

ESSENTIAL WORDS

The 290 words below, are used most often when we write. Together they make up about 75% of most writing, so they are very important. These words have been arranged in alphabetical order and put in lists according to how often they are used. Because these words are used so often, it is very important that we learn to spell each one.

Essential List 1 (10 words – 25% of writing)

a I it the was and in my to we

Essential List 2 (20 words – 15% of writing)

**at had of that up but he on then went for is she there when
got me so they you**

Essential List 3 (30 words – 10% of writing)

**about be go into our after because going just out all came have
like said are day her mum some as down his not were back
get home one with**

Essential List 4 (50 words – 10% of writing)

**again do next people time an first night put took around food no
ran two big from now saw us by good off school very can has
old see well come him only started what could house or their
will dad if other them would did little over this
your**

Essential List 5 (50 words – 5% of writing)

**am door last once through another everyone left play told
away family log really too bed five looked room
walked been found made something want before
friend man still way Best fun more thing where**

brother heard morning think which called
here name thought who car know never three
year

Essential List 6 (70 words – 5% of writing)

also cool eyes head jump always dark fell hit knew asked decided felt how later black dog find inside life
boy eat four its live bus end gave it's lot cat even getting I'll lunch coming every great I'm make minutes
place sister top water most ready sleep town while much ride suddenly tree why nice right take turned
window opened run tell until woke outside say ten wanted yes

Essential List 7 (60 words – 3% of writing) any each ground money soon baby ever guard mother stay
bad everything hand myself stop ball face happened new swimming being fast happy parents tea bit father
help picked than boat few hole playing tried bought finally hot presents under camp finished hour road
wait dead game let side won died girl look small work doing gone many sometimes world

Essential List 8 (Commonly Misspelt Words) allowed centre dollars friends lightning second wasn't
awhile chocolate don't front luckily someone watch believe clothes everybody grabbed nearly stopped
weren't breakfast couldn't everyday having police straight we're brought didn't everywhere holidays
present they're whole cannon different excited hopped probably threw won't can't disappeared favourite
hospital quiet tomorrow you're caught doesn't field instead scared video programme