

Oa 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 /oa/ sound (əʊ/oʊ) as in boat...

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

Bloat, boast, boat, cloak, coal, coast, coat, coax, croak, float, foal, foam, gloat, goad, goal, goat, groan, hoax, load, loaf, loam, loan, moan, moat, oaf, oak, oats, road, roam, roan, roast, stoat, soak, soap, toad, toast, woad.

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

Broach, coach, coarse, cocoa, loath, loaves, oath, poach, roach, shoal, throat, whoa.

Two or more syllable words – may contain other digraphs:

Afloat, approach, bemoan, cockroach, goatee, inroad, loafer, unload, upload.

Words where the oa digraph represents alternative sounds:

Abroad, broad.

Words where oa doesn't act as a digraph:

Boa, Goa, Koala, Oasis.

(Also, most words where oa is followed by the letter r).

Pseudo-words Containing the ee Digraph:

Doad, Doaf, Doak, Foag, Foat, Froag, Groad, Joat, Poan, Poat, Toap, Voak.

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.

