

The Top 500 English Words



English with Ken

www.english.kenshim.com

STUDY SMARTER

Are you tired of studying hard? Do you ever wish that you could study “smarter”. One method that will get you your most bang for your buck is to look at the highest frequency words: The Top 500 English Words. These words are used over and over again more than any others in the English language. You will have the highest likelihood of hearing these or reading these while consuming media.

I hope you like shortcuts. Personally, I love them. Why bother walking 2kms when a shortcut can make your trip a measly 1km? This shortcut to learning English is to first focus on the highest frequency words. So, instead of learning every word that you encounter in your studies, you should start by putting all of your attention and energy in an area where it will pay off the most.

This list is based on an analysis of the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The COCA is a collection of American books, articles, magazines, newspapers, and other publications. The entire COCA is more than one billion words. The words are listed in order of frequency in which they were found in the COCA.

CONTEXTUAL LEARNING

When I teach vocabulary, I teach words in context. This means that students focus on a text, a picture, a situation, a video, or an audio clip. When we have a context that we can relate to, then we learn the words that are connected to it. This helps the brain to learn naturally and make connections between the words, the situation, and the experience. Learning in context is usually the best way to learn for most students. So why then should this eBook interest you?

WHO IS THIS EBOOK FOR?

1. You like shortcuts. You like finding the fastest, most efficient way of doing something
2. You don't like to feel like you're wasting your time on words that you'll never use
3. You already have some vocabulary, but you want to make sure that you didn't miss anything
4. You like to target your efforts
5. You want to make the maximum amount of progress in the shortest amount of time
6. You like lists

HOW TO USE THIS EBOOK

While starting with the top 500 English words is a great idea. It's important to remember to go slow. It might only take you a few minutes to read the list, but you should plan on taking 1 month to memorise the list. Here are some tips:

1. Go slow. Take your time. Reading is fast and easy. Memorizing is more difficult
2. The words are in groups of 10 for a reason. You should study a maximum 10 NEW words per day. You probably want to go faster, but it is more important to be consistent
3. Use cue cards. Make notes. Get organised. Get geeky. It works
4. Use apps like Quizlet to help you study
5. Use post it notes to stick vocabulary around your home
6. Use a dictionary while you study
7. Learn example sentences for each word
8. Pay attention to the word class. Is it a noun, verb, adjective, adverb?

WORDS #1 TO 100



The 25 top words in this list make up 1/3 of all published material in English. Not bad, eh? But wait, it gets better.

If you learn the top 100 words in this list, you will be able to understand one half of all the words published. It won't give you perfect understanding, but it is a great start.

That last 50% of published words can be the problem. You will find the more English vocabulary you learn, the less frequent or useful the words become. It's a long journey, but this is a great starting point.

After reading this list, you might feel happy or relieved to realise that you already know the top 100. The most frequent words are completely ordinary. They're mostly pronouns (I, you, me, my), prepositions (to, for, by), and other words that are absolutely necessary for forming sentences.

- | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|
| 1. the | 11. have | 21. we |
| 2. be | 12. to | 22. that |
| 3. and | 13. that | 23. not |
| 4. a | 14. for | 24. but |
| 5. of | 15. do | 25. they |
| 6. to | 16. he | 26. say |
| 7. in | 17. with | 27. at |
| 8. i | 18. on | 28. what |
| 9. you | 19. this | 29. his |
| 10. it | 20. n't | 30. from |

31. go
32. or
33. by
34. get
35. she
36. my
37. can
38. as
39. know
40. if

41. me
42. your
43. all
44. who
45. about
46. their
47. will
48. so
49. would
50. make

51. just
52. up
53. think
54. time
55. there
56. see
57. her
58. as
59. out
60. one

61. come
62. people
63. take
64. year
65. him
66. them
67. some
68. want
69. how
70. when

71. which
72. now
73. like
74. other
75. could
76. our
77. into
78. here
79. then
80. than

81. look
82. way
83. more
84. these
85. no
86. thing
87. well
88. because
89. also
90. two

91. use
92. tell
93. good
94. first
95. man
96. day
97. find
98. give
99. more
100. new



Congratulations! You have your first 100 words under your belt. You are off to a great start. Now let's get to the next 100.

It is said that 80% of ideas can be communicated using just the 200 most frequently used English words. After learning this list, you won't be Shakespeare, but you will be able to communicate a great many ideas.

101.one	111.even	121.try
102.us	112.only	122.let
103.any	113.many	123.something
104.those	114.really	124.too
105.very	115.work	125.call
106.her	116.life	126.woman
107.need	117.why	127.may
108.back	118.right	128.still
109.there	119.down	129.through
110.should	120.on	130.mean

131.after
132.never
133.no
134.world
135.in
136.feel
137.yeah
138.great
139.last
140.child

141.oh
142.over
143.ask
144.when
145.as
146.school
147.state
148.much
149.talk
150.out

151.keep
152.leave
153.put
154.like
155.help
156.big
157.where
158.same
159.all
160.own

161.while
162.start
163.three
164.high
165.every
166.another
167.become
168.most
169.between
170.happen

171.family
172.over
173.president
174.old
175.yes
176.house
177.show
178.again
179.student
180.so

181.seem
182.might
183.part
184.hear
185.its
186.place
187.problem
188.where
189.believe
190.country

191.always
192.week
193.point
194.hand
195.off
196.play
197.turn
198.few
199.group
200.such



Wow! Well, you just blew past 200! Great work.

Let's take a break and consider Dr. Edward Fry, who collected the most common English words for his book Dr. Fry's 1000 Instant Words. He found that the 25 most commonly used words appear in 30% of written material in English. The first 100 are used in about 50%, and the first 300 are used in about 65%. Dr. Fry's findings mean that with the 300 most common words, you can understand the majority of texts written in English

201.against	211.number	221.next
202.run	212.write	222.city
203.guy	213.bring	223.company
204.about	214.without	224.story
205.case	215.money	225.today
206.question	216.lot	226.job
207.work	217.most	227.move
208.night	218.book	228.must
209.live	219.system	229.bad
210.game	220.government	230.friend

231.during
232.begin
233.love
234.each
235.hold
236.different
237.American
238.little
239.before
240.ever

241.word
242.fact
243.right
244.read
245.anything
246.nothing
247.sure
248.small
249.month
250.program

251.maybe
252.right
253.under
254.business
255.home
256.kind
257.stop
258.pay
259.study
260.since

261.issue
262.name
263.idea
264.room
265.percent
266.far
267.away
268.law
269.actually
270.large

271.though
272.provide
273.lose
274.power
275.kid
276.war
277.understand
278.head
279.mother
280.real

281.best
282.team
283.eye
284.long
285.long
286.side
287.water
288.young
289.wait
290.okay

291.both
292.yet
293.after
294.meet
295.service
296.area
297.important
298.person
299.hey
300.thank



The Top 400 English Words?!? It's strange putting a number to words. Have you ever thought about how many English words you know? You may feel like celebrating now that you know the top 400 English words. These are the most frequently used English words and are therefore essential if you really want to understand English. 400 English words is enough English for travelling and can help you get out of trouble.

301.much
302.someone
303.end
304.change
305.however
306.only
307.around
308.hour
309.everything
310.national

311.four
312.line
313.girl
314.around
315.watch
316.until
317.father
318.sit
319.create
320.information

321.car
322.learn
323.least
324.already
325.kill
326.minute
327.party
328.include
329.stand
330.together

331.back
332.follow
333.health
334.remember
335.often
336.reason
337.speak
338.ago
339.set
340.black

341.member
342.community
343.once
344.social
345.news
346.allow
347.win
348.body
349.lead
350.continue

351.whether
352.enough
353.spend
354.level
355.able
356.political
357.almost
358.boy
359.university
360.before

361.stay
362.add
363.later
364.change
365.five
366.probably
367.center
368.among
369.face
370.public

371.die
372.food
373.else
374.history
375.buy
376.result
377.morning
378.off
379.parent
380.office

381.course
382.send
383.research
384.walk
385.door
386.white
387.several
388.court
389.home
390.grow

391.better
392.open
393.moment
394.including
395.consider
396.both
397.such
398.little
399.within
400.second



This latest batch of 100 brings us to the top 500 English words. With 500 words you have a good level of Travel English. Additionally, you can handle some basic conversations. Furthermore, you can understand a few words in every sentence you see or hear. It is quite an accomplishment, and you should be proud of yourself. Why not take a vacation and try out your 500 words exploring the world

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| 401.late | 411.human | 421.experience |
| 402.street | 412.please | 422.plan |
| 403.free | 413.hope | 423.easy |
| 404.better | 414.true | 424.education |
| 405.everyone | 415.process | 425.build |
| 406.policy | 416.teacher | 426.expect |
| 407.table | 417.data | 427.fall |
| 408.sorry | 418.offer | 428.himself |
| 409.care | 419.death | 429.age |
| 410.low | 420.whole | 430.hard |

431.sense
432.across
433.show
434.early
435.college
436.music
437.appear
438.mind
439.class
440.police

441.use
442.effect
443.season
444.tax
445.heart
446.son
447.art
448.possible
449.serve
450.break

451.although
452.end
453.market
454.even
455.air
456.force
457.require
458.foot
459.up
460.listen

461.agree
462.according
463.anyone
464.baby
465.wrong
466.love
467.cut
468.decide
469.republican
470.full

471.behind
472.pass
473.interest
474.sometimes
475.security
476.eat
477.report
478.control
479.rate
480.local

481.suggest
482.report
483.nation
484.sell
485.action
486.support
487.wife
488.decision
489.receive
490.value

491.base
492.pick
493.phone
494.thanks
495.event
496.drive
497.strong
498.reach
499.remain
500.explain



YOU DID IT!

Congratulations! You have learned 500 English words. But not just any 500 English words: These are the most used, most popular, most common English words. The 500 words represent:

Enough English to have basic conversations

Enough English to travel anywhere in the world

Enough English to express 85% of ideas

Enough English to understand 70% of the words in a newspaper article

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

If you really enjoyed this project, then consider learning the top 1,000 words in the English language. That will be even more powerful.

Build your English world. That means having habits that surround you in English every day. Immerse yourself in situations, context, and audio and video stimulus:

- regularly read English newspapers, blogs, and magazines
- watch Youtube and Netflix in English
- listen to English podcasts
- take English lessons with a native English teacher

ENGLISH WITH KEN

I am a Canadian native English teacher with over 16 years of experience. My classes are available online and 1-on-1. All classes are designed to target your specific goals, English level, and needs. You can find out more about me at www.english.kenshim.com. Your first session is only €1 payable by debit, credit, or Paypal.