

Common Words

Common words (also known as 'high frequency words' or 'frequently used words') are the most commonly used words in English, ranked in frequency order.

[The Most Commonly Used English Words.pdf](#)

There are a number of commonly used words that do not follow phonic rules (they can NOT be sounded out) and have to be learnt by sight. These words are usually called sight words or tricky words.

There are many ways of learning 'tricky' words and various active learning approaches will be used in school. Here are a few examples of these:

- Flashcards- Write your words on flashcards and ask a friend to quiz you.
- ABC order- Write your words in alphabetical order.
- Rainbow Words - Write your words in three colours
- Backwards Words- Write your words forwards, then backwards.
- Silly sentences -Use all your words in ten sentences
- Picture words - Draw a picture and write your words in the picture.
- Words without Vowels - Write your words replacing all vowels with a line.
- Words without Consonants - Same as above but replace consonants with lines.
- Story words - Write a short story using all your words.
- Scrambled words -Write your words, then write them again with the letters mixed up.
- Wordsearch II -Make a wordsearch with a friend, then swap and solve.
- Wordsearch I - Complete a word pre-made search.
- Crossword - Complete a pre-made crossword puzzle.
- Surround words - Write your words on graph paper and outline in colours.
- Ransom words - Write your words by cutting out letters in a newspaper or magazine and glue them on a paper.
- Pyramid Words - Write your words adding or subtracting one letter at a time. The result will be a pyramid shape of words.
- Words-in-words - Write your word and then write at least 2 words made from each.

- *Good Clean Words* - Write your words in shaving cream on a counter or some other surface that can be cleaned safely.
- *Messy Words* - Write your words in sand.
- *Pasta Words* - Write your words by arranging alphabet pasta.
- *Reversed words* - Write your words in ABC order -backwards!
- *3D words* - Use modelling clay rolled thinly to make your words.
- *Create an activity* - Can you think of a fun way to do your spelling activities? Try it out!
- *Magazine words* - Use an old magazine or newspaper and find your word. Cut it out and glue it on paper.
- *Cheer your words* - Pretend you are a cheerleader and call out your words!
- *Sound Words* - Use a tape recorder and record your words and their spelling. Then listen to your tape, checking to see that you spelled all the words correctly.
- *X Words* - Write two words having one common letter so they criss-cross.
- *Other Handed* - If you are right-handed, write with your left, or vice versa.
- *Choo-Choo Words* - Write the entire list end-to-end as one long word, using different colours of crayon or ink for different words.
- *Silly String* - With a long length of string, "write" words in cursive, using the string to shape the letters.
- *Backwriting* - Using your finger, draw each letter on a partners' back, having the partner say the word when completed.
- *Telephone Words* - Translate your words into numbers from a telephone keypad.
- *Flashwriting* - In a darkened room, use a flashlight to draw letters in the air.
- *Newspaper Words* - Search a newspaper page from top to bottom, circling each letter of a word as you find it.

Please also find a link below for Spellingcity.com which is a useful website for learning tricky/sight words.

[Spelling & Vocabulary Website SpellingCity.mht](http://SpellingCity.mht)