

250+ High-Frequency Words

The numbers indicate order of frequency for the first 150 words, and diamonds ♦ mark over 100 of the words from the next 150 (or so) most common English words.

The words under **REGULAR SPELLINGS** are sorted according to common vowel spelling patterns that are often taught somewhat early. Some of the words under **IRREGULAR SPELLINGS** have vowel spelling patterns students eventually learn, but often after they have had to learn these high-frequency words by heart.

REGULAR SPELLINGS						
(normal text = basic words with pattern; <i>italics</i> = more complex words with pattern or with additional pattern to learn)						
vc/cvc	a_ (/ä/)		e_ (/ë/)		i_ (/i/)	
	3. <i>and</i> 9. <i>that</i> 16. <i>as</i> 21. <i>at</i> 28. <i>had</i> 39. <i>can</i> 43. <i>an</i> 69. <i>has</i> 82. <i>than</i>	88. <i>am</i> 113. <i>back</i> 124. <i>man</i> ♦ <i>ask</i> ♦ <i>land</i> ♦ <i>hand</i> ♦ <i>add</i> ♦ <i>last</i> ♦ <i>black</i>	37. <i>when</i> 57. <i>then</i> 58. <i>them</i> 96. <i>get</i> 129. <i>help</i> 140. <i>tell</i> ♦ <i>set</i> ♦ <i>end</i> ♦ <i>well</i>	♦ <i>went</i> ♦ <i>men</i> ♦ <i>spell</i> ♦ <i>left</i> ♦ <i>next</i> ♦ <i>let</i> ♦ <i>red</i> ♦ <i>yes</i> ♦ <i>best</i>	6. <i>in</i> 7. <i>is</i> 10. <i>it</i> 17. <i>with</i> 18. <i>his</i> 23. <i>this</i> 45. <i>which</i> 50. <i>if</i> 51. <i>will</i> 66. <i>him</i> 89. <i>its</i> 95. <i>did</i> 118. <i>thing</i> 125. <i>think</i> ♦ <i>big</i> ♦ <i>still</i>	
	o_ (/ö/)		u_ (/ü/)			
	14. <i>on</i> 32. <i>not</i> 92. <i>long</i> ♦ <i>off</i>	♦ <i>got</i> ♦ <i>stop</i> ♦ <i>lot</i> ♦ <i>top</i>	31. <i>but</i> 52. <i>up</i> 120. <i>just</i> 131. <i>much</i> ♦ <i>must</i>	♦ <i>such</i> ♦ <i>us</i> ♦ <i>run</i> ♦ <i>sun</i> ♦ <i>fun</i>		
vce/cvce	a_e (/ā/)		e_e (/ē/)	i_e (/ī/)	o_e (/ō/)	
	64. <i>make</i> 98. <i>made</i> 104. <i>take</i> 109. <i>place</i> 121. <i>name</i>	139. <i>same</i> 143. <i>came</i> ♦ <i>page</i> ♦ <i>face</i> ♦ <i>state</i>	59. <i>these</i>	65. <i>like</i> 68. <i>time</i> 73. <i>write</i> 133. <i>line</i> ♦ <i>while</i> ♦ <i>life</i>	♦ <i>home</i> ♦ <i>close</i> ♦ <i>those</i>	
					u_e (/yoo/)	
					42. <i>use</i>	
other long vowel patterns	ay (/ā/)	e, ee, ea (/ē/)		i, y, igh (/ī/)	o, oa, oe, ow (/ō/)	
	78. <i>way</i> 94. <i>day</i> 99. <i>may</i> 126. <i>say</i> ♦ <i>play</i>	11. <i>he</i> 22. <i>be</i> 36. <i>we</i> 44. <i>each</i> 46. <i>she</i> 75. <i>see</i> 112. <i>me</i> 136. <i>mean</i>	149. <i>three</i> ♦ <i>read</i> ♦ <i>need</i> ♦ <i>keep</i> ♦ <i>seem</i> ♦ <i>feel</i> ♦ <i>real</i> ♦ <i>please</i>	20. <i>l</i> 29. <i>by</i> 81. <i>my</i> 134. <i>right</i> ♦ <i>why</i> ♦ <i>try</i> ♦ <i>high</i> ♦ <i>light</i>	60. <i>so</i> 74. <i>go</i> 77. <i>no</i> 108. <i>know</i> 145. <i>show</i> ♦ <i>own</i> ♦ <i>grow</i> ♦ <i>goes</i>	
diphthongs & other vowel patterns	ew (/ōo/ or /yōo/)	oo (/ōo/)	oi, oy (/oi/)	ou, ow (/ou/)	al, au, aw (/aw/)	
	102. <i>new</i> ♦ <i>few</i>	135. <i>too</i> ♦ <i>food</i> ♦ <i>school</i>	141. <i>boy</i> ♦ <i>point</i>	48. <i>how</i> 55. <i>out</i> 90. <i>now</i> 93. <i>down</i> 103. <i>sound</i> 119. <i>our</i> ♦ <i>house</i> ♦ <i>found</i>	34. <i>all</i> 86. <i>call</i> 150. <i>small</i> ♦ <i>saw</i> ♦ <i>walk</i> ♦ <i>talk</i> ♦ <i>draw</i> ♦ <i>fall</i>	
		oo (/ōo/)				
	70. <i>look</i> 122. <i>good</i> ♦ <i>book</i>					
vowels with r	air (/air/)	ar (/ar/)	er, ir, ur (/er/)	ear, ere (/ear/)	or, ore (/or/)	
	♦ <i>air</i>	100. <i>part</i> ♦ <i>large</i> ♦ <i>start</i> ♦ <i>hard</i>	62. <i>her</i> 83. <i>first</i> ♦ <i>turn</i> ♦ <i>girl</i>	110. <i>year</i> ♦ <i>here</i> ♦ <i>near</i> ♦ <i>hear</i>	13. <i>for</i> 26. <i>or</i> 72. <i>more</i> 148. <i>form</i>	
Multisyllabic Words That Have the Regular Vowel Spellings Listed Above in Their First Syllables						
76. <i>number</i> 101. <i>over</i> 106. <i>little</i> 117. <i>after</i> 123. <i>sentence</i> 132. <i>before</i>	142. <i>follow</i> 146. <i>also</i> ♦ <i>animal</i> ♦ <i>answer</i> ♦ <i>letter</i> ♦ <i>every</i>	♦ <i>never</i> ♦ <i>different</i> ♦ <i>important</i> ♦ <i>picture</i> ♦ <i>often</i> ♦ <i>under</i>	♦ <i>until</i> ♦ <i>study</i> ♦ <i>later</i> ♦ <i>because</i> ♦ <i>between</i> ♦ <i>below</i>	♦ <i>begin</i> ♦ <i>being</i> ♦ <i>even</i> ♦ <i>open</i> ♦ <i>always</i> ♦ <i>story</i>		

IRREGULAR SPELLINGS

1. *the*
2. *of*
4. *a*
5. *to*
8. *you*
12. *was*
15. *are*
19. *they*
24. *have*
25. *from*
27. *one*
30. *word*
33. *what*
35. *were*
38. *your*
40. *said*
41. *there*
47. *do*
49. *their*
53. *other*
54. *about*
56. *many*
61. *some*
63. *would*
67. *into*
71. *two*
79. *could*
80. *people*
84. *water*
85. *been*
87. *who*
91. *find*
97. *come*
105. *only*
107. *work*
111. *live*
114. *give*
115. *most*
116. *very*
127. *great*
128. *where*
130. *through*
137. *old*
138. *any*
144. *want*
147. *around*
- ♦ *put*
- ♦ *does*
- ♦ *another*
- ♦ *move*
- ♦ *kind*
- ♦ *again*
- ♦ *change*
- ♦ *away*
- ♦ *mother*
- ♦ *learn*
- ♦ *should*
- ♦ *world*
- ♦ *father*
- ♦ *thought*
- ♦ *don't*
- ♦ *both*
- ♦ *above*
- ♦ *together*
- ♦ *group*
- ♦ *four*
- ♦ *once*
- ♦ *though*
- ♦ *young*
- ♦ *woman*