

Irregular Spellings of Caret /ʌ/

The general spelling patterns that predict /ʌ/ at the ends of words are $\acute{V}C\#$ = shape, as in *thug* and $\acute{V}CC$ = shape, as in *bust*. $\acute{o}ther = /ʌ/$ is a specific pattern, as in *mother*. These patterns predict /ʌ/ in most words but not in all. The tamperings of ancient scribes and borrowings from other languages have given English a number of exceptional spellings for /ʌ/. These are words that have to be memorized because /ʌ/ is not predictable by any general or specific pattern. The **un**common spellings for Short U in particular words are *on*, *om*, *ov*, *ou* and *oo*. There are several additional words below that do not fit these categories.

a. Read each item aloud.

b. Put each exceptional /ʌ/ word in its proper category below.

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| 1. We have enough money
for a couple of months. | 9. smothered in a ton of onions
roughly one hour in the oven. |
| 2. The compass was
a wonderful discovery. | 10. The front of the tongue—
does it touch the teeth? |
| 3. Love one another.
Covet nothing. | 11. Come on Monday.
Bring gloves and a shovel. |
| 4. Have you done one—
a double somersault? | 12. The rainbow – once a covenant:
No flood will cover the earth. |
| 5. London fog—
what color is it? | 13. He took some honey
for an uncomfortable stomach. |
| 6. It's a lovely country
in southern Europe. | 14. None of them won
among a dozen companies. |
| 7. Is it tough
to become a monk? | 15. My troubled young cousin is the
son of my mother's brother. |
| 8. Doves hovered [†] above
the government buildings. | 16. Some thugs pommelled [†] him.
We sponged away the blood. |

on: _____

(over)

om: _____

ov: _____

ou: _____

oo: _____

Additional words: _____