



High-Frequency Word List

The following lesson sets use this resource:

- Introducing High Frequency Words
- Reviewing High Frequency Words
- Reading Sentences with Taught Words
- Reading a Text
- Practice Games

This list contains high-frequency words. High-frequency words are the most common words in the English language. The high-frequency word list used here is based on an analysis of four databases containing common English words. The list does not include any words with the inflections -s, -ed, or -ing. As a result, this list does not contain the exact same words as other commonly used high-frequency word lists.

For instructional purposes, teachers sometimes refer to high-frequency words as "sight words" to emphasize that these words should be remembered by sight. In fact, readers should eventually commit all words they read to sight memory. As a result, it is somewhat inaccurate to call this particular set of words "sight words." However, this terminology captures the important idea that these words should be committed to sight vocabulary early in reading.

It is very important not to describe these words as non-decodable or "irregular." Some English words--including high-frequency words--contain spelling patterns that are not very common. For example, the A in "was" makes the short-U /ü/ sound. However, many other high-frequency words contain very common spelling patterns. So, make sure not to describe these words as irregular. Even with words like "was," point out that the word does contain some common pronounceable patterns--the pronunciation of W in this case.

This list is designed to be used in combination with the Phonics Lesson Templates for the Foundational Reading Lesson Set. It was created by Devin Kearns (devin.kearns@gmail.com).

Words 1 to 100

the	to	and	of	a
in	is	I	you	it
for	that	on	was	with
are	this	be	not	as
at	he	have	from	or
they	all	but	by	your
one	can	we	his	if
will	what	about	my	do
there	an	up	had	out
when	so	no	would	more
she	were	her	like	me
some	their	other	time	has
get	them	then	people	how
see	who	just	new	into
now	been	which	only	could
know	any	these	over	than
back	him	first	very	us
go	our	good	may	make
here	two	many	also	way
did	where	use	down	home

Words 101 to 200

well	after	day	think	help
find	most	work	its	made
too	little	want	right	because
much	even	each	should	through
before	long	take	look	must
off	am	around	why	come
old	last	still	need	same
man	such	got	big	next
something	another	name	water	say
world	never	great	again	those
place	read	put	school	house
part	under	while	found	own
every	away	small	year	tell
life	three	best	really	set
high	might	went	both	thought
came	without	few	better	always
let	book	give	end	between
left	show	thing	sure	top
hard	keep	money	free	once
white	live	room	information	yes

Words 201 to 300

page	since	group	please	number
city	men	children	head	black
until	night	large	call	play
enough	run	today	ever	line
food	hand	open	try	air
family	car	real	side	far
against	lot	course	person	took
change	anything	light	state	saw
red	told	feel	however	important
system	someone	mother	during	full
along	game	job	together	nothing
seen	list	kind	body	care
though	special	box	order	soon
word	buy	sun	done	second
yet	country	often	start	young
story	oh	business	above	heard
able	almost	land	sound	face
four	front	point	mean	ask
else	stop	learn	street	ago
write	problem	bad	everything	maybe

Words 301 to 400

father	friend	door	talk	several
send	wrote	later	near	remember
news	green	anyone	love	dog
move	mind	table	across	case
don't	form	already	whole	paper
believe	power	class	boy	idea
north	inside	hot	everyone	close
either	turn	area	picture	store
less	blue	hear	knew	fast
probably	become	example	women	least
fire	earth	below	fact	American
voice	began	road	music	question
week	early	south	behind	center
usually	given	space	pay	morning
matter	window	five	size	short
low	cut	past	bill	general
girl	government	answer	easy	quite
woman	half	fun	dark	upon
outside	fine	feet	lost	himself
ground	office	stay	within	field

Words 401 to 500

company	sat	held	leave	king
watch	felt	message	human	happy
understand	bit	rest	check	possible
town	mark	energy	main	taken
eat	tree	gave	known	team
shall	control	west	nice	subject
law	drive	hold	bed	party
America	post	instead	fish	strong
wrong	ready	child	sign	sent
hope	wish	note	English	sea
cold	gold	search	certain	service
rather	pretty	true	perhaps	wall
finally	rock	type	phone	reason
study	test	mail	clear	baby
gone	price	whether	hair	return
board	age	plan	river	late
public	longer	map	bring	support
add	ball	view	six	among
color	history	wait	seem	travel
level	fall	floor	report	I'm