

100 most frequently used words in the English language

Based on the evidence of the billion-word Oxford English Corpus, it is possible to identify the hundred commonest English words found in writing around the world.

It is noticeable that many of the most frequently used words are short ones whose main purpose is to join other longer words rather than determine the meaning of a sentence. These are known as **Function Words**. It could be said that the more interesting facts about word frequency are to be found a little further down the list and we explore this below.

Interestingly, the analysis reveals that most of the words we use most frequently are from Old English: the basic elements of nearly any sentence that any of us utters were in place before the Norman Conquest of England in 1066.

The Most Frequently Used Words are:

1 - 20	21 - 40	41 - 60	61 - 80	81 - 100
1. The	21. This	41. So	61. Person	81. Back
2. Be	22. But	42. Up	62. Into	82. After
3. To	23. His	43. Out	63. Year	83. Use
4. Of	24. By	44. If	64. Your	84. Two
5. And	25. From	45. About	65. Good	85. How
6. A	26. They	46. Who	66. Some	86. Our
7. In	27. We	47. Get	67. Could	87. Work
8. That	28. Say	48. Which	68. Them	88. First
9. Have	29. Her	49. Go	69. See	89. Well
10. I	30. She	50. Me	70. Other	90. Way
11. It	31. Or	51. When	71. Than	91. Even
12. For	32. An	52. Make	72. Then	92. New
13. Not	33. Will	53. Can	73. Now	93. Want
14. On	34. My	54. Like	74. Look	94. Because
15. With	35. One	55. Time	75. Only	95. Any
16. He	36. All	56. No	76. Come	96. These
17. As	37. Would	57. Just	77. Its	97. Give
18. You	38. There	58. Him	78. Over	98. Day
19. Do	39. Their	59. Know	79. Think	99. Most
20. At	40. What	60. Take	80. Also	100. Us

Interesting facts about high frequency words:

Nouns		Verbs		Adjectives	
<p>The commonest nouns are time, person and year followed by way and day (month is 40th). Many of these words are very common because they have more than one meaning: way and part, for example, are listed in this dictionary as having 18 and 16 different meanings respectively. Another reason for a word's high position on the list is that it forms part of many common phrases: For Example: adverbial phrases like on time, in time, last time, next time, this time, etc.</p>	1 Time	<p>The commonest verbs express basic concepts. Strikingly, the 25 most frequent verbs are all one-syllable words. The first two syllable verbs are become (26th) and include (27th).</p>	1 Be	<p>Again, most of the top adjectives are one-syllable words.</p>	1 Good
	2 Person		2 Have		2 New
	3 Year		3 Do		3 First
	4 Way		4 Say		4 Last
	5 Day		5 Get		5 Long
	6 Thing		6 Make		6 Great
	7 Man		7 Go		7 Little
	8 World		8 Know		8 Own
	9 Life		9 Take		9 Other
	10 Hand		10 See		10 Old
	11 Part		11 Come		11 Right
	12 Child		12 Think		12 Big
	13 Eye		13 Look		13 High
	14 Woman		14 Want		14 Different
	15 Place		15 Give		15 Small
	16 Work		16 Use		16 Large
	17 Week		17 Find		17 Next
	18 Case		18 Tell		18 Early
	19 Point		19 Ask		19 Young
	20 Government		20 Work		20 Important
	21 Company		21 Seem		21 Few
	22 Number		22 Feel		22 Public
	23 Group		23 Try		23 Bad
	24 Problem		24 Leave		24 Same
	25 Fact		25 Call		25 Able