Short O CVC Word List

41 words with the short o sound /o/ as in hot, grouped into 9 word families.

Every word on this page has the same shape: consonant, short o, consonant. Because each letter says its usual sound, a child who knows the letter sounds can decode all 41 of these words without guessing.

Teaching order: work through one family at a time, and within a family change only the first sound. Start with the largest families below (-ob and -ock) because they give the most practice, then move to the one-word families once the pattern is secure.

-ob (5)

bob job mob rob sob

-ock (5)

dock lock mock rock sock

-od (6)

cod god nod pod rod sod

-og (6)

bog cog dog fog jog log

-op (4)

cop hop mop pop

-osh (1)

posh

-oss (4)

boss loss moss toss

-ot (8)

cot dot got hot lot not pot rot

-ox (2)

box fox

Teach it in four steps

1. Review the short o sound on its own, until it is secure.
2. Blend the vowel with the ending (-at, -en, -ig...) and say it as one chunk.
3. Add the first sound to build the whole word (c-at = cat).
4. Read the word in a short sentence.

More: cvc-words.com/short-o-cvc-words.html has pictures, audio and a teaching guide for this vowel.