

The 100 Most Common Words: mostly grammatical words

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This file contains an analysis of the 100 most frequent words of English, extracted from <http://www.wordfrequency.info> (based on a corpus of 6 million words of American English).

The 100 most common words in English are mostly short (one-syllable) grammatical words, and some verbs. There are almost no concrete nouns, and almost no adjectives, among these words; pronouns occur here, though. Since the purpose of this analysis is to guide ESL teaching, a recommended noun and adjective list will be provided separately; verbs (except for auxiliary verbs) will also be listed separately.

Within each group the words are organized from most frequent to less frequent. The grammatical subgroups are organized by the order of acquisition and recommended teaching order.

Grammatical words needed for Part 1 (Lessons 1-5) of *Up the Ladder* are **boldfaced**. In addition, the pronoun **US** (rank #113) and the adverbial **YET** is used (these words are not among the 100 most frequent words).

NOUN-RELATED

Articles

THE

A

Pronouns

Singular

IT

I

YOU
HE
THIS
HIS
SHE
HER
MY
HIM
ME
YOUR
ITS

Plural

THEY
WE
THEIR
THEM
OUR
THESE

Quantifiers and numerals

ALL
ONE
SOME
TWO
MORE
(MANY)

Prepositions (and particles)

OF
IN
TO
FOR
WITH
ON

AT
FROM
BY
AS
(ABOUT)
UP
OUT
(INTO)

VERB-RELATED

Negation words

NOT
N'T
NO

Modals

CAN
WOULD
WILL

Auxiliary (helping) verbs

BE
HAVE
DO

SENTENCE-RELATED

Question words

WHAT
WHO

WHEN
WHICH
HOW

Adverbs

THERE
JUST
NOW
FIRST
(ALSO)
HERE
WELL

Complementizers and conjunctions

AND
BUT
OR
IF
SO
THAN
THEN
(BECAUSE)