

For a psychology project at The New School, I collected the word frequencies for 250 words from spoken broadcasts from ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, FOX, MSNBC, PBS, NPR (and others) between 1990 and 2015. Here is a summary for all:

Data source: Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) from Brigham Young University, search engine available at: <http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>

VERY OFTEN	Rate Per Million	FREQUENTLY	Rate Per Million	SOMETIMES	Rate Per Million	RARE	Rate Per Million
house	759	fear	99	hell	48	sauce	9
book	351	fall	99	train	47	mask	9
health	299	respect	92	sea	46	hunger	9
hope	280	hill	90	drop	46	lightning	9
support	261	star	87	catch	44	honesty	9
death	225	table	86	window	43	acceptance	8
car	215	plane	86	dress	42	pig	8
god	206	land	84	truck	40	theft	8
television	167	build	79	anger	40	lemon	8
stand	160	increase	78	holiday	40	potato	8
church	117	jail	76	bus	40	loyalty	8
road	116	success	75	wedding	38	disappointment	8
gun	116	freedom	73	birthday	38	mouse	8
sit	111	floor	72	smoke	37	balloon	7
trouble	111	mistake	69	foundation	37	greed	7
key	107	bomb	62	fish	37	grill	7
crisis	104	earth	60	telephone	37	rail	7
		grow	58	bear	36	pour	7
		bed	58	penalty	36	telescope	6
		danger	53	sun	36	sheep	6
		upset	52	shoes	36	crush	6
		sad	50	stone	36	dive	6
				bag	36	seed	6
				corner	36	whale	6
				lake	35	bug	6
				lay	35	flower	6
				stress	34	starving	6
				summit	34	snake	6
				evil	32	decrease	6
				chair	32	sunset	6
				mountain	31	castle	6
				poverty	30	collar	6
				tree	29	coin	6
				fill	29	drain	5
				bridge	28	eagle	5
				chicken	27	bicycle	5
				flag	26	helmet	5
				cable	26	fireworks	5
				hole	26	stack	5
				planet	25	volcano	5
				passion	24	selfish	5
				desire	24	nest	5
				horse	24	excellence	4
				bell	24	leaf	4
				funeral	24	umbrella	4
				pleased	24	rug	4
				valley	23	pencil	4
				bird	23	float	4
				talent	23	rainbow	4
				smile	23	hop	4
				bowl	23	banana	4
				sky	22	kindness	4
				dirty	22	towel	4
				moon	22	fork	4
				humor	22	delight	3
				cat	22	arise	3
				illness	21	ditch	3
				helicopter	21	frog	3
				hat	21	sock	3
				lift	20	perfection	3
				chain	20	splash	3
				ceiling	19	necklace	3
				forest	19	dunk	3
				satellite	19	parachute	3
				heaven	19	crab	3
				wealth	19	arch	2
				roof	19	scarf	2
				miracle	19	basin	2
				cap	18	turtle	2
				kiss	18	alligator	2
				comfort	18	drip	2
				injury	18	loneliness	2

shirt	18	tumble	2
collapse	17	elevate	2
guilt	17	mushroom	2
pride	17	lamp	2
expand	17	sofa	2
mirror	15	scissors	2
pants	15	curtains	2
underground	15	broom	2
fence	15	descend	2
cake	15	worm	2
champion	15	cheerful	2
bankruptcy	14	sandals	1
bread	14	crumble	1
sand	14	dart	1
depressed	14	skates	1
root	14	sled	1
elephant	14	hanger	1
belt	14	faucet	1
corn	14	claw	1
dig	13	kite	1
dirt	13	slug	1
spill	13	frown	1
excitement	12	skateboard	1
hug	12	giraffe	1
devil	12	plummet	1
basement	12		
rocket	12		
shower	12		
improvement	12		
wheel	11		
shadow	11		
cloud	11		
grass	11		
climb	11		
subway	10		
height	10		
slip	10		
optimism	10		
hood	10		
hatred	10		
tunnel	10		
crown	10		