

The Top 100 Most Frequently Used English Words

High frequency English words showcase the importance of quickly giving a broad phonogram foundation.

<u>Language as a Whole</u>		<u>Top 100 Words Require</u>	
letters	26	letters	23
sounds	45	sounds	40
phonograms	70	phonograms	43
spelling rules	29	spelling rules	9

A student just taught the most common sound of single letters is only equipped to spell and read 20% of the top most frequently used English words. The rest are veiled in mystery.

Five of the top 100 words use the first-sound CVC (consonant/ vowel/ consonant) pattern
(*but, can, had, him, not*).

A few more use a single short vowel and a first sound single consonant
(*an, and, at, from, just, last, if, in, it, its, on, send, very, will, up*).

Issues with the remaining 80% of this essential list are ignored. Such inadequate coverage produces high frustration for analytical thinkers as well as struggling readers.

Short vowel words with a variation in the vowel or consonants

- short vowel plus silent final E: *have, some, there, where*.
- single s making less common sound /z/: *as, has, his, is*, or unvoiced /f/ making the voiced sound /v/: *of*.
- short vowel + multi-letter consonants: *than, thank, that, them, then thing, think, this, when, which, with*.

Other vowel sounds (long, broad, irregular, multi-letter)

- long vowel sound: *a, about, be, by, he, go, truly, here, make, me, my, more, no, over, she, so, take, time, we, write*.
- broad, third vowel sound; *all, was, what, do, to, two, who*.
- exceptions where spelling stayed the same after pronunciation changed: *been, any, one* (as in *lone*).
- multi-letter vowels: **ay** (*say, may, day*), **ea** (*dear, please*), **ee** (*week*), **ey** (*they*), **ei** (*their*), **igh** (*night*), **oo** (*good*), **ow** (*now*), **ou** (*out, about, our, house, you, your* -- irregular/ teach together: *would, could, should*).
- R-influenced vowels; **ar** (*are*), **er** (*letter, after, other, were*), **ir** (*sir*), **or** (*or, for*), **wor** (*work*).

The top 100 words include three out of the five types of silent final E's. Most systems only teach one type. They ignore the reasons for the other 50% of silent final E's and few, if any, multi-letter consonants.

Silent final E words- (less than half, even with tweaking, illustrate first of five types)

- 1st -- *time, write, take, make, here* (plus think-to-spell: *more, one*).
- 2nd -- *have, true* (the root word to *truly*).
- 5th -- *house, please, there, where, were, some*.

Multi-letter consonants: **ch** (*which*), **ng** (*thing*), **sh** (*she*), **th** (*the*), **wh** (*which*), **wr** (*write*).

A "word family" system uses backwards eye tracking (harmful for dyslexic children) and inconsistent results. Consider words from the top 100 list: *is/ this; as, has/ was; at/ what; here/ were/ there, where*.

Pokey or fickle phonics needlessly turn these high-frequency words into a mass of exceptions. *Spell to Write and Read* students build from a sure foundation of 70 phonograms and 29 rules. Sight words are unnecessary. The order behind the language is revealed. Reason prevails.