

Ur 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 /ur/ (ɜː) sound as in fur:

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

Blur, blurb, blurt, burn, burnt (burned), burp, burst, cur, curb, curd, curl, curt, fur, furl, hurl, hurt, lurk, murk, slur, slurp, spur, spurn, spurt, surf, turf, Turk, turn, turps, urn, Yurt.

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

Church, churn, curse, curve, gnarl, lurch, nurse, purge, purse, surge, urge.

Two or more syllable words – may contain other digraphs:

Absurd, burden, burger, burglar, burka, burly, concur, curly, cursor, curtain, disturb, furnace, furniture, further, furtive, gurgle, hurdle, incur, murder, murky, nursery, nurture, occur, purple, recur, return, surplus, Thursday, turban, turbo, turkey, turnip, turtle, urban, usurp.

Words containing the schwa sound (ə British and Australian) (e- USA) as in lemur:

Arthur, femur, lemur, murmur, Saturday, sulfur, survive.

Words where ur doesn't act as a digraph

Guru, jury, lurid, mural, purée, purity, rural, sura, urea, urine.

Pseudo-words Containing the Ur Digraph:

Burb, Burl, Curf, Curn, Durg, Duroc, Gursh, Slurb, Sturt, Surd, Urb, Urp.

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.

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.

