

## Instant Words

These are the most common words in English, ranked in frequency order. The first 25 make up about a third of all printed material. The first 100 make up about half of all written material, and the first 300 make up about 65 percent of all written material. Is it any wonder that all students must learn to recognize these words instantly and to spell them correctly also?

Source: *The Reading Teacher's Book of Lists*, Fourth Edition, © 2000 by Prentice Hall  
Authors: Fry, Kress & Fountoukidis

### FIRST HUNDRED

#### Words 1-25

the  
of  
and  
a  
to  
in  
is  
you  
that  
it  
he  
was  
for  
on  
are  
as  
with  
his  
they  
I  
at  
be  
this  
have  
from

#### Words 26-50

or  
one  
had  
by  
word  
but  
not  
what  
all  
were  
we  
when  
your  
can  
said  
there  
use  
an  
each  
which  
she  
do  
how  
their  
if

#### Words 51-75

will  
up  
other  
about  
out  
many  
then  
them  
these  
so  
some  
her  
would  
make  
like  
him  
into  
time  
has  
look  
two  
more  
write  
go  
see

#### Words 75-100

number  
no  
way  
could  
people  
my  
than  
first  
water  
been  
call  
who  
oil  
its  
now  
find  
long  
down  
day  
did  
get  
come  
made  
may  
part

## SECOND HUNDRED

### Words 101-125

over  
new  
sound  
take  
only  
little  
work  
know  
place  
year  
live  
me  
back  
give  
most  
very  
after  
thing  
our  
just  
name  
good  
sentence  
man  
think

### Words 126-150

say  
great  
where  
help  
through  
much  
before  
line  
right  
too  
mean  
old  
any  
same  
tell  
boy  
follow  
came  
want  
show  
also  
around  
form  
three  
small

### Words 151-175

set  
put  
end  
does  
another  
well  
large  
must  
big  
even  
such  
because  
turn  
here  
why  
ask  
went  
men  
read  
need  
land  
different  
home  
us  
move

### Words 176-200

try  
kind  
hand  
picture  
again  
change  
off  
play  
spell  
air  
away  
animal  
house  
point  
page  
letter  
mother  
answer  
found  
study  
still  
learn  
should  
America  
world

### THIRD HUNDRED

#### **Words 201-225**

high  
every  
near  
add  
food  
between  
own  
below  
country  
plant  
last  
school  
father  
keep  
tree  
never  
start  
city  
earth  
eye  
light  
thought  
head  
under  
story

#### **Words 226-250**

saw  
left  
don't  
few  
while  
along  
might  
close  
something  
seem  
next  
hard  
open  
example  
begin  
life  
always  
those  
both  
paper  
together  
got  
group  
often  
run

#### **Words 251-275**

important  
until  
children  
side  
feet  
car  
mile  
night  
walk  
white  
sea  
began  
grow  
took  
river  
four  
carry  
state  
once  
book  
hear  
stop  
without  
second  
later

#### **Words 276-300**

miss  
idea  
enough  
eat  
facet  
watch  
far  
Indian  
really  
almost  
let  
above  
girl  
sometimes  
mountain  
cut  
young  
talk  
soon  
list  
song  
being  
leave  
family  
it's

## FOURTH HUNDRED

### Words 301-325

body  
music  
color  
stand  
sun  
question  
fish  
area  
mark  
dog  
horse  
birds  
problem  
complete  
room  
knew  
since  
ever  
piece  
told  
usually  
didn't  
friends  
easy  
heard

### Words 326-350

order  
red  
door  
sure  
become  
top  
ship  
across  
today  
during  
short  
better  
best  
however  
low  
hours  
black  
products  
happened  
whole  
measure  
remember  
early  
waves  
reached

### Words 351-375

listen  
wind  
rock  
space  
covered  
fast  
several  
hold  
himself  
toward  
five  
step  
morning  
passed  
vowel  
true  
hundred  
against  
pattern  
numeral  
table  
north  
slowly  
money  
map

### Words 376-400

farm  
pulled  
draw  
voice  
seen  
cold  
cried  
plan  
notice  
south  
sing  
war  
ground  
fall  
king  
town  
I'll  
unit  
figure  
certain  
field  
travel  
wood  
fire  
upon

## FIFTH HUNDRED

### Words 401-425

done  
English  
road  
halt  
ten  
fly  
gave  
box  
finally  
wait  
correct  
oh  
quickly  
person  
became  
shown  
minutes  
strong  
verb  
stars  
front  
feel  
fact  
inches  
street

### Words 426-450

decided  
contain  
course  
surface  
produce  
building  
ocean  
class  
note  
nothing  
rest  
carefully  
scientists  
inside  
wheels  
stay  
green  
known  
island  
week  
less  
machine  
base  
ago  
stood

### Words 451-475

plane  
system  
behind  
ran  
round  
boat  
game  
force  
brought  
understand  
warm  
common  
bring  
explain  
dry  
though  
language  
shape  
deep  
thousands  
yes  
clear  
equation  
yet  
government

### Words 476-500

filled  
heat  
full  
hot  
check  
object  
am  
rule  
among  
noun  
power  
cannot  
able  
six  
size  
dark  
ball  
material  
special  
heavy  
fine  
pair  
circle  
include  
built

## SIXTH HUNDRED

### Words 501-525

can't  
matter  
square  
syllables  
perhaps  
bill  
felt  
suddenly  
test  
direction  
center  
farmers  
ready  
anything  
divided  
general  
energy  
subject  
Europe  
moon  
region  
return  
believe  
dance  
members

### Words 526-550

picked  
simple  
cells  
paint  
mind  
love  
cause  
rain  
exercise  
eggs  
train  
blue  
wish  
drop  
developed  
window  
difference  
distance  
heart  
sit  
sum  
summer  
wall  
forest  
probably

### Words 551-575

legs  
sat  
main  
winter  
wide  
written  
length  
reason  
kept  
interest  
arms  
brother  
race  
present  
beautiful  
store  
job  
edge  
past  
sign  
record  
finished  
discovered  
wild  
happy

### Words 576-600

beside  
gone  
sky  
glass  
million  
west  
lay  
weather  
root  
instruments  
meet  
third  
months  
paragraph  
raised  
represent  
soft  
whether  
clothes  
flowers  
shall  
teacher  
held  
describe  
drive

## SEVENTH HUNDRED

### Words 601-625

cross  
speak  
solve  
appear  
metal  
son  
either  
ice  
sleep  
village  
factors  
result  
jumped  
snow  
ride  
care  
floor  
hill  
pushed  
baby  
buy  
century  
outside  
everything  
tall

### Words 626-650

already  
instead  
phrase  
soil  
bed  
copy  
free  
hope  
spring  
case  
laughed  
nation  
quite  
type  
themselves  
temperature  
bright  
lead  
everyone  
method  
section  
lake  
consonant  
within  
dictionary

### Words 651-675

hair  
age  
amount  
scale  
pounds  
although  
per  
broken  
moment  
tiny  
possible  
gold  
milk  
quiet  
natural  
lot  
stone  
act  
build  
middle  
speed  
count  
cat  
someone  
sail

### Words 676-700

rolled  
bear  
wonder  
smiled  
angle  
fraction  
Africa  
killed  
melody  
bottom  
trip  
hole  
poor  
let's  
fight  
surprise  
French  
died  
beat  
exactly  
remain  
dress  
iron  
couldn't  
fingers

## EIGHTH HUNDRED

### Words 701-725

row  
least  
catch  
climbed  
wrote  
shouted  
continued  
itself  
else  
plains  
gas  
England  
burning  
design  
joined  
foot  
law  
ears  
grass  
you're  
grew  
skin  
valley  
cents  
key

### Words 726-750

president  
brown  
trouble  
cool  
cloud  
lost  
sent  
symbols  
wear  
bad  
save  
experiment  
engine  
alone  
drawing  
east  
pay  
single  
touch  
information  
express  
mouth  
yard  
equal  
decimal

### Words 751-775

yourself  
control  
practice  
report  
straight  
rise  
statement  
stick  
party  
seeds  
suppose  
woman  
coast  
bank  
period  
wire  
choose  
clean  
visit  
bit  
whose  
received  
garden  
please  
strange

### Words 776-800

caught  
fell  
team  
God  
captain  
direct  
ring  
serve  
child  
desert  
increase  
history  
cost  
maybe  
business  
separate  
break  
uncle  
hunting  
flow  
lady  
students  
human  
art  
feeling



## NINTH HUNDRED

### Words 801-825

supply  
corner  
electric  
insects  
crops  
tone  
hit  
sand  
doctor  
provide  
thus  
won't  
cook  
bones  
tail  
board  
modern  
compound  
mine  
wasn't  
fit  
addition  
belong  
safe  
soldiers

### Words 826-850

guess  
silent  
trade  
rather  
compare  
crowd  
poem  
enjoy  
elements  
indicate  
except  
expect  
flat  
seven  
interesting  
sense  
string  
blow  
famous  
value  
wings  
movement  
pole  
exciting  
branches

### Words 851-875

thick  
blood  
lie  
spot  
bell  
fun  
loud  
consider  
suggested  
thin  
position  
entered  
fruit  
tied  
rich  
dollars  
send  
sight  
chief  
Japanese  
stream  
planets  
rhythm  
eight  
science

### Words 876-900

major  
observe  
tube  
necessary  
weight  
meat  
lifted  
process  
army  
hat  
property  
particular  
swim  
terms  
current  
park  
sell  
shoulder  
industry  
wash  
block  
spread  
cattle  
wife  
sharp

## TENTH HUNDRED

### Words 901-925

company  
radio  
we'll  
action  
capital  
factories  
settled  
yellow  
isn't  
southern  
truck  
fair  
printed  
wouldn't  
ahead  
chance  
born  
level  
triangle  
molecules  
France  
repeated  
column  
western  
church

### Words 926-950

sister  
oxygen  
plural  
various  
agreed  
opposite  
wrong  
chart  
prepared  
pretty  
solution  
fresh  
shop  
suffix  
especially  
shoes  
actually  
nose  
afraid  
dead  
sugar  
adjective  
fig  
office  
huge

### Words 951-975

gun  
similar  
death  
score  
forward  
stretched  
experience  
rose  
allow  
fear  
workers  
Washington  
Greek  
women  
bought  
led  
march  
northern  
create  
British  
difficult  
match  
win  
doesn't  
steel

### Words 976-1000

total  
deal  
determine  
evening  
nor  
rope  
cotton  
apple  
details  
entire  
corn  
substances  
smell  
tools  
conditions  
cows  
track  
arrived  
located  
sir  
seat  
division  
effect  
underline  
view