Talk a Lot

Foundation Course

The 100 Most Common Words in Written English

The Oxford University list of the top 100 high-frequency words in written English is based on an analysis of the Oxford English Corpus, which is a collection of texts in English that has a combined total of over one billion words. This analysis was done by Oxford Online, in association with the Oxford English Dictionary. Of these top 100 words, 60 are function words, including all but 2 of the top 30 words! "the" is the most common word in written English.

From Wikipedia:

"Note that the items listed may represent more than one actual word; they are **lemmas**. For instance the entry "be" contains within it the occurrences of "are", "is", "were", and "was". **Note also that these top 100 lemmas listed below account for 50% of all the words in the Oxford English Corpus.**" [emphasis mine]

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Most_common_words_in_English, accessed on 04.04.2011

Function words are highlighted and weak forms (where possible) are shown with the Clear Alphabet:

1.	the	th	36.	all		71.	than	thn
2.	be	bi	37.	would	wd	72.	then	
3.	to	t	38.	there	th	73.	now	
4.	of	uhv	39.	their	th	74.	look	
5.	and	uhn	40.	what		75.	only	
6.	а	uh	41.	SO		76.	come	
7.	in		42.	up		77.	its	uh_s
8.	that	th_	43.	out	au_	78.	over	
9.	have	uhv	44.	if	uhf	79.	think	
10.	_ I	uh	45.	about	uh bau_	80.	also	
11.	it	i_	46.	who		81.	back	
12.	for	f	47.	get		82.	after	
13.	not		48.	which		83.	use	
14.	on		49.	go		84.	two	
15.	with	W	50.	me	mi	85.	how	
16.	he	i	51.	when		86.	our	ar
17.	as	uhz	52.	make		87.	work	
18.	you	у	53.	can	kn	88.	first	
19.	do	d	54.	like		89.	well	
20.	at	uh_	55.	time		90.	way	
21.	this		56.	no		91.	even	
22.	but	b_	57.	just		92.	new	
23.	his	iz	58.	him	im	93.	want	
24.	by	b	59.	know		94.	because	b kz
25.	from	frm	60.	take		95.	any	uh nii
26.	they	th	61.	person		96.	these	
27.	we	W	62.	into		97.	give	
28.	say		63.	year		98.	day	
29.	her	uh	64.	your	у	99.	most	
30.	she	sh	65.	good		100.	us	uhz
31.	or	uh	66.	some	sm			
32.	an	uhn	67.	could	kd			
33.	will	uhl	68.	them	thm			
34.	my	m	69.	see				
35.	one		70.	other				