The 300 Instant Words

These are the words that are the most important words for reading and writing in the English language. The first 100 words make up 50% of all written material. All 300 instant words make up 65% of all written material. These words are listed (going down) according to frequency of use. Children see them over and over again in their beginning stories and they learn them using "beginning sounds" and simple phonetic clues along with context. Students should be able to recognize these words "instantly" for reading fluency and be able to spell them rapidly and correctly for writing fluency by the third grade.

First 100 Instant Words

| the wi | ith | said | many | more | oil | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| of his | S | there | then | write | now | | | |
| and the | ey | use | them | go | find | | | |
| a i | • | an | these | see | long | | | |
| to at | | each | SO | number | down | | | |
| in be | e | which | some | no | day | | | |
| is thi | is | she | her | way | did | | | |
| you ha | ave | do | would | could | get | | | |
| that fro | om | how | make | people | come | | | |
| it wh | hat | their | like | my | made | | | |
| he all | 1 : | if | him | than | may | | | |
| was we | ere | will | into | first | part | | | |
| for we | e | up | time | water | over | | | |
| on wh | hen | other | has | been | | | | |
| are yo | our | about | look | call | | | | |
| as car | in | out | two | who | | | | |
| Second 100 Instant Words | | | | | | | | |
| 500000 100 1050000 | | | | | | | | |
| new ou | ır | mean | and | need | animal | | | |
| | | mean old | and does | need land | animal house | | | |
| new ou sound jus | st | | | | | | | |
| new ou sound jus take na | st ame | old | does | land | house | | | |
| new ou sound jus take nat only go | st ame bod | old any | does another | land different | house point | | | |
| new ou sound jus take nat only go | st ame pod entence | old any same | does another well | land different home | house point page | | | |
| new ou sound jus take na only go little ser work ma | st ame bod entence an | old any same tell | does another well large | land different home us | house point page letter | | | |
| new ou sound jus take na only go little ser work ma | st ame bod entence an ink | old any same tell boy | does another well large must | land different home us move | house point page letter mother | | | |
| new ou sound jus take nat only go little ser work ma know thi place say | st ame ood ontence an ink y | old any same tell boy follow | does another well large must big | land different home us move try | house point page letter mother answer | | | |
| new ou sound jus take nat only go little ser work ma know thi place say year gre | st ame bod entence an ink by | old any same tell boy follow came | does another well large must big even | land different home us move try kind | house point page letter mother answer found | | | |
| new ou sound jus take nat only go little ser work ma know thi place say year gre live wh me he | st ame bod entence an ink ey reat here | old any same tell boy follow came want | does another well large must big even such | land different home us move try kind hand | house point page letter mother answer found study | | | |
| new ou sound just take nat only go little ser work ma know thi place say year gra live wh me he back thr | st ame bod entence an ink y reat here elp rough | old any same tell boy follow came want show | does another well large must big even such because | land different home us move try kind hand picture again change | house point page letter mother answer found study still learn should | | | |
| new ou sound jus take nat only go little ser work ma know thi place say year gre live wh me het back thr give mu | st ame bod entence an ink ey reat here elp rough uch | old any same tell boy follow came want show also around form | does another well large must big even such because turn here why | land different home us move try kind hand picture again change off | house point page letter mother answer found study still learn should America | | | |
| new ou sound just take nat only go little ser work ma know thi place say year gre live wh me he back thr give mu most be | st ame ood entence an ink vy reat here elp rough uch efore | old any same tell boy follow came want show also around form three | does another well large must big even such because turn here | land different home us move try kind hand picture again change off play | house point page letter mother answer found study still learn should America world | | | |
| new ou sound jus take nat only go little ser work ma know thi place say year gra live wh me he back thr give mu most be very lin | st ame bod entence an ink entence ink ev reat here elp rough uch efore ne | old any same tell boy follow came want show also around form | does another well large must big even such because turn here why | land different home us move try kind hand picture again change off play spell | house point page letter mother answer found study still learn should America | | | |
| new ou sound jus take nat only go little ser work ma know thi place say year gra live wh me he back thr give mu most be very lin | st ame bod entence an ink by reat here elp rough uch efore ne ght | old any same tell boy follow came want show also around form three | does another well large must big even such because turn here why ask | land different home us move try kind hand picture again change off play | house point page letter mother answer found study still learn should America world | | | |

Common suffixes: s. ing. ed. er. ly. est.

Third 100 Instant Words

| every | earth | seem | importan | carry | real |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| near | eye | next | t | state | almost |
| add | light | hard | until | once | let |
| food | thought | open | children | book | above |
| between | head | example | side | hear | girl |
| own | under | | feet | stop | sometim |
| below | story | begin | car | without | es |
| country | saw | life | mile | second | mountain |
| plant | left | always | night | late | cut |
| last | don't | those | walk | miss | young |
| school | few | both | white | idea | talk |
| father | while | paper | sea | enough | soon |
| keep | along | together | began | eat | list |
| tree | might | got | grow | face | song |
| never | close | group | took | watch | leave |
| start | somethin | often | river | far | |
| city | g | run | four | Indian | |

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