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				