

Heart words are irregularly spelled high frequency words. These words can be grouped with similar spelling patterns even though the spelling patterns are not regular. The table below shows heart words grouped with similar spelling patterns and can be added to any phonics or spelling lesson, with the heart letters pointed out. (*Readsters, LLC, 2013*)

Heart Words
59 Words Grouped by Similar Spelling Patterns
45 Words from the Dolch List and 14 Not on the Dolch List

(Numbers in Parentheses Are the Dolch Frequency Ranking)

(Diamond [♦] indicates word is not on the Dolch List, but fits the spelling pattern)

Unusual Spelling Pattern	High Frequency Words
1. s at the end of the word spells /z/	his (13), is (27), as (32), has (166)
2. v is followed by e because no English word ends in v	have (34), give (144), live (206)
3. o-e spells short u /ŭ/	some (30), come (64), done (180)
4. o spells /ōō/ (as in <i>boot</i>)	to (2), do (41), into (77)
5. rhyming words spelled with the same last four letters	there (29), where (95)
6. s spells /z/ in a vce word	those (179), these (212)
7. all spells /öll/	all (25), call (167), fall (193), small (195), ball♦
8. oul spells /öŏ/ (as in <i>cook</i>)	could (43), would (57), should♦
9. e at the end is after a phonetic r-controlled spelling	were (50), are (63)
10. vcc and cvcc words with o spelling long o /ō/	old (102), cold (136), hold (173), both (190)
11. cvcc words with i spelling long i /ī/	find (167), kind (189), mind♦
12. words similar in meaning and spelling	one (54), once (160)
13. a after w sometimes spells short o /ŏ/	want (86), wash (201), watch♦
14. ue spells /ōō/ as in <i>boot</i>	blue (79), glue♦, clue♦, true♦
15. u spells /öŏ/ (as in <i>cook</i>)	put (91), full (178), pull (187), push♦
16. rhyming words with silent l	walk (121), talk♦
17. rhyming words - the letter a spells short i or short e (depending on dialect)	any (83), many (218)
18. oo at the end of a word spells /ōō/ (as in <i>boot</i>)	too (92), boo♦, moo♦
19. or spells /er/	work (145), word♦, world♦
20. uy spells long i /ī/	buy (174), guy♦

The words in Table 3B are Heart Words not easily grouped by spelling patterns. Most of these words are more difficult to spell and read. However, these words can also be incorporated into the regular phonics sequence when students learn to read the regularly spelled letters. (Readsters, LLC, 2013) Example: “very” could be taught when the y as the long e sound is taught.

Table 3B
Heart Words

37 Words that Do Not Fit into Spelling Patterns
(Numbers in Parentheses Are the Dolch Frequency Ranking)

the (1)	very (71)	here (105)	does (154)	use (181)
a (5)	yours (74)	two (122)	goes (156)	carry (194)
of (9)	from (81)	again (126)	write (157)	because (204)
you (7)	don't (87)	who (128)	always (158)	together (214)
was (11)	know (89)	been (129)	only (168)	please (215)
said (12)	pretty (97)	eight (135)	our (171)	shall (219)
they (18)	four (100)	today (137)	warm (176)	laugh (220)
what (46)	their (104)			