

The 100 Most Common Written Words in English

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. the | 35. were | 69. has |
| 2. of | 36. we | 70. look |
| 3. and | 37. when | 71. two |
| 4. a | 38. your | 72. more |
| 5. to | 39. can | 73. write |
| 6. in | 40. said | 74. go |
| 7. is | 41. there | 75. see |
| 8. you | 42. use | 76. number |
| 9. that | 43. an | 77. no |
| 10. it | 44. each | 78. way |
| 11. he | 45. which | 79. could |
| 12. was | 46. she | 80. people |
| 13. for | 47. do | 81. my |
| 14. on | 48. how | 82. than |
| 15. are | 49. their | 83. first |
| 16. as | 50. if | 84. water |
| 17. with | 51. will | 85. been |
| 18. his | 52. up | 86. call |
| 19. they | 53. other | 87. who |
| 20. I | 54. about | 88. oil |
| 21. at | 55. out | 89. its |
| 22. be | 56. many | 90. now |
| 23. this | 57. then | 91. find |
| 24. have | 58. them | 92. long |
| 25. from | 59. these | 93. down |
| 26. or | 60. so | 94. day |
| 27. one | 61. some | 95. did |
| 28. had | 62. her | 96. get |
| 29. by | 63. would | 97. come |
| 30. word | 64. make | 98. made |
| 31. but | 65. like | 99. may |
| 32. not | 66. him | 100. part |
| 33. what | 67. into | |
| 34. all | 68. time | |

The first 25 of the above words make up about 1/3 of all printed material in English. The first 100 comprise 1/2 of all written material, and the first 300 make up about 65% percent of all written material in English. Articles and tense conjugations that can often be omitted in some languages or learned for recognition (understanding) but not recall (production).

Most frequency lists are erroneously presented as the “most common words” in English, with no distinction made between written and spoken vocabulary. The 100 most common words as used in speech are considerably different, and this distinction applies to any target language.