

ALPHABET SOUNDS

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Dedication

In memoriam

for my English teachers,
lovers of language,

my mother and father

Eleanor McNeill Coates
and
F. Fletcher Coates

and my school teachers

Mary Louise Taylor Bacon
The Lenox School for Girls
New York, New York
1957-1959

V. Louise Higgins
Staples High School
Westport, Connecticut
1956-1957

I thank you

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To all, many thanks

Introduction

Every sound language makes is good at painting a particular word picture or at suggesting particular sensations. The hard sounds of B and D betoken strength and solidity, as in building and ladder. The soft sounds of M and W make words like melon and swamp sound soft and wet. When the sound reminds us of the meaning of a word, that's called onomatopoeia.

Some words are beautiful when you perceive the onomatopoeia. For instance, look on the M, R and L pages for "miracle". Look on the J, H and V pages for "Jehovah".

When you see the confluence of similar sounds in words suggesting similar experiences and sensations, you see that there are words that have been around for a long time, basic words that lasted long because they are learned early in childhood and are taken for granted, and so remained unchanged. You might suspect that languages were birthed at a time when people were much more empathic than in our functional culture. Indeed people who farmed, hunted and fished for a living had to empathize with nature, with wildlife and with the weather to perceive cues that allowed them to succeed in making a living, a far cry from the knack for manipulation that characterizes successful people in our time.

The words that remain virtually unchanged over centuries may become a faithful record of a people's culture when other means of remembering have failed. For instance some of the H words in the aspirates section of the book seem to record ancient religious connections now no longer pertinent.

In addition, words on the P and CH pages suggest that much of early language was formed by women interacting with small children in the homes and barn yards.

P is for things soft and juicy on the inside, crisp and maybe crunchy on the outside, that might pop when poked:

apple, peapod, peach, plum, prune, pie, ripe, pouch, pocket, purse, package, parcel, present, dimple, pimple, pop and poke.

Something similar is heard in words with the CH sound:
cheek, cherub, child, chin, chuckle, orchard, peach, pouch.
"To pinch a cheek and chuck a child under the chin".

Except in the case of slang and some advertising, most words currently added to the English language are notable for not having an onomatopoeic effect, i.e. plastic, disinfectant, petroleum by-product.

Advertisers seek to attract more customers by using onomatopoeic sounds in naming new products, particularly beauty products and tranquilizing and sedative drugs.

Poets use the sounds of words to cause readers feel and see their poems. This book will tell you ways they do that.

Of course, you will think of words whose sounds do not betoken their meanings. Often a soft thing will have a hard sounding name, and vice versa.

But you may also think of words and ideas about sounds to add to this book.

Hard sounds

B is bold and strong, a good sound for things to build with.

beam bed block
board body bone
boulder box boy
brick budge build
lumber

"Fee-fi-fo-fum,
I smell the *blood* of an Englishman,
Be he live, or be he dead
I'll grind his *bones* to make my *bread*."

English verse

B is also for things bursting with life.

balloon bloom blossom
branch bread bosom
breast bud bun
burst

"Meagre girlhood's putting on
Burdensome beauty"

W.B. Yeats
"Broken Dreams"

D is the hard sound of a heavy load when it thuds to the ground.

boulder burden deep
dig down drag
drop drum ground
lead load plod
pound solid stand
spade under

"The buffaloes are gone.
And those who saw the buffaloes are gone.
Those who saw the buffaloes by *thousands*
and how they *pawed* the prairie *sod* into *dust* with their hoofs,
their great *heads down* pawing on in a great pageant of *dusk*,
Those who saw the buffaloes are gone
And the buffaloes are gone."

Carl Sandburg
"Buffalo Dusk"

"Having *done* all to *stand*,
Stand therefore..."

Apostle Paul
"Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 6, v 13"

D is for darkness and for all things lost in it.

blind cold dank dead
dead end deaf dense drown
drudgery dumb dunce dungeon
end Hades hide murder
shade shadow shudder

"Then can I *drown* an eye, *unused* to flow
For precious *friends hid* in *death's dateless* night."

Shakespeare
Sonnet XXX

"*Death*, be not *proud*, though some have called thee,
Mighty and *dreadful*..."

John Donne
"Death be not proud"

"And *death* shall have no *dominion*."

Dylan Thomas

"And death shall have no dominion"

"... it *rounds* and *rounds* *Despair* to *drowning*."

G.M. Hopkins

"Inversnaid"

"... and why must *Disappointment* all I *endeavor* end?"

G.M. Hopkins

"Thou art indeed just, Lord"

The hard **G** is a good sound for anything that's hard work.

drag gallop garden
get go grab grasp
grind grip groan grow
grunt leg rugged stagger
struggle tug vigor
wagon wiggle

"I *galloped*, Dirck *galloped*, we *galloped* all three;
"Good speed!" cried the watch, as the *gate*-bolts undrew;
"Speed!" echoed the wall to us *galloping* through;
Behind shut the postern, the lights sank to rest,
And into the midnight we *galloped* abreast."

R. Browning

"How They Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix"

The G is for hard work, expect to find it in word for things we don't like.

agony anguish gagging
gargoyle ghastly ghost
ghoul goblin gore
grief grotesque grovel
gruel meager ogre
strangle struggle ugly

P - things soft and juicy inside, crisp and maybe crunchy on the outside, that might pop when poked.

apple, peapod, peach, plum, prune, pie, ripe,
pouch, pocket, purse, package, parcel, present,
dimple, dumpling, pillow, pimple, pop and poke.

"Mix a *pancake*,
Stir a *pancake*,
Pop it in the *pan*;
Fry the *pancake*,
Toss the *pancake* -
Catch it if you can."

Christina Georgina Rossetti

"Mix a Pancake"

Ch

cheek, chick, chin, cherub, child, chuckle, peach, orchard, pouch.
To pinch a cheek and chuck a child under the chin.

The **J** and soft **G** sounds are good in words for pushing.

budge bulge hinge
nudge plunge trudge
jab jam job
jump joints jut

The sound of J is in dignified words like generous and justice and in names from the past whose namesakes had supernatural majesty:

angel	genie	generous
Jacob	Jason	Jehovah
Jerusalem	Jesus	Job
Joshua	Jove	Judea
Julius	Juno	Jupiter
justice	majesty	

T can be strong in words for structures like steeples and tall towers in towns and cities:

"In the *cities* along the *coast* of Lake Erie, Paddle traveled in smoke and *steam* - *dust* and *heat* - naked flame and the clanging noises of commerce. There were *tall towers* against red flames of fire. *Tons* of *white-hot metal lighting* the insides of *steel* mills."

Holling Clancy Holling
"Paddle To The Sea"

T is in words for people touching, like:

gentle knit pat
stair step stitch
tap tender tickle
tiptoe whittle
"a blunt instrument"

"The *slight* thing *staggered* a little under the *strokes* of her *tongue*, which *softly touched* him here and there. He drew himself *together* and *stood still*. His little red *coat*, that was *still somewhat tousled* bore fine white *spots* and on his vague baby face there was *still* a deep, sleepy expression."

Felix Salten
Bambi (chapter I - washed by his mother at birth)

"I *turned* me, to them very wistfully"

Francis Thompson
"The Hound of Heaven"

" Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the *silent* land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half *turn to go yet turning stay*."

Christina Rossetti
"Remember"

"But if I *lift* my arms it is to bend
To you who *turned* away once, Helen, knowing
The press of *troubled* hands, too *alternate*
With *steel* and soil to hold you endlessly. "

Hart Crane
"The Marriage of Faustus and Helen"

The hard **C** and **K** are often in words for touching and for things made to be touched. Things of cloth often begin with C:

cap cape cloak cotton
clothes coat collar
costume cosy couch
cuff curtain cushion

The touching sound of C and K can be sharp and cutting:

break cat claw
cactus cliff clip
crab crack cut
fork hawk kill
picket fence shark skate
snake spank

"*Sticks* and stones may *break* my my bones
But names will never hurt me."

Children rhymes

"The *pickety* fence
The *pickety* fence
Give it a *lick* it's
The *pickety* fence
Give it a *click* it's
The *pickety* fence
A *clickety* fence
Clickety, clickety
Clickety, click
Lickety, lickety
Lickety, lick"

David McCord
"The Picket Fence"

The English language came into being long ago when most people were farmers and labored hard for a living. But in winter there was time for carving, whittling and the crafts of skilled hands. Especially so at Christmas when there were toys and trinkets to be touched and held and the gentle clasp of loving people. Is this why so many Christmas words are sprinkled with C's, K's and T's?

Christmas is a time for:

candles carols carillon
crafts creches crisp cookies
crackling fires crinkling wrapping paper crystal cold
the tinkle and clang of bells; toys, trinkets and twinkling stars.

"Twas the night before *Christmas*, when all through the house
Not a *creature* was stirring, not even a mouse.
The *stockings* were hung by the chimney with *care*,
In hopes that St *Nicholas* soon would be there.

[...]

And mamma in her '*kerchief*, and I in my *cap*,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a *clatter*,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

[...]

With a little old driver, so lively and *quick*,
I knew in a moment it must be St *Nick*."

Clement Clarke Moore

"Twas the night before Christmas"

Qu is a sound used in words conveying a sense of the most delicate touch:

exquisite quake quiver
quiet "quicken" quilt
quiver tranquil

"My aspens dear, whose airy cages *quelled*,
Quelled or *quenched* in leaves the leaping sun..."

Gerard Manley Hopkins

"Binsey Poplars"

"Your slender attitude
trembles not *exquisite* like limbs knife-skewed"

Wilfred Owen

"Greater Love"

Maybe once upon a time a "*queen*" was thought to be the gentlewoman with the most sensitive touch.

"I love my body when it is with your
body. It is so *quite* a new thing."

ee cummings

"100 Selected Poems"

Soft Sounds

M is the first sound most babies make, and it is much found in words for things that are either very large or very small, both being matters of great concern to babies:

ample immense looming
many million monument
mile meter mountain
multitude overwhelm teeming

midget miniature minuscule
minnow mite mouse small

M is for wet, soft things:

damp farm loam
marsh meadow marshmallow
melon melt mist
mix moist swamp

M is for warm memories of childhood:

dream family home
intimate mom meal
memory milk moon
promise romance summer

Among some people, Mary is considered the name for the best of all mothers:

arm bosom human
mammal mouth stomach
warm woman womb

"I'll be *home* for Christmas
You can count on me
Please have snow and *mistletoe*
And presents on the tree.

Christmas Eve will find me
Where the love light *gleams*
I'll be *home* for Christmas
If only in my *dreams*."

Buck Ram, Walter Kent, Kim Gannon
"Ricky Van Shelton Lyrics"

When will I see the bees a-*humming*
All round the comb?
When will I hear the banjo *strumming*
Down in my good old *home*?

All the world is sad and dreary
Everywhere I *roam*;
Oh ladies, how my heart grow weary,
Far from the old folks at *home*'

after Stephen Foster
"Swanee River"

"Sometimes I feel like a *motherless* child
A long way from *home*"

black spiritual

"The cherry trees are seas of *bloom* and soft *perfume* and sweet *perfume*
The cherry trees are seas of *bloom* (and oh, so near to London!)

And you shall wander hand in hand in love in *summer's* wonderland."

Alfred Noyes
"The Barrel-Organ"

"Thine alabaster cities *gleam*
Undimmed by *human* tears

America! America!"

Katherine Lee Bates
"America The Beautiful!"

"And *dreaming* through the twilight
That doth not rise nor set
Haply I may *remember*
And haply may forget"

Christina Rossetti
"When I am dead, my dearest"

"We are the *music makers*
And we are the *dreamers* of *dreams*
Wandering by lonely sea-breakers
And sitting by desolate *streams*;
World losers and world-forsakers
On whom the pale *moon* gleams:
Yet we are the *movers* and shakers
Of the world for ever, it *seems*.

Arthur O'Shaughnessy
"Ode"

"And yet this *time* remov'd was *summer's time*,
The *teeming autumn*, big with rich increase,
Bearing the wanton burthen of the *prime*,
Like widow'd *wombs* after their lords' decease:"

Shakespeare
Sonnet XCVII

The downside of moods is in these words:

dismal gloomy glum
mean moody morose

N is for nearness:

gentle in kind
lean nap near
next nestle nurse
nuzzle on snug
tender

"Cruising down the river on a *Sunday afternoon*
With one you love, the *sun* above waiting for the *moon*
An old *accordion* playing a *sentimental tune*
Cruising down the river on a *Sunday afternoon*.

Eily Beadell and Nell Tollerton
"Cruising Down The River"

"By the light of the silvery *moon*,
I want to *spoon*, to my *honey* I'll *croon* love's *tune*,
Honeymoon keep a-*shining* in June,
Your silvery beams will bring love's dreams, we'll be cuddling *soon*,
By the silvery *moon*. "

Edward Madden
"By The Light of the Silvery Moon"

L is light and glimmers in words for things that glow on long afternoons:

field	hill	lane	
lavender		lawn	leaf
lilac	lily	ripple	
sail	slope	valley	

The English language was surely formed by men and women who loved the land.

"I have desired to go Where springs not *fail*,
To *fields* where *flies* no sharp and sided *hail*,
And a few *lilies blow*."

Gerard Manley Hopkins
"Heaven-Haven"

"When *lilacs last* in the dooryard *bloom'd*"

Walt Whitman
"When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd"

L, especially combined with a hard sound, often betokens light blazing out of darkness:

blaze	bless	candle
clean	coal	flame
flare	flint	glance
gleam	glitter	glory
glow	gold	kindling
miracle	sparkle	splendid
twinkle		

"No wonder of it: sheer *plod* makes *plough* down *sillion*
Shine, and *blue-bleak* embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash *gold-vermillion*"

Gerard Manley Hopkins
"The Windhover"

"... on the French coast the light
Gleams and is gone; the *cliffs* of England stand,
Glimmering and vast, out in the *tranquil* bay."

Mathew Arnold
"Dover Beach"

L is in pillow, sleep and slumber and much found in lullabies.

"*Dreamland* opens here,
Sweep the dream-path *clear!*
Listen, chile, dear little chile,
To the song of the *crocodile* "

Creole lullaby

"The woods are *lovely*, dark, and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And *miles* to go before I *sleep*,
And *miles* to go before I *sleep*."

Robert Frost

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"

"To one who has been *long* in city pent,
 'Tis very sweet to *look* into the fair
 And open face of heaven,—to breathe a prayer
Full in the *smile* of the *blue* firmament.
Who is more happy, when, with heart's content,
 Fatigued he sinks into some *pleasant lair*
 Of wavy grass, and reads a debonair
And *gentle tale* of *love* and *languishment*?
Returning home at evening, with an ear
 Catching the notes of *Philomel*,—an eye
Watching the *sailing cloudlet's* bright career,
 He mourns that day so soon has *glided* by:
E'en *like* the passage of an *angel's* tear
 That *falls* through the *clear* ether *silently*."

John Keats

"To One Who Has Been Long in City Pent"

Many of the words of the blues of the sky also contain an "L" for light:

blue	cerulean	cobalt
lavender	lilac	purple
royal blue	teal	violet

L appears in "yellow" and "gold".

"I wandered *lonely* as a *cloud*
That *floats* on high o'er *vales* and *hills*,
When *all* at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of *golden daffodils*;"

William Wordsworth

"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"

R is a crying noise, and it's often in words about a yearning that can't be fulfilled.

cry hurt reach
sorry strain stretch
try toward turn yearn

arch arm birch
bird free larch
spire rare

*"Morning has broken, like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing fresh from the word"*

Eleanor Farjeon

"Morning has broken" set to a Celtic melody

*"World, World, I cannot get thee close enough!
[...] Lord, I do fear.
Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year."*

Edna St. Vincent Millay

"God's World"

"My heart in hiding
Stirred for a bird..."

Gerard Manley Hopkins

"The Windhover"

"Which two when they once meet,
The *heart rears* wings, bold and *bolder*.
And *hurls* for him, O half *hurls earth* for him off under his feet"

Gerard Manley Hopkins

"Hurrahing in Harvest"

"... and *thrush*

Through the echoing *timber* does so *rinse* and *wring*
The *ear*, it *strikes* like lightning to *hear* him sing."

Gerard Manley Hopkins

"Spring"

"Into my *heart* an *air* that kills:
From yon *far country* blows:
What *are* those blue *remembered* hills,
What *spires*, what *farms* are those? "

A. E. Housman

"A Shropshire Lad", Poem XL

If R is the sound of desire, then red may be the color of desire.
Look at all these R's"

auburn	crimson	garnet
maroon	red	roan
rose	ruby	ruddy
russet	rust	scarlet
vermillion		

R even appears in words for shades which are amalgams of other colors with reds:

bronze brown copper
ochre orange purple

(but not pink)

"If I live to be a *hundred* I will never know from *where*
Came those lovely *scarlet ribbons*, *scarlet ribbons for her hair*"

Jack Segal

Song lyrics

"*Red* lips are not so *red*
As the stained stones kissed by the English dead.
Kindness of wooed and *wooer*
Seems shame to their love *pure*.
O Love, your eyes lose *lure*
When I behold eyes blinded in my stead!

Wilfred Owen

"Greater Love"

V is in words for the most vital acts of our lives:

achieve	believe	envy
give	grieve	have
leave	live	love
move	save	thrive

And also in words for vigorous states:

avid	brave	fervor
flavor	savor	valor
value	victory	vigor
vim	very	virile
virtue	vital	

The name Eve comes from the Hebrew "Ha'avah" which means life or living.

Frequently combined with L, V signals words for things perceived as richly fulfilling:

Avalon	caravan	carnival
forever	haven	heaven
marvel	river	salve
silver	travel	Valhalla
valley	velvet	violin

"*Lavender's* blue, dilly dilly, *lavender's* green,
When I am king, dilly, dilly, you shall be queen"

English nursery rhyme

"AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion
Times told *lovelier*, more dangerous, O my chevalier!
... blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-*vermillion*."

Gerard Manley Hopkins
"The Windhover"

"Your *voice* sings not so soft,--
Though *even* as wind murmuring through raftered loft,--
Your dear *voice* is not dear,
Gentle, and *evening* clear,
As theirs whom none now hear,"

Wilfred Owen
"Greater Love"

The sucking noise of **W** is often in words for watery things:

swamp	swallow	sweat	
wade	wallow	wash	
water	wave	wet	willow (*)

(* willows grow naturally on wet land)

"Of *wet* and *wildness*? Let them be left,
O let them be left, *wildness* and *wet*;
Long live the *weeds* and the *wilderness* yet."

Gerard Manley Hopkins
"Inversnaid"

"Once in a lifetime, lovely past believing,
your lucky eyes may light on such a pool.
As though for many years I had been *waiting*,
I *watched* in silence, till my heart was full
of clear dark *water*, and *white* trees unmoving,
and, *whiter* yet, those thirty egrets *wading*"

Judith Wright
"Egrets"

W is a coaxing sound to use when you want an answer very much.

wait	wander	want		
what	when	where	why	
wheedle	wish	wistful		
wonder	woo	sway		

"O *western wind*, *when wilt* thou blow.
That the small rain down can rain?
Christ, that my love *were* in my arms.
And I in my bed again"

Anonymous

Though W is not a hard sound, it can be for very strong things which have the power of a wide surface rather than of sharpness:

power	wall	water
wave	weather	whale
wheel	wield	wind
wing	will	world
swerve	swing	

Maybe it was this soft-edged strength that farming people thought of in giving their sons these old-fashioned names:

Edward	Edwin	Gawaine	
Howard	Owen	Oswald	
Walter	Wilber	William	Wulfric

The droning **Z** will put you to sleep if you hear it long enough.
Z is in many words for sleepiness, mindlessness and bewilderment.

amaze	daze	dazzle
dizzy	doze	drowsy
freeze	haze	lazy
maze	puzzle	snooze
tizzy	zombie	

"Busy" and "easy" can both imply mindlessness.
Ritzy, snazzy and pizzazz all suggest something stunning to the senses, as also the slang words blitz, buzz and zap.

"Then felt I like some watcher of the *skies*
When a new planet *swims* into his ken;
Or like stout *Cortez* when with eagle eyes
He stared at the Pacific—and all his men
Looked at each other with a wild *surmise*—
Silent, upon a peak in Darien"

John Keats
"On First Looking into Chapman's Homer"

"She *is as* in a field a silken tent
At midday when the sunny summer *breeze*
Has dried the dew and all its ropes relent,
So that in *guys* it gently *sways at ease*"

Robert Frost
"The Silken Tent"

Aspirates

F is the sound of the wind, wafting gently or blowing fiercely:

fast feather fern
field fir flag
flee fleet float
flow flower flute
flutter fly foam
foot forest snowflake
swift

*"Feather on feather
On feather it falls,
White on the chimney pots,
Rooftops and walls,
Soft on the mountain side,
Bright on the tree
Goose feather snowflakes
All lovely and free."*

Eastwick
in Larrick, "Piping Down The Valleys Wild"

fierce fire force
fury surf typhoon

"Do you *fear* the *force* of the wind,
The slash of the rain?
Go *face* them and *fight* them
Be savage again"

Hamlin Garland
In Jessie B. Rittenhouse, "The Little Book of American Poets: 1787-1900".

"Keen *fitful* gusts are whispering here and there
Among the bushes *half leafless*, and dry."

Keats
Sonnet

H is the sound of the deep breathing of a healthy person working outdoors:

hacksaw	hale	halter
hammer	hand	harness
harrow	hatchet	health
hearty	heft	helmet
hero	hoe	horn
horse	hot	hunter

"*Home* is the sailor, *home* from the sea,
And the *hunter home* from the *hill*"

Robert Louis Stevenson
"Requiem"

"The *hart* he loves the *high* wood
The *hare* she loves the *hill*"

English nursery rhyme

"Do you ken John Peel at the break of day?
Do you ken John Peel when he's far away?
Do you ken John Peel with his *hounds* and his *horn*
With his *hounds* and his *horn* in the morning?"

Scottish folk songs

S hisses like snow sifting, or wind sweeping across seas:

fish mist ocean
rush sail sand
sea snow sift
snow splash spray
surf whistle

"Let us walk in white *snow*
 In a *soundless space*;
With *footsteps* quiet and *slow*,
 At a tranquil pace,
 Under veils of white lace.

We shall walk through the *still* town
 In a *windless peace*;
We shall *step* upon white down,
 Upon *silver fleece*,
 Upon *softer* than these.

We shall walk in velvet *shoes*:
 Wherever we go
Silence will fall like dews
 On white *silence* below.
 We shall walk in the *snow*."

Elinor Wylie
"Velvet Shoes"

"All *shod* with *steel*
We *hissed* along the *polished ice* in games"

Wordsworth
"Prelude"

"Let me *listen* to wind in the *ash*
It *sounds* like *surf* on the *shore*."

Edna St Vincent Millay
"Surf on the Shore"

"Keen fitful *gusts* are *whispering* here and there
Among the *bushes* half *leafless*, and dry."

Keats
Sonnet

The aspirates F, H and S frequently earmark spiritual words.

F's are in

elf	fairy	faith
fantasy	fiend	phantom

H's

hallowe'en	haunt	howl
wraith		

S's

soul	spirit
------	--------

"And the Lord God *formed* man of the dust of the ground and *breathed* into his nostrils the *breath of life*"

Genesis 2:7, King James version

Is that breath that gives life the reason the God of Israel is named *Jehovah*?

Is this why God added the "h" to the names of Abraham and Sarah when he chose them to be parents of a great nation?

All the words below come from the same root word:

healthy	holiness	whole
wholesome	hail	hello

Below is a word list whose wealth of H's seems to imply that the English people attributed spiritual qualities to the family farm by which many gained their living.

earth	harvest	hearth
home	house	threshold
chaff	thresh	wheat

See also the list of tools and means of support on the H page.

Th is a dignified sound, used to connect parts of long stately sentences, especially in documents and speeches commemorating historic moments:

either	furthermore	neither
nevertheless	notwithstanding	
then	thenceforth	therefore
thus	whether	

TH suggests dignity in "father", "mother" and "brother".

X is a ripping and breaking sound.

axe	fox	lynx
tax	anxious	

"Lizzie Borden took an *axe*
And gave her mother forty *whacks*.
When she saw what she had done
She gave her father forty-one."

Anonymous

Vowels

Distance through space and time is suggested by long vowels:

bay	highlands	seacoast
beach	the high seas	shoreline
bleak	highway	silence
calm	horizon	skyline
flow	line	skyscraper
gaze	Lone Star State	soar
glide	peace	steep
Great Plains	quiet	stride
		time
		wide

staking a claim in the wide open spaces.

"O *beautiful* for *spacious skies*,
For amber *waves* of *grain*..."

Katharine Lee Bates
"America the beautiful"

"*Thou* still unravished *bride* of *quietness*,
Thou foster-child of *silence* and *slow time*"

John Keats
"Ode On A Grecian Urn"

"O you, who have your eyeballs vexed and *tired*,
Feast them upon the *wildness* of the sea"

John Keats
"On The Sea"

"Of one *wide expanse* had I been told
That *deep-browed* Homer ruled as his *demesne*;
Yet never did I *breathe* its *pure serene*
Till I heard Chapman speak out *loud* and *bold*:
Then felt I like some watcher of the *skies*"

John Keats
"On First Looking into Chapman's Homer"

The broad **A** is especially appropriate for expansive distances.

Examples are:

Africa	avalanche	Pacific
Amazon	far	the Palisades
America	galaxy	Panama Canal
Andes	gazelle	Savannah
Antarctica	high chaparral	Sierra Nevada
Arctic	Himalayas	star
Asia	impala	tundra
Atlantic	Niagara Falls	Verrazano Narrows

And these:

Atlantis
Avalon
Paradise
Parnassus
Valhalla

"Bright *star*, would I were *steadfast* as thou *art*"

John Keats
transcribed into a volume of Shakespeare's Sonnets

"It is the *star* to every wandering *bark*"

Shakespeare
Sonnet XVI

"Tell me the words that I once longed to hear
Long, long *ago*, *far away*"

American song

Long **E** is for slippery things:

cheat			
eel	grease	seal	sneak
squeeze	thief	weasel	

"His wet fur, velvet-smooth, was *sleek* as *reeds*
Stroked *downstream* by a river...

 He flowed
Into the water like water
Entering water...
 And he swam
Seal-like, eel-like, delighted"

William Hart Smith
"Otters"

Short **I** is in words for skinny insignificant things:

bit	dizzy	fickle	
fidget	flicker	giddy	
inch	midget	minnow	
minute	nitwit	pin	
quiver	ripple	silly	
skinny	thimble	thin	timid

"Little Tommy Tittlemouse
Lived in a *little* house;
He caught *fishes*
In other mens' *ditches*."

English nursery rhyme

"Spring is coming! Spring is coming!
All around is fair!
Shimmer and *quiver* on the *river*,
Joy is everywhere! "

William Blake
"Spring Song"

"And *evening* full of the *linnet's wings*"

W.B. Yeats
"The Lake Isle of Innisfree"

Sloppy blobs droop and slop with lots of **O**'s:

balloon	billow	bloomers
blossom	bog	bowl
buffoon	clown	drool
flop	fool	frog
glop	hog	jowls
loop	moon	noodles
pantaloon	pillow	pool
pour	roly-poly	rot
round	slop	sloth
soggy	soup	spoon
toad	topple	

"Augustus!" *shouted* Mrs. *Gloop*. 'Augustus, sweetheart, I don't think you had better do that.' Augustus *Gloop*... was now kneeling on the river bank, *scooping hot* melted *chocolate* into his *mouth* as fast as he could...

'Augustus!' *shouted* Mrs. *Gloop*. 'Augustus!' *shouted* Mrs. *Gloop*.

But Augustus was deaf to everything except the call of his *enormous stomach*. He was now... lapping up the *chocolate* like a *dog*... Into the river went Augustus *Gloop*, and in one second he had disappeared under the *brown* surface...

'Save him!' screamed Mrs *Gloop*,...'He'll *drown*!...

he'll be made into *strawberry-flavoured chocolate-coated fudge*!...'My *poor* Augustus! They'll be selling him by the *pound* all over the *country tomorrow morning*!"

Roald Dahl

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"

Necking is a sloppy art.

"Meet me in St. *Louis, Louis*,
Meet me at the Fair
Don't tell me the lights are shining
Anyplace but there.

We will dance the "*Hoochie-Koochie*"
I will be *your "Tootsie-Wootsie"*

If you will meet me in St. *Louis, Louis*,
Meet me at the Fair."

Andrew B. Sterling

"Meet Me in St. Louis"

"Five *foot two*, eyes of blue,
But oh! what *those five foot could do*,
Has anybody seen my gal?

Turned-up *nose*, turned-down *hose*,
All dressed up in fancy *clothes*,
Has anybody seen my gal?

But *could she love*, *could she woo*,
Could she, *could she*, *could she cool*!
Has anybody seen my gal?"

American popular song

Short **U** is in words for hollow things:

bubble	bucket	cubby-hole
cuddle	cup	drum
funnel	gulch	gut
gutter	glutton	hug
jug	mug	puncture
rut	snuggle	tub
tunnel		

Snug as a bug in a rug

"When I was down beside the sea.
A wooden spade they gave to me.
To dig the sandy shore.

My holes were empty like a *cup*.
In every hole the sea came *up*
Till it could come no more."

Robert Louis Stevenson
"A Child's Garden of Verses"

"Out of the very top of it there sprouted hundreds and hundreds of thin glass *tubes*, and the glass *tubes* all *curled* downwards and came together in a bunch and hung *suspended* over an enormous round *tub*... And when the *tub* was nearly full,... immediately the *runny stuff* disappeared... And now there came a sort of *sucking* noise, and very quickly all the blue frothy mixture in the huge basin was *sucked* back into the stomach of the machine."

Roald Dahl
"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"

Y is an affirmative sound as in:

yes yeah
ai-yi-yay-yippee-ti-yi-yay
yo yodel yellow

"Come along boys and listen to my tale,
Tell you of my troubles on the old Chisholm trail.
Come a ti *yi yippy*, come a tee *yi yay*, ti *yi yippy yi yay*

On a ten-dollar horse and a forty dollar saddle
I'm a going to punch in Texas cattle
Come a ti *yi yippy*, come a tee *yi yay*, ti *yi yippy yi yay*

Tex Ritter
"The Old Chisholm Trail"

"Fifteen men on a dead man's chest -
Yo! ho! ho and a bottle of rum.
Drink and the devil had done for the rest -
Yo! ho! ho and a bottle of rum."

Robert Louis Stevenson
"Treasure Island"