About the First Problem:

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I think there is a problem in the Pipeline.
I recommend you the following pipeline:
Input: sentences
Mapper 1: sentence -> (word, count)
       For word in sentence:
              Emit (word, 1)
Reducer1: list of (word, count) -> (word, total count)
       (count1, count2) -> count1 + count2(total count)
       Emit (word, total count)
Mapper2: list of (word, total_count) -> (letter, (word, total_count))
       For (word, total_count) in list:
              Emit (word[0], (word, total count))
Reducer2: list of (letter, (word, total count)) -> (letter, list of (word, total count))
Reducer3: list of (letter, list of (word, total_count)) -> list of (letter, words)
       For letter, list in list of (letter, list of (word, total count)):
              List = SortByValue(list of (word, total count))
              Emit letter
              For word in List:
                      Emit word
```