfection performance permanent permission pest pet Pete  
pew pharmacy Phil Philip phone phoned phonies phony photo photograph phrase pick picture  
pictures pie piece pieces pier pierce pig pigeon pigs pike pile pill pills pin pinch pinched pine  
pink pinned pipe pit pitch place plain plane planned plate platter play played please pleased  
pleasure pleasures pledge plight plot plum plumber plump point pointed pointer poise poke  
pole pond ponds pony pool poor pop porch pork port positive positively pot pouch pounce  
pounced pound pout practical praise prank prattle pray preach preached preacher precious  
preference president press pride priest prince princess print privet prize prompt prophet proud  
providence prune pudding puff puffed puffy pull pulling pump pumps punch punishment pup  
puppies pure purr purring push pushing pussy put putting puzzle puzzles

quack quail quaint quake quality quantity quarter queen queer quench question questions quick  
quicksand quill quilt quit quite quitting quiz quizzical

rabbit raced races racing rack rag rage raid rail railroad rain raincoat raise rake Ralph ramp  
ranch rank rap rare rash rat rate rather rating raving raw ray razor reach reaching ready reap red  
redskin reed refreshments repeat reply residence rest restaurant rested rests return reward rib ribs  
rice rich rid riddle ride ridge right rim rime rind ring ringlet rink rip ripe rips rise roach road  
roam roar roast rob robbed robe robed robin rock rocker rode roll rolled Rome roof room  
roomier root rope rose roses rosy rough roughly round rouse row Roy rubber rubbing Rube rude  
rug rugged rule run rung running ruse rush rust rustle rye

sack sad sadder saddle sadly safe sagging sail sailed sailor saint sale Sally salt Sam same sand  
sandy sane sash Saturday save saw say scamp scar scare scarf scarlet scat school scold scoop  
scope scorch score scorn scout scraping scrapping scrappy scratched scream screen screw scroll  
scrub scuffed scurried seagull seal seam seaport search seat seated secretary see seed seek seem  
seen seethe seething self selfishly sell sells send September serious service set setting settle  
shade shadow shady shake shame share sharing shark sharp shave shawl she sheep sheepish  
sheer sheet shield shin shine shipping shirk shirt shook shoot shopper shopping shore short  
shortly shortness shout shouted show showers shriek shrieked shrieks shrimp shrub shrug  
shutters shutting shy sick sickle sickly side siege sift sigh sight silk silliest silly simple sin since  
sing singe single sink sip sipping sips sir Sis site sitting six sixty size sizzle skate sketch  
skimming skip skipped skipper skipping skirt sky slack slammed slap slate slaughter slave slay  
sled sledding sledge sleep sleepily sleigh slew slice sliced slicing slick slide slight slink slip  
slipper slipping slope slot slow sly small smart smartest smile smith smock smoke smoked  
smooth smudge smudgy smug snack snag snail snake snap snapped snappy snare snatch sneezed  
snicker sniffed snip snoop snore snort snout snow snowball snuggle so soak soaked soap soar  
sob sobbing social sock soften soil sold sole somehow someone something sometimes song soon  
soot soothing sore sort sought sound sour south space spaced spaces spade span spare spark  
speak spear special speech speed speedily spelling spice spick spicy spike spill spin spine  
spinning spire spirit spit spite splash splashed splint spoil spoke spook spool spoon sport spotted  
spout sprawl spray spread spreading spring sprout spruce spur spy squall squander square squash  
squeak squeal squeezed squint squirm squirt stab stabbing stacked stage stain stairs stale stalk  
stall stamped star starch stare staring start state station stay steady steak steal steam steamboat  
steel steep steer stem step stepped stern Steve stew stick stile stingy stir stirring stitch stitched  
stocking stole stone stood stool stoop stop stopped stopper store stories stork storm story stout  
stove straight straighten strain strange stranger strangers strangest strap straw stray stream street  
stretch strew strewn stride strike string strip stripe stroke stroll strong stub stuffed stunning such  
suck suddenly Sue suit sulk sulks sum summer sun sunbeam Sunday sunk sunnier sunniest sunset  
supper suppose supposing surf surprising surrounded suspicious swallow swamp swan sway  
swear swears sweat sweater sweaters sweating sweep sweet swell swept wig swim swine swipe  
switch sword swords sworn

table tables tack tackle tackles tag tail tailor take tale talk tall tame tan tangle tank tap tape taping  
tar taste taught taunt tax tea teach team tear tease teasing teaspoon Ted teem teething telegraph  
television tell tempest tense tent test tested thank Thanksgiving that thaw them then these thick  
thief thieves thigh thin thing think third thirst thirsty thirty this thistle thistles Thomas thorn  
those though thought thrash thread threads threatening threw thrift thrill throat throne throw  
thrush thumb thump thundering thunderstorm Thursday tick tide tie tied tile Tim time tinge  
tinsmith tip tipped tipping tire tiresome toad toaster toe together toil told toll Tom tomcat  
tomorrow tone too took tool tooth top topnotch topping tops torch torn touch touches touchy  
tough tougher tow tower town toys traced trade trail trailed train traitor tramp transportation  
trap trapped trapper tray tread treads treasure treat tree trench trick tried trigger trimming trip  
tripped triumph troop trophy trot trouble troubles trout truce truck true trust try tub tube tub  
stuck Tuesday tug tumbler tune turn twenty twice twig twin twine twirl

uglier ugliest ugly uncle understand unfit unhappiness unties untrue upper upset urge urgent us  
use usual usually

vacation vacations vain Valentine van vanilla vanish varied varies vase veal vest vice vicious  
vine vinegar vision visitor visitors vivid voice vote

wade wag wage wages wail wait wake walk wall Walt wander wandering want warden warm  
warmer warn warning wars wash washing Washington waste wasteful watch watches watchful  
water wave wax way we weak wealth wealthy wear weather web wedge weed weeds week  
weep weigh weight welcome well went wept west western wet whack whale what wheat wheel  
wheeled when whether which whiff while whim whine whip whipped whipping whirl whisk  
whiskers whistle white whittle whoa why wicked wide wife wig wigs wild will win window  
wine wing winks winner winter wiped wiping wire wise wish wished witch with wither wittily  
witty woe woke wonderful wood wool word words wore work worker world worm worms  
worn worries worry worse worship worst worth wrap wraps wreath wreck wrench wrest wrestle  
wretch wretched wring wrist write written wrong wrote

yard yarn yawn year yeast yell yellow yesterday yet yield yolk young younger zeal

zest zip zipper zoo

## Note from Internet Publisher: Donald L. Potter

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I did this study on April 2, 2003. It has been on my computer hard drive since then.

This year I am using Flesch's Exercises in my tutoring more than I have the last few years. In the light of the tremendous success I have had helping students plagued with Artificially Induced Whole-Word Dyslexia, I decided that it was a propitious time to publish this study for those interested in the vocabulary used in Flesch's method.

All the words in Rudolf Flesch's *Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it* (1955) were typed into a *Word* document and then sorted into alphabetical order. Mr. Potter read through the alphabetical list of words deleting all duplicates. Finally, using the word count feature in *Microsoft Word*, he counted the remaining words. There are a total of 6,225 words in Flesch's program, but only 2,685 different words, counting inflected words as separate words. This is a very high number compared with typical look-and-say/whole language programs. The fact that tens of thousands of parents taught their children to read with this program **before** they went to school demonstrates its vast superiority over other methods.

Flesch's program is a pure phonics-first, single-letter phonics approach to teaching beginning reading. It is, also, the approach of choice for the remediation of students who failed to learn to read with the whole-word (Look & Say, Whole Language, Guided Reading, Balanced Literacy) method.

For more information on the harmful effects of the whole-word method of teaching beginning reading, and the overwhelming advantages of phonics-first, visit the Education page of the [www.donpotter.net](http://www.donpotter.net) website.

My Flesch Phonics Audio Page is loaded with information on Flesch's method and how to teach it so that all children can learn to read without guessing.

[http://donpotter.net/education\\_pages/flesch\\_audio.html](http://donpotter.net/education_pages/flesch_audio.html)

Document updated on 2/8/2014.

A Comparison of the Vocabulary of  
*Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it,*  
and *The Dolch List Sight Word Vocabulary*

Prepared by Donald L. Potter

April 6, 2003

Words in *Italics* below are **not** found in Rudolf Flesch's 1955 *Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it*.

The Dolch Basic Sight Vocabulary: Alphabetical Order

*a about after again all always am an and any are around as ask at ate away be because been before best better big black blue both bring brown but buy by call came can carry clean cold come could cut did do does done don't down draw drink eat eight every fall far fast find first five fly for found four from full funny gave get give go goes going good got green grow had has have he help her here him his hold hot how hurt I if in into is it its jump just keep kind know laugh let light like little live long look made make many may me much must my myself never new no not now of off old on once one only open or our out over own pick play please pretty pull put ran read red ride right round run said saw say see seven shall she show sing sit six sleep small so some soon start stop take tell ten thank that the their them then there these they think this those three to today together too try two under up upon us use very walk want warm was wash we well went were what when where which white who why will wish with work would write yellow yes you your*

*Dolch List Words Absent from Why Johnny Can't Read*

Phonetic Words in **bold** have been added to the  
*Natural Phonics Primer™ with Blend Phonics*

a, about, **after**, again, **am**, **an**, any, **as**, **black**, buy, **clean**, could, do, does, done, don't, four, from, give, **going**, **has**, have, **his**, I, **if**, **in**, into, **is**, **it**, **its**, **little**, many, **myself**, **never**, of, **off**, **on**, once, one, only, open, over, **own**, **pretty**, **ran**, **read**, said, **seven**, shall, some, the, their, there, they, to, today, two, **under**, **up**, **upon**, very, was, were, where, who, would, you, your (blacker but not black is in Flesch's *Johnny*).

68 out of 220 words from the *Dolch Sight Word List* are absent in Flesch. There are 152 words common to both lists.

Revision and Corrections, 5/17/12.

Last revision, 2/8/14.