

R-Controlled Vowels: List of Words, Phrases, and Sentences for Lesson Planning

Our word lists can help you plan for teaching the r-controlled words with patterns 'ar', 'or', 'er', 'ir', and 'ur'. Use them in your reading, spelling, and fluency-building lessons and activities. Remember that each interaction with words is an opportunity to build vocabulary. Consider pointing out words with multiple meanings to your students.

Words with 'ar'

bar	car	far	jar	tar	card	hard	yard	barn
yarn	bark	dark	mark	park	arm	farm	harm	carp
harp	tarp	art	cart	dart	part	tart		

If you have already taught digraphs and blends, you can use the following 'ar' words.

scar	spar	star	shard	shark	spark	charm	sharp	chart
smart	snarl	march	parch	starch	harsh	marsh		

Phrases with 'ar'

my car	not far	in the tar	set the bar	dog can bark	on the card
is not hard	in the yard	the red barn	see the yarn	in the dark	a red mark
at the park	on my arm	on the farm	will not harm	got a carp	play the harp
a big tarp	got the part	was tart	held the bar	twist the jar	stuck in tar
thick black tar	will play cards	the hard task	the long pink yarn	has thick bark	the dark shed
mark the chart	park the truck	broke my arm	farm with crops	carp for lunch	brand new harp
a thick tarp	in art class	a sharp dart	the smashed part	got a scar	star will shine
shard of glass	the quick shark	will spark	lost the charm	was very sharp	on the chart
is very smart	will march in line	harsh and cold			

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Sentences with 'ar'

The park is not far.	I got the big jar.
I see the red barn.	Can you get the yarn?
The dog can bark.	I will go to the park.
It is dark.	I have a bug on my arm.
I play in the yard.	Can you get the cord?
This is not hard.	I do not like the dark.
I will go to the farm.	Did she dart in front of the car?
The cart will bring farm fresh eggs.	I got a new scarf.
We will march in line to class.	I will mark the chart with a red pen.
Bart is a smart kid.	Can you get the jar from the shelf?
There is a big barn on the farm.	I have a chick in the yard.
The pin is sharp.	Do not step on the shard of glass.
The test was very hard.	In art class we made a star.
It is dark in the parking lot.	Dad started to grill the food.
We like to play cards after school.	There was a shark close to where we swam.

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Words with 'or'

or	for	nor	cord	cork	fork	pork	dorm	form
born	corn	horn	torn	worn	fort	port	sort	porch
torch	scorch							

If you have already taught digraphs and blends, you can use the following 'or' words.

stork	storm	thorn	short	sport	snort	north	forth
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Phrases with 'or'

nor for you	got a cord	saw a cork	got the fork	is not pork	in the dorm
got the form	was born	had the corn	was torn	was not worn	in the fort
at the port	can sort the cards	a long cord	made from cork	fork is sharp	shred the pork
a long form	brand new dorm	will shuck the corn	can honk the horn	the brass horn	dress was torn
pants were worn	the strong fort	will dock at the port	sort the boxes	new porch swing	pass the torch
will scorch	storm was harsh	a sharp thorn	short or long	a short cord	a good sport
went north	saw a stork	is not short	be a sport	did snort	to the north
on the porch	lit the torch				

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Sentences with 'or'

This gift is for you.	I will plug in the cord.
I saw a cork in the grass.	Can you give me the fork?
I do not like to eat pork.	Mom will shred the pork with the sharp fork.
The storm went for a long time.	Dad will fill out the forms.
The kids will sort the cards.	Mort will sort and stack the boxes.
We lit the torch on the porch.	I like to sit on the porch and read.
We made a fort in the den.	The rug in the dorm was torn.
The dress looked worn.	The thorn cut my leg.
I love to play sports.	I am short and my friend is tall.
We went for a short walk to the park.	We saw the North Star in the dark sky.

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Words with 'er'

her verb herd nerd fern term perm

If you have already taught digraphs and blends, you can use the following 'er' words.

perch clerk stern

Phrases with 'er'

him or her	is a verb	see the herd	saw a fern	got a perm	did shock her
will plant the fern	for the long term	will perch	is very stern	clerk can help	

Sentences with 'er'

Kim's dad made her a card.	What is a verb?
We saw the herd on the farm.	We got a fern for Mrs. Smith.
Mom got a perm.	The stork can perch on the gate.
Mr. Block is very stern.	The terms on the sheet are long.
The clerk will help me find what I need.	

R-Controlled Vowels: List of Words, Phrases, and Sentences for Lesson Planning

Words with 'ir'

fir	sir	bird	irk	quirk	girl	firm	dirt
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If you have already taught digraphs and blends, you can use the following 'ir' words.

stir	third	thirst	whirl	twirl	swirl	chirp	shirt	squirt
smirk	first	third	birth	skirt				

Phrases with 'ir'

yes sir	a red bird	did irk me	is a girl	bed is firm	dug in the dirt
a fir tree	wings on the bird	has a quirk	the thin girl	stir the drink	has a thirst
twirl the skirt	birds will chirp	do not squirt	a black shirt	on your birthday	

Sentences with 'ir'

The bird is in the nest.	The girl did irk me.
I like the firm bed.	We dug in the dirt next to the fir tree.
I have many quirks.	I will stir the drink.
I will be in first grade.	Jack will be in third grade.
I like to be first in line.	I had a thirst for milk.
The girl likes to twirl her skirt.	I got dirt on my new shirt.
Do not squirt me with the hose.	On your birthday you will get gifts.
The red bird likes to land on my porch.	I was the third kid to get to class.

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Words with 'ur'

curb	curd	curl	burn	turn	curt	hurt	burp	hurl
surf	turf							

If you have already taught digraphs and blends, you can use the following 'ur' words.

churn	blurt
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Phrases with 'ur'

on the curb	can curl it	got a burn	will turn	leg hurt	did hurl
can burp	flip the curl	turn off the flame	chick was hurt	mix and churn	did blurt it out
like to surf	on the turf				

Sentences with 'ur'

I sat on the curb.	I like to curl my hair.
I got a bad sunburn.	The chick hurt its wing.
Dad put the trash can by the curb.	We will turn left on the path.
It is not nice to burp.	The girl twirls her curls.
Do not blurt out in class.	Can you turn off the T.V.?
My leg hurt when I fell.	Can you turn down the tunes?
The surf began to churn.	I like to surf the big waves.
We play ball on the turf.	