

Talk a Lot

Foundation Course

Lesson 3 – 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 NEA:

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. a	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	y	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	y	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			