

Or Digraph Word List

We've split the lists into different sound categories in alphabetical order to help you locate words you might want to use with your students.

Words containing the /or/ (ɔː) sound as in **for**:

One-syllable words with regular spelling patterns and no other digraphs:

Born, cord, cork, corn, dork, dorm, for, ford, fork, form, fort, horn, lord, nor, norm, or, orb, org, pork, port, scorn, skort, snort, sort, sport, stork, storm, sworn, torn, tort, worn.

One-syllable words with other digraphs or some irregular spelling patterns:

Chord, force, forge, forth, gorge, gorse, horse, morph, Norse, north, porch, scorch, short, sword, thorn, torch.

Two or more syllable words – may contain other digraphs:

Abhor, abnormal, abort, absorb, accord, acorn, adorn, afford, airport, aorta, border, cavort, cohort, condor, conform, consort, cordon, corgi, corner, corny, cyborg, decor, deform, deport, discord, disorder, distort, divorce, endorse, enforce, enormous, escort, export, fiord/fjord, forgo, formal, format, former, fortune, forty, forum, hornet, import, inborn, inform, Jordan, korma, morbid, Mormon, morning, morsel, mortal, mortar, Nordic, normal, northern, orbit, orca, orchard, order, organ, ornate, orzo, porter, reform, report, resort, tornado, tortoise, transport, uniform.

Words containing the /ur/ sound (ɜː Br. or ɜ US) as in **work**:

Attorney, word, work, world, worm, worse, worship, worst, wort, worth, worthy.

Words containing the schwa sound (ə British and Australian) (ə USA) as in **doctor**:

Actor, arbor (arbour UK), ardor (ardour UK), armor (armour UK), author, castor, color (colour UK), comfort, cursor, doctor, donor, error, favor (favour UK), forbid, forget, gator, honor (honour UK), humor (humour UK), juror, labor (labour UK), major, manor, minor, motor, odor, prior, razor, rigor, rotor, rumor (rumour UK), sailor, savor (savour UK), sculptor, sector, sensor, sponsor, squalor, tailor, tenor, terror, tractor, tremor, tumor (tumour UK), tutor, valor (valour UK), vapor (vapour UK), vendor, victor, vigor (vigour UK), visor.

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Words where or doesn't act as a digraph

Anorak, borax, boron, coral, factory, flora, forest, gory, glory, ivory, Koran, mayor, moral, oral, orangutan, Orient, origin, oryx, story, theory, tory.

Note that the /or/ (ɔː) sound is pronounced in some of these words (such as borax, flora and gory), but it's followed by a distinct 'r' sound, so the 'or' letter combination is representing 2 sounds rather than one. This is quite a subtle distinction, and many students could read these words without being aware of it.

Pseudo-words Containing the oo Digraph:

Bork, Corf, Forb, Gorm, Hork, Mort, Norp, Ort, Smorg, Sorb, Tor, Torc.

See the information on our website about pseudowords. You could use some of these as practice words for a screening check or as part of a less formal assessment of a child's decoding ability. Since this digraph can represent different sounds in different words, you could allow alternative pronunciations when children are reading some of these words. However, the /or/ (ɔː) sound is most consistent with the structure of these words.

Some of the words in the list might have a real meaning in some regions, groups or sub-cultures, but they will be unfamiliar to most children so can be used alongside genuine pseudowords.

