

## Commonly Used /æ/ Words

1. act	28. captain	55. happened	82. plan (n., v.)
2. action	29. cash	56. happy	83. plant
3. actually	30. cat	57. hasn't	84. practice
4. add	31. catch	58. hat	85. ran
5. address (n.)	32. centigram	59. haven't	86. rather
6. after	33. chance	60. jacket	87. relax
7. afternoon	34. crash	61. kilogram	88. sand
8. angle	35. dance	62. land (n., v.)	89. sat
9. angry	36. drank	63. language	90. Saturday
10. animal	37. exactly	64. last	91. snack
11. ankle	38. exam	65. laugh	92. stamp (n.)
12. answer	39. example	66. mad	93. stand
13. apple	40. fact	67. magazine	94. subtract
14. ask	41. fast	68. man	95. swam (v. - past tense)
15. avenue	42. fat	69. map	96. tax
16. back	43. flat	70. matter	97. thank
17. bad	44. gas	71. milligram	98. that's
18. bag	45. glass	72. napkin	99. track
19. baggage	46. grammar	73. national	100. traffic
20. bank	47. grandchild	74. natural	101. translate
21. bath	48. grandchildren	75. pack (n., v.)	102. translation
22. bathroom	49. grandfather	76. package	103. trash
23. began	50. grandmother	77. pants	104. travel
24. black	51. grandparent(s)	78. pass (n., v.)	105. valley
25. can't	52. grass	79. passed	
26. cap	53. hadn't	80. past	
27. capital	54. hand	81. perhaps	



## Top 1,200 Words

Many of the practice words in the M.E.E.C. workbooks are listed among the "Top 1,200 Most Commonly Used Words in North American English." Any Intermediate level English speaker should be comfortable using these words in conversation. Intermediate+ speakers should also be comfortable with various forms of these words that create changes in time for verbs, adjectives/adverbs formed from nouns/verbs, plurals, contractions, etc. For convenient reference, the words appear here in alphabetical order.

## Commonly Used /ɛ/ Words

1. again	26. electric	51. held	76. next	101. smell
2. against	27. elements	52. help	77. present ( <i>n., v.</i> )	102. special
3. already	28. else	53. himself	78. president	103. spread
4. any	29. end	54. however	79. process	104. step
5. anything	30. energy	55. instead	80. questions	105. stretched
6. bed	31. engine	56. itself	81. read ( <i>v., past tense</i> )	106. suggested
7. bell	32. entered	57. kept	82. ready	107. tell
8. best	33. especially	58. led	83. record ( <i>n.</i> )	108. temperature
9. better	34. ever	59. left	84. red	109. ten
10. center	35. every	60. leg	85. remember	110. test
11. cents	36. everyone	61. length	86. represent	111. themselves
12. century	37. everything	62. less	87. rest	112. then
13. check	38. except	63. let	88. said	113. they'll
14. correct	39. exercise	64. let's	89. second	114. together
15. dead	40. expect	65. letter	90. section	115. weather
16. death	41. express	66. level	91. sell	116. well
17. decimal	42. fell	67. many	92. send	117. went
18. desert ( <i>n.</i> )	43. felt	68. measure	93. sense	118. west
19. developed	44. fresh	69. melody	94. sent	119. western
20. direct	45. friends	70. members	95. separate	120. whether
21. direction	46. general	71. men	96. set	121. yellow
22. dress	47. get	72. metal	97. settled	122. yes
23. edge	48. guess	73. method	98. seven	123. yet
24. effect	49. head	74. necessary	99. several	
25. eggs	50. heavy	75. never	100. slept	

## Commonly Used /e/ Words

1. able	18. explain	35. main	52. railroad	69. strange
2. afraid	19. face	36. major	53. rain	70. stranger
3. age	20. fail	37. make	54. raised	71. table
4. away	21. famous	38. maybe	55. remain	72. tail
5. baby	22. game	39. mistake	56. safe	73. take
6. base	23. gave	40. name	57. sail	74. tape
7. became	24. great	41. nation	58. same	75. they
8. break	25. haste	42. page	59. save	76. they've
9. came	26. indicate	43. paint	60. say	77. today
10. case	27. information	44. paper	61. scale	78. trade
11. change	28. lady	45. pay	62. separate ( <i>v.</i> )	79. train
12. create	29. lake	46. phrase	63. shape	80. wait
13. day	30. late	47. place	64. space	81. waves
14. details	31. later	48. plane	65. state	82. way
15. eight	32. lay	49. play	66. statement	83. weight
16. eighty	33. located	50. race	67. stay	
17. equation	34. made	51. radio	68. straight	

## Commonly Used /I/ Words

1. addition	12. finish	23. listen	34. risk	45. this
2. begin	13. fish	24. little	35. river	46. trip
3. big	14. fit	25. middle	36. she'll	47. visit
4. bit	15. he'll	26. minutes	37. simple	48. we'll
5. city	16. hit	27. miss	38. since	49. which
6. conditions	17. if	28. mistake	39. single	50. win
7. didn't	18. inches	29. pick	40. sister	51. wish
8. dish	19. into	30. pretty	41. sit	52. with
9. distance	20. isn't	31. print	42. six	53. written
10. division	21. it'll	32. quickly	43. slip	
11. fingers	22. it's	33. rich	44. swim	

## Commonly Used /i/ Words

1. agree	14. either	27. keep	40. reach	52. she'd
2. agree	15. evening	28. key	41. read ( <i>verb - present tense</i> )	53. she's
3. be	16. feel	29. lead ( <i>verb</i> )	42. really	54. sleep
4. beat	17. feet	30. least	43. reason	55. speak
5. believe	18. field	31. leave	44. receive	56. speed
6. between	19. free	32. me	45. repeat	57. steel
7. clean	20. green	33. mean	46. sea	58. street
8. complete	21. he	34. meat	47. seat	59. these
9. deal	22. he'd	35. meet	48. see	60. three
10. each	23. he's	36. need	49. seem	61. tree
11. east	24. heat	37. people	50. seen	62. we'd
12. easy	25. idea	38. piece	51. she	63. we've
13. eat	26. increase	39. please		64. week

## Commonly Used /a/ Words

1. across	13. column	25. follow	37. oxygen	49. stop
2. all	14. common	26. gone	38. possible	50. strong
3. almost	15. copy	27. got	39. probably	51. talk
4. always	16. cost	28. hot	40. problem	52. tall
5. ball	17. cotton	29. job	41. process	53. top
6. belong	18. cross	30. lost	42. products	54. upon
7. block	19. doctor	31. lot	43. property	55. walk
8. body	20. dog	32. modern	44. rock	56. wash
9. bottom	21. dollars	33. not	45. shop	57. watch
10. box	22. drop	34. object	46. solve	58. water
11. call	23. fall	35. office	47. song	59. wrong
12. caught	24. father	36. opposite	48. spot	

## Commonly Used /ʌ/ Words

1. above	15. discovered	29. money	43. something	57. truck
2. among	16. does	30. months	44. sometimes	58. uncle
3. another	17. doesn't	31. mother	45. son	59. under
4. because	18. done	32. much	46. southern	60. underline
5. become	19. enough	33. must	47. study	61. up
6. blood	20. everyone	34. nothing	48. subject	62. us
7. brother	21. front	35. number	49. substances	63. wasn't
8. but	22. fun	36. once	50. such	64. what
9. color	23. government	37. one	51. suddenly	65. what's
10. come	24. gun	38. other	52. summer	66. young
11. company	25. hundred	39. result	53. sun	
12. country	26. jumped	40. run	54. thus	
13. covered	27. just	41. some	55. touch	
14. cut	28. love	42. someone	56. trouble	

## Commonly Used /ɔ/ Words

1. along	8. cause	15. fault	22. off	29. taught
2. awful	9. cost	16. gone	23. office	30. thought
3. belong	10. cross	17. hall	24. often	31. wrong
4. bought	11. dog	18. halt	25. ought	
5. brought	12. draw	19. law	26. saw	
6. call	13. drawing	20. long	27. soft	
7. caught	14. fall	21. lost	28. tall	

## Commonly Used /o/ Words

1. ago	16. don't	31. most	46. radio	61. stone
2. almost	17. flow	32. no	47. road	62. suppose
3. alone	18. follow	33. nose	48. roll	63. those
4. also	19. go	34. note	49. rolled	64. though
5. although	20. gold	35. notice	50. rope	65. told
6. below	21. grow	36. ocean	51. rose	66. tone
7. blow	22. hold	37. oh	52. row	67. total
8. bones	23. hole	38. old	53. shoulder	68. whole
9. both	24. home	39. only	54. show	69. window
10. broken	25. hope	40. open	55. shown	70. won't
11. close	26. know	41. over	56. slowly	71. wrote
12. clothes	27. known	42. own	57. snow	
13. coast	28. located	43. poem	58. soldiers	
14. cold	29. low	44. pole	59. spoke	
15. control	30. moment	45. produce (noun)	60. spoken	

## Commonly Used /ʊ/ Words

1. book	5. foot	9. push	13. should've	17. wood
2. could	6. good	10. pushed	14. shouldn't	18. would
3. couldn't	7. look	11. put	15. took	19. wouldn't
4. could've	8. pulled	12. should	16. woman	20. would've

**Commonly Used /u/ Words**

1. approve	8. group	15. movement	22. shoes	29. too
2. choose	9. June	16. movie	23. school	30. tools
3. cool	10. knew	17. new	24. solution	31. tube
4. do	11. loose	18. noon	25. soon	32. two
5. flew	12. lose	19. room	26. soup	33. you
6. food	13. moon	20. root	27. through	
7. fruit	14. move	21. rule	28. to	

**Commonly Used /ir/ Words**

1. appear	4. experience	7. here	10. period
2. clear	5. fear	8. material	11. we're
3. ears	6. hear	9. near	12. year

**Commonly Used /ar/ Words**

1. are	6. car	11. hard	16. park	21. start
2. aren't	7. chart	12. heart	17. part	
3. arms	8. dark	13. large	18. party	
4. army	9. far	14. march	19. sharp	
5. art	10. farmers	15. mark	20. stars	

**Commonly Used /or/ Words**

1. before	6. door	11. forward	16. nor	21. short
2. board	7. for	12. four	17. north	22. story
3. born	8. force	13. horse	18. northern	23. warm
4. corner	9. forest	14. more	19. order	24. your
5. course	10. form	15. morning	20. report	25. you're

**Commonly Used /er/ Words**

1. area	4. hair	7. prepare	10. there	13. very
2. experiment	5. pair	8. square	11. they're	14. wear
3. fair	6. paragraph	9. their	12. various	15. where

**Commonly Used /ɜ˞r/ Words**

1. birds	7. during	13. observe	19. surface	25. world
2. certain	8. early	14. person	20. terms	26. work
3. church	9. earth	15. plural <sup>2</sup>	21. turn	27. worker
4. circle	10. first	16. purpose	22. were <sup>1</sup>	28. worry
5. current	11. heard	17. return	23. weren't	
6. determine	12. her <sup>1</sup>	18. sir	24. word	

1 In conversation, this is often an "unimportant word" for the message and is not stressed. If that is the case, then it is said with a /ə-/.  
 2 In some regional North American English dialects, /ʊ+ə/ is the correct way; defer to your area.

**Commonly Used /aɪr/ Words**

1. entire	3. iron
2. fire	4. wire

## Commonly Used /ə/ Words

1. after	17. entered	33. later	49. particular	65. surprise
2. another	18. ever	34. letter	50. pattern	66. together
3. answer	19. exercise	35. major	51. perhaps	67. under
4. better	20. factors	36. matter	52. picture	68. underline
5. brother	21. farmers	37. measure	53. power	69. underneath
6. center	22. father	38. members	54. rather	70. understand
7. century	23. flowers	39. modern	55. record ( <i>noun</i> )	71. understood
8. color	24. for <sup>1</sup>	40. mother	56. remember	72. upper
9. consider	25. forward	41. natural	57. sender	73. water
10. corner	26. general	42. never	58. shoulder	74. weather
11. covered	27. government	43. northern	59. similar	75. were <sup>2</sup>
12. desert ( <i>noun</i> )	28. her <sup>2</sup>	44. number	60. sister	76. western
13. discovered	29. hours	45. order	61. soldiers	77. whether
14. doctor	30. however	46. other	62. southern	78. winter
15. dollars	31. information	47. over	63. sugar	79. wonder
16. energy	32. internet	48. paper	64. summer	80. workers

1 If this word is important to the message (is stressed), then it must be said more precisely, with the /or/ vowel.

2 If this word is important to the message (is stressed), then it must be said more precisely, with the /ɜ:/ vowel

## Commonly Used /ɑɪ/ Words

1. arrived	20. fight	39. lie	58. quiet	77. tie
2. beside	21. file ( <i>noun</i> )	40. life	59. quietly	78. tied
3. bright	22. find	41. light	60. quite	79. tight
4. buy	23. five	42. like	61. require	80. time
5. by	24. fly	43. line	62. requirement	81. tiny
6. bye	25. fry	44. live	63. rice	82. tired
7. child	26. hi	45. memorize	64. ride	83. tonight
8. climb	27. high	46. might	65. right	84. try
9. cried	28. height	47. mild	66. science	85. type
10. crime	29. highway	48. mind	67. scientists	86. variety
11. cry	30. I'll	49. mine	68. shine	87. while
12. decided	31. I'm	50. multiply	69. side	88. white
13. design	32. I've	51. my	70. sidewalk	89. why
14. die	33. ice	52. night	71. sight	90. wide
15. divide	34. icy	53. occupy	72. sign	91. wife
16. divided	35. inside	54. outside	73. silent	92. wipe
17. drive	36. invite	55. pilot	74. size	93. wild
18. dry	37. island	56. price	75. sometimes	94. write
19. exciting	38. kind	57. private	76. surprise	

## Commonly Used /ɑʊ/ Words

1. about	11. flower	21. noun	31. round
2. allow	12. found	22. now	32. shouted
3. amount	13. ground	23. ounce	33. sound
4. around	14. hour	24. our	34. sour
5. cloud	15. house	25. ours	35. south
6. cloudy	16. how	26. out	36. towel
7. count	17. however	27. pounds	37. town
8. doubt	18. loud	28. pronoun	38. vowel
9. down	19. mountain	29. pronounce	39. without
10. downtown	20. mouth	30. proud	

**Commonly Used /ɔɪ/ Words**

- |             |               |           |                           |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1. boy      | 5. employment | 9. lawyer | 13. oily                  |
| 2. choice   | 6. enjoy      | 10. noise | 14. point ( <i>verb</i> ) |
| 3. employ   | 7. enjoyable  | 11. noisy | 15. toilet                |
| 4. employee | 8. join       | 12. oil   | 16. voice                 |

**Commonly Used Syllable Reductions to Schwa /ə/ Words**

- |              |              |              |             |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. about     | 5. condition | 9. listen    | 13. travel  |
| 2. apartment | 6. excellent | 10. parental | 14. trouble |
| 3. arrive    | 7. exercise  | 11. pencil   | 15. welcome |
| 4. company   | 8. kitchen   | 12. question | 16. woman   |

**Reductions & Word Length & Vowel Changes**

- |                                  |                         |                        |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. angry                         | 4. describe/description | 8. produce/production  |
| 2. contain                       | 5. plenty               | 9. relax               |
| 3. demonstrate/<br>demonstration | 6. practice             | 10. success/successful |
|                                  | 7. present/presented    | 11. suppose/supposing  |

**Commonly Used Weak Syllable Deletions**

- |                 |                |                |                  |                |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. business     | 5. family      | 9. preference  | 13. successfully | 17. vegetable  |
| 2. considerable | 6. favorite    | 10. probably   | 14. temperature  | 18. Wednesday  |
| 3. difference   | 7. flowering   | 11. restaurant | 15. toward       | 19. whispering |
| 4. different    | 8. interesting | 12. several    | 16. usual        | 20. whistling  |

**Commonly Used /jʊ/ Additions**

- |         |         |          |
|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. deal | 5. jail | 9. rail  |
| 2. fail | 6. mail | 10. real |
| 3. feel | 7. male | 11. sale |
| 4. file | 8. mile |          |

**Commonly Used /wʊ/ Additions**

- |           |          |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1. hole   | 4. tool  | 7. whole |
| 2. rule   | 5. towel |          |
| 3. school | 6. vowel |          |

**Commonly Used No Vowel Additions Before "l" Words**

- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. all  | 4. fall | 7. pull |
| 2. ball | 5. full | 8. wall |
| 3. call | 6. hall |         |

### Commonly Used /ju/ Additions Before /u/ Words

- |              |             |           |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. argue     | 6. humanity | 11. union |
| 2. beautiful | 7. jewelry  | 12. use   |
| 3. few       | 8. menu     | 13. view  |
| 4. funeral   | 9. regular  |           |
| 5. huge      | 10. uniform |           |

### Commonly Used Simple /ʊ/ Words

- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. due  | 4. ruin | 7. tube |
| 2. duty | 5. suit |         |
| 3. new  | 6. true |         |

### Commonly Used /ju/ in Weak Syllables Words

- |                |               |               |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. argument    | 4. educator   | 7. particular |
| 2. calculating | 5. occupation | 8. regular    |
| 3. education   | 6. occupied   | 9. unpopular  |



### Top 2,400 Words

*In Chapter 6 we challenge you with common words from a High Intermediate level. The pyramid of marbles icon signals notable words frequently listed among the "Top 2,400 Most Commonly Used Words in North American English." These highlighted words are great adult vocabulary and challenge you a bit more. All High Intermediate level English speakers should be able to use these words in conversation. Intermediate+ speakers should also be comfortable with various forms of these words that create: changes in time for verbs, adjectives/adverbs formed from nouns/verbs, plurals, contractions, etc. Can **you** easily use these words?*