

You Are The Course Book

Useful List of One-Syllable Minimal Pairs

Minimal pairs are words that have the same sounds, apart from one sound. All of the words below have three sounds, so we can group these minimal pairs by: **first sound different**, **middle sound different**, and **final sound different**. SS could try to find more words in each group, or write a sentence containing all three words from a group:

First Sound Different:

beat / sheet / heat
bed / read / said / led
bees / she's / knees
boat / coat / vote
book / look / took
cat / hat / mat / that
coin / join / loin
face / race / base
fan / man / can / van
feel / kneel / real
fill / hill / will / till
food / rude / sued
foot / put / soot
fun / run / done
gate / late / mate
good / wood / hood
hard / guard / card
heard / word / third
him / gym / limb
heart / part / chart
knife / wife / life
learn / lawn / lone
made / paid / laid
moon / noon / soon
rose / those / foes

Middle Sound Different:

can / coin / cone
caught / coat / kite
cool / kill / coil / coal
dark / duck / dock
farm / firm / form
fat / fit / fight / fate
gate / get / got
girl / goal / gale / gill
heat / hit / hot / hat
he'll / hill / heel
leave / live / love
like / lake / look
meet / mate / might
night / not / knit
neck / knock / Nick
pet / pit / port / part
same / seem / sum
seat / sit / sat / sight
shirt / shout / sheet
sing / sang / sung / song
take / talk / tick / tyke
tall / towel / tail / tile
tan / turn / ten / ton
while / will / wall
win / wine / one

Final Sound Different:

bed / bet / bell
big / bin / bill
cap / cash / can / cat
cheap / cheat / cheek
dog / dock / dot
fame / fate / fail
fig / fill / fit
gain / gape / gaze
ham / have / hat
June / juice / jute
knife / nice / night / nine
lad / lamb / lap
lake / late / lame
made / main / male
moan / mode / mope
not / knock / nod
port / pawed / Paul
read / reef / reap
root / rude / roof
shop / shot / shock
sword / sauce / sawn
touch / tongue / ton
thing / thick / thin
vote / vogue / vole
wrote / rode / rogue