

The 100 Most Common English Nouns

Nouns are what English sentences are about. These are the 100 most frequent in a one-billion-word corpus of real American English — the things, people and ideas the language keeps coming back to.

	#	WORD	CEFR	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
☐	1	time	A1	what is measured in minutes, hours and years; also an occasion <i>We spent a lot of time waiting.</i>
☐	2	people	A1	human beings in general; the plural of person <i>Thousands of people came to the march.</i>
☐	3	year	A1	a period of twelve months <i>She turns thirty next year.</i>
☐	4	way	A1	a method of doing something, or a route <i>There must be a better way to do this.</i>
☐	5	thing	A1	an object, idea or event you do not name precisely <i>Take your things off the table.</i>
☐	6	man	A1	an adult male human being <i>An older man answered the door.</i>
☐	7	day	A1	a period of twenty-four hours, or the hours of light <i>It rained every day of the trip.</i>
☐	8	life	A1	the state of being alive, or the time you are alive <i>He has lived here all his life.</i>
☐	9	woman	A1	an adult female human being <i>The woman in front of me dropped her ticket.</i>
☐	10	world	A1	the earth and everyone on it <i>She wants to travel the world.</i>
☐	11	child	A1	a young human being; a son or daughter of any age <i>Every child in the class got a book.</i>
☐	12	school	A1	a place where children are taught <i>My son walks to school on his own now.</i>
☐	13	state	A2	a region of a country with its own government, or a condition something is in <i>Texas is the second-largest state.</i>
☐	14	family	A1	a group of people related to each other <i>The whole family came for dinner.</i>
☐	15	president	A2	the elected head of a country or organisation <i>The president gave a short speech.</i>

	#	WORD	CEFR	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
☐	16	house	A1	a building people live in <i>They bought a small house near the sea.</i>
☐	17	student	A1	a person who is studying at a school or university <i>Each student hands in an essay.</i>
☐	18	part	A1	a piece of something bigger <i>This is the hardest part of the job.</i>
☐	19	place	A1	a location or position <i>This café is my favourite place to read.</i>
☐	20	problem	A1	a difficulty that needs to be solved <i>We ran into a problem with the booking.</i>
☐	21	country	A1	a nation with its own government <i>She has worked in six different countries.</i>
☐	22	week	A1	a period of seven days <i>I'll call you next week.</i>
☐	23	point	A2	an idea in an argument, a moment in time, or a mark in a game <i>That's a fair point.</i>
☐	24	hand	A1	the part of the body at the end of the arm <i>He held the cup in both hands.</i>
☐	25	group	A1	several people or things together <i>A group of tourists blocked the entrance.</i>
☐	26	guy	A2	an informal word for a man; in the plural, for any group of people <i>Some guy left this on your desk.</i>
☐	27	case	A2	a particular situation, or a matter dealt with by police or a court <i>In that case, we should leave earlier.</i>
☐	28	question	A1	something you ask in order to get information <i>Does anyone have a question?</i>
☐	29	work	A1	a job, or the activity of doing it <i>She leaves for work at seven.</i>
☐	30	night	A1	the dark part of the day <i>We drove through the night.</i>
☐	31	game	A1	an activity with rules that people play to win or for fun <i>The game ended in a draw.</i>
☐	32	number	A1	a word or symbol for a quantity, e.g. 5 or 200 <i>Give me a number between one and ten.</i>
☐	33	money	A1	coins and notes used to buy things <i>I don't carry much money with me.</i>

	#	WORD	CEFR	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
☐	34	lot	A1	a large amount or number (usually 'a lot of') <i>There's a lot of traffic this morning.</i>
☐	35	book	A1	a set of printed pages bound together <i>I finished the book in two evenings.</i>
☐	36	system	A2	a set of connected parts or rules that work together <i>The heating system broke down again.</i>
☐	37	government	A2	the group of people who run a country <i>The government announced new rules.</i>
☐	38	city	A1	a large town <i>Lisbon is a beautiful city.</i>
☐	39	company	A2	a business that makes or sells things <i>She works for a small design company.</i>
☐	40	story	A1	an account of real or imagined events <i>He told us the whole story.</i>
☐	41	job	A1	the work someone does to earn money <i>She started a new job in March.</i>
☐	42	friend	A1	someone you like and enjoy spending time with <i>An old friend is visiting this weekend.</i>
☐	43	word	A1	a unit of language with a meaning <i>I couldn't understand a single word.</i>
☐	44	fact	A2	something known to be true <i>That's a fact, not an opinion.</i>
☐	45	right	B1	something you are morally or legally allowed to have or do <i>Everyone has the right to an education.</i>
☐	46	month	A1	one of the twelve parts of a year <i>We moved here three months ago.</i>
☐	47	program	A2	a planned set of activities, or software on a computer <i>The council runs a reading program for children.</i>
☐	48	business	A2	buying and selling, or a company that does it <i>They run a small family business.</i>
☐	49	home	A1	the place where you live <i>I left my keys at home.</i>
☐	50	kind	A1	a type or sort of something <i>What kind of music do you like?</i>
☐	51	study	B1	a piece of research, or the act of learning about something <i>A recent study found the opposite.</i>

	#	WORD	CEFR	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
☐	52	issue	B1	an important topic, or a problem <i>Housing is the biggest issue here.</i>
☐	53	name	A1	what a person or thing is called <i>I've forgotten her name.</i>
☐	54	idea	A1	a thought or plan <i>That's a great idea.</i>
☐	55	room	A1	a separate space inside a building; also space in general <i>The room was too small for all of us.</i>
☐	56	percent	A2	one part in every hundred <i>Almost sixty percent of the class agreed.</i>
☐	57	law	A2	a rule made by a government <i>The new law takes effect in June.</i>
☐	58	power	B1	control over others, or energy that makes machines work <i>The storm cut the power for two days.</i>
☐	59	kid	A1	an informal word for a child <i>The kids are still at the park.</i>
☐	60	war	A2	armed fighting between countries or groups <i>The country was rebuilt after the war.</i>
☐	61	head	A1	the top part of the body, or the person in charge <i>He hit his head on the shelf.</i>
☐	62	mother	A1	a female parent <i>Her mother taught her to cook.</i>
☐	63	team	A1	a group who play or work together <i>Our team won on Saturday.</i>
☐	64	eye	A1	the part of the body you see with <i>She has very dark eyes.</i>
☐	65	side	A2	one of the surfaces or edges of something; a position in an argument <i>Park on the other side of the road.</i>
☐	66	water	A1	the clear liquid we drink <i>Could I have a glass of water?</i>
☐	67	service	B1	work done for customers, or a system that meets a public need <i>The service at that restaurant is slow.</i>
☐	68	area	A2	a part of a place, or the size of a surface <i>This area floods every winter.</i>
☐	69	person	A1	one human being <i>She's the only person who knows.</i>

	#	WORD	CEFR	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
☐	70	end	A1	the last part or final point of something <i>Wait until the end of the film.</i>
☐	71	hour	A1	a period of sixty minutes <i>The journey takes about an hour.</i>
☐	72	line	A2	a long thin mark, a row of people, or a phone connection <i>Draw a straight line here.</i>
☐	73	girl	A1	a female child or young woman <i>A little girl waved at us.</i>
☐	74	father	A1	a male parent <i>His father drove him to the airport.</i>
☐	75	information	A2	facts or details about something <i>I need more information before deciding.</i>
☐	76	car	A1	a road vehicle for a small number of people <i>We left the car at the station.</i>
☐	77	minute	A1	sixty seconds <i>I'll be ready in five minutes.</i>
☐	78	party	A1	a social event, or a political organisation <i>They're having a party on Friday.</i>
☐	79	back	A2	the rear part of something, or the rear of the body <i>There are seats free at the back.</i>
☐	80	health	A2	the condition of your body and mind <i>Her health improved after the move.</i>
☐	81	reason	A2	why something happens or is done <i>There's no reason to worry.</i>
☐	82	member	A2	a person belonging to a group or organisation <i>Every member pays a small fee.</i>
☐	83	community	B1	the people living in one area, or a group with something in common <i>The whole community helped rebuild it.</i>
☐	84	news	A1	reports of recent events <i>I heard the news on the radio.</i>
☐	85	body	A1	the whole physical structure of a person or animal <i>Exercise is good for the body.</i>
☐	86	level	A2	a position on a scale of amount or ability <i>Her English is at an advanced level.</i>
☐	87	boy	A1	a male child or young man <i>The boy next door feeds our cat.</i>

	#	WORD	CEFR	MEANING AND EXAMPLE
☐	88	university	A1	a place of higher education after school <i>She studied law at university.</i>
☐	89	change	A2	the act of becoming different; also coins <i>There's been a change to the timetable.</i>
☐	90	center	A2	the middle of something, or a building for an activity <i>The hotel is right in the center of town.</i>
☐	91	face	A1	the front of the head <i>I recognised her face immediately.</i>
☐	92	food	A1	what people and animals eat <i>The food at that place is excellent.</i>
☐	93	history	A2	events of the past, or the study of them <i>This building has a strange history.</i>
☐	94	result	A2	what happens because of something else <i>We're still waiting for the results.</i>
☐	95	morning	A1	the early part of the day, before noon <i>I run every morning before work.</i>
☐	96	parent	A1	a mother or father <i>Both her parents are teachers.</i>
☐	97	office	A1	a room or building where people do desk work <i>The office closes at six.</i>
☐	98	research	B1	careful study done to discover new facts <i>Her research focuses on sleep.</i>
☐	99	door	A1	the part of a building or room you open to go through <i>Please close the door behind you.</i>
☐	100	court	B1	the place where legal cases are decided; also a sports area <i>The case goes to court in October.</i>

Why these 100 nouns first

The list is ordered by raw corpus frequency, not by theme. That is why it looks nothing like the vocabulary sets in a coursebook: there is no food chapter and no travel chapter, because the nouns English actually repeats are abstract and general — time, way, thing, part, point.

Concrete, picturable nouns turn out to be surprisingly rare at the top. You have to go a long way down before reaching anything you could photograph. That gap between what is easy to illustrate and what is genuinely frequent is one of the most useful things a frequency list can show a learner.

Ranked by frequency in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), a corpus of one billion words. Entries are lemmas: one entry covers all inflected forms of the word. CEFR levels are FluencyRoad's editorial estimate and are not part of the corpus data.

Frequency data from www.wordfrequency.info, derived from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).
Free word list from FluencyRoad — study it interactively at <https://fluencyroad.com/vocabulary/top-100-nouns>