

**A statistical analysis of the number of English words you need to meet (at given recurrence rates) to 'learn' that number of words**

A Word rank	B Percentage of general English that this word covers	C (= 100 / B) Number of running words needed to be met to meet all these words once	D (= x times C ) Volume of text you need to read to meet the words at these recurrence rates				E (= D / Book length) Number of books to cover this volume given these recurrence rates				
			5 times	10 times	20 times	50 times	Book length	5 times	10 times	20 times	50 times
1 <sup>st</sup> most frequent ( <i>the</i> )	5.83898%	17 (1)	86	171	343	856	4,500	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
2 <sup>nd</sup> most frequent ( <i>be</i> )	5.12332%	20	98	195	390	976	4,500	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
25 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>as</i> )	0.44382%	225	1,127	2,253	4,506	11,266	4,500	0.3	0.5	1.0	2.5
50 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>like</i> )	0.24109%	415	2,074	4,148	8,296	20,739	4,500	0.5	0.9	1.8	4.6
100 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>hear</i> )	0.10505%	952	4,759	9,519	19,038	47,595	4,500	1.1	2.1	4.2	10.6
500 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>present</i> )	0.02477%	4,037	20,183	40,366	80,732 (4)	201,829	4,500	4.5	9.0	17.9	44.9
1000 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>blood</i> )	0.01172%	8,533 (3)	42,665	85,329	170,658	426,645	10,000	4.3	8.5	17.1	42.7
1500 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>intent</i> )	0.00677%	14,773	73,864	147,727	295,455	738,636	15,000	4.9	9.8	19.7	49.2
2000 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>stumble</i> )	0.00432% (2)	23,103	115,625	231,250	462,500	1,156,250	20,000	5.8	11.6	23.1	57.8
3000 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>sergeant</i> )	0.00211%	47,343	236,713	473,425	946,850	2,367,126	30,000	7.9	15.8	31.6	78.9
5000 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>satellite</i> )	0.00076%	132,143	660,714	1,321,429	2,642,857	6,607,143	80,000	8.3	16.5	33.0	82.6
10,000 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>relativity</i> )	0.00016%	632,000	3,164,474	6,328,947	12,657,895	31,644,733	80,000	39.6	79.1 (5)	158.2	395.6

- Examples: (1) The most frequent word in English (*the*) covers 5.839% of any general English text (i.e. it occurs once in every 17 words).  
 (2) The 2000<sup>th</sup> most frequent word in English covers 0.00432% of any general English text (and occurs once every 23,103 words).  
 (3) To meet all the 1000 most frequent words in English once, you'd need to read 8,533 words.  
 (4) To meet all the 500 most frequent words in English 20 times, you'd need to read 80,732 words.  
 (5) To meet all the 10,000 most frequent words in English 10 times, you'd need to read 79.1 books that are 80,000 words long.