

Ou 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 /ow/ (au) sound as in out:

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

Bound, bout, cloud, clout, count, flout, foul, found, fount, gout, ground, grout, hound, joust, loud, lout, mound, mount, noun, our, oust, out, pound, pout, proud, round, rout, scout, snout, sound, sour, spout, stout, tout, trout, wound*.

*Homograph.

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

Blouse, bounce, couch, crouch, doubt, douse, gouge, grouch, grouse, hour, house, lounge, louse, mouse, mouth, ouch, ounce, pouch, rouse, scrounge, shout, shroud, slouch, south, spouse, thou, vouch.

Two or more syllable words – may contain other digraphs:

About, aloud, around, council, counsel, county, flounder, fountain, mountain.

Words containing the /u/ (ʌ) sound as in touch:

Country, couple, courage, cousin, double, enough, rough, slough, southern, touch, tough, trouble, young.

Words containing the /oo/ (u:/u) sound, as in soup:

Boutique, caribou, cougar, coupon, courier, croup, crouton, ghoul, group, joule, moussaka, rouge, route, routine, soup, toucan, uncouth, wound*, you, youth.

*homograph

More on the next page...



Ou Digraph Word List

Words containing the /oa/ sound (əʊ or oʊ) as in soul:

Boulder, mould (UK), moult (UK), poultice, poultry, shoulder, smoulder (UK), soul.

Words containing the schwa sound (ə) as in nervous:

Anxious, atrocious, boisterous, callous, cautious, conscious, contagious, curious, delicious, disastrous, dubious, enormous, fabulous, famous, generous, hideous, horrendous, infectious, jealous, marvellous (UK)/marvelous (US), numerous, obvious, pious, poisonous, religious, ridiculous, scandalous, various, vicious.

Words containing the /o/ (ɒ) sound as in cough:

Cough, trough.

Pseudo-words containing the oi Digraph:

Bouf, Doup, Drouk, Fou, Glout, Poug, Loup, Souk, Zoup.

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 more than one sound, you could accept alternative pronunciations when children are reading some 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.



Ou Digraph Word List



Ou Digraph Word List

