

Those Tricky OO Sounds

Often, the OO sound is long, as in words like *school, room, boot, moon, and goose*. But occasionally, it has a shorter sound, as in *book, took, look, cook, foot, and cookie*. How do you know which pronunciation of OO to use when you see it in words?

I have come up with a rule that works in most situations:

In general, if “oo” is followed by a K, it is short, and otherwise, it is long.

Exceptions: foot, soot, and stood, which use the short sound.

Practice Words

Long OO sound

1. fool
2. tool
3. school
4. cool
5. scoop
6. room
7. boot
8. goose
9. loose
10. moose
11. moon
12. noon
13. poodle
14. root
15. noodle
16. scoot
17. shoot

Short OO sound

1. book
2. shook
3. rook
4. took
5. look
6. cook
7. hook
8. nook
9. cookie
10. foot
11. soot
12. stood

Practice Sentences – Long OO

1. The **fool** tried to look **cool** on his way to **school**.
2. Use a **tool** to **scoop** the dirt.
3. A **goose** is **loose** in my **room**.
4. Stay **cool**! A **moose** is nearby.

5. You cannot see the **moon** at **noon**.
6. Oh, **shoot!** The **poodle** is eating my **noodles**.
7. I need to **scout** this plant away from the tree **root**.

Practice Sentences – Short OO

1. I **took** a **look** at the **book** in the **nook**.
2. The **cook** dropped a **cookie** on his **foot**.
3. The **rook** was covered in **soot**.
4. The fish **hook** caught in her **foot**.
5. He **shook** the box of **books**.

Practice Sentences – Combined Sounds

1. **Look** at that **fool** eating a **cookie** at **school**.
2. **Put** your **foot** in the **boot** before **you** leave the **room**.
3. The **moose** **shook** his head at the **moon**.
4. The **goose** **stood** on the **book** at **noon**.
5. Be careful! Don't **shoot** yourself in the **foot**.
6. **Scout** your **poodle** away from the **nook** full of **tools**.