

Core Vocabulary

The Same High Frequency Words
are used by all populations
across all environments

March-July 2003

Source of data: Minspeak™ Study Day, UK, March 2003

100 High Frequency: Interview

Total Composite Word Frequency List: Interview Language sample provided by Professor Bruce Baker, Semantic Compaction Systems, March 2003
 'Liberator', strategy, 'speechy', Pathfinder, 'Unity' and 'device' indicate the possible source of this sample as data logged from a Minspeak voice output communication aid (VOCA)

No	Word	Freq	%	No	Word	Freq	%	No	Word	Freq	%	No	Word	Freq	%
1	I	475	6.20	26	What	47	0.61	51	Time	28	0.35	76	Get	19	0.25
2	The	262	3.42	27	Am	43	0.56	52	Would	28	0.35	77	If	19	0.25
3	To	255	3.33	28	Be	43	0.56	53	Going	27	0.34	78	Speech	18	0.23
4	And	210	2.74	29	Don't	42	0.55	54	Will	27	0.34	79	Most	18	0.23
5	A	169	2.21	30	At	41	0.54	55	Use	27	0.33	80	Now	18	0.23
6	It	129	1.68	31	He	41	0.54	56	This	27	0.30	81	School	18	0.23
7	Is	101	1.32	32	We	40	0.52	57	There	26	0.30	82	Which	17	0.22
8	Was	101	1.32	33	Think	38	0.50	58	Work	26	0.30	83	Who	17	0.22
9	That	100	1.31	34	One	37	0.48	59	Say	25	0.29	84	Out	17	0.22
10	In	98	1.28	35	Because	36	0.47	60	From	23	0.29	85	Pathfinder	17	0.22
11	Of	92	1.20	36	So	36	0.47	61	Go	23	0.29	86	Their	17	0.22
12	My	82	1.07	37	When	36	0.47	62	Got	23	0.29	87	Unity	16	0.21
13	You	80	1.04	38	No	35	0.46	63	Can	22	0.29	88	Actually	16	0.21
14	Yes	79	1.03	39	Just	34	0.44	64	Liberator	22	0.29	89	Could	16	0.21
15	For	77	1.00	40	About	33	0.43	65	More	22	0.29	90	Device	16	0.21
16	Have	68	0.89	41	Had	33	0.43	66	Need	22	0.27	91	First	16	0.21
17	Like	68	0.89	42	Words	33	0.43	67	Some	22	0.20	92	Word	16	0.21
18	Me	58	0.76	43	Are	32	0.42	68	Want	22	0.27	93	Been	16	0.20
19	Do	57	0.74	44	I'm	32	0.42	69	Years	22	0.27	94	Better	15	0.20
20	On	56	0.73	45	Not	30	0.39	70	All	21	0.27	95	Different	20	0.26
21	People	56	0.73	46	Well	30	0.39	71	Help	21	0.26	96	Really	20	0.26
22	But	54	0.70	47	How	29	0.38	72	She	21	0.37	97	Things	20	0.26
23	Know	54	0.70	48	Them	29	0.38	73	Strategy	21	0.37	98	Two	19	0.25
24	With	53	0.69	49	It's	28	0.37	74	Then	21	0.35	99	Did	19	0.25
25	They	51	0.67	50	Or	28	0.37	75	As	20	0.35	100	However	19	0.25

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Just the Top 60 Interview Words

Top 60 from the 100-word list in order of frequency

Word	Freq	%	Word	Freq	%	Word	Freq	%	Word	Freq	%
I	475	6.20	Have	68	0.89	He	41	0.54	Well	30	0.39
The	262	3.42	Like	68	0.89	We	40	0.52	How	29	0.38
To	255	3.33	Me	58	0.76	Think	38	0.50	Them	29	0.38
And	210	2.74	Do	57	0.74	One	37	0.48	It's	28	0.37
A	169	2.21	On	56	0.73	Because	36	0.47	Or	28	0.37
It	129	1.68	People	56	0.73	So	36	0.47	Time	28	0.37
Is	101	1.32	But	54	0.70	When	36	0.47	Would	28	0.37
Was	101	1.32	Know	54	0.70	No	35	0.46	Going	27	0.35
That	100	1.31	With	53	0.69	Just	34	0.44	Will	27	0.35
In	98	1.28	They	51	0.67	About	33	0.43	Use	27	0.35
Of	92	1.20	What	47	0.61	Had	33	0.43	This	27	0.35
My	82	1.07	Am	43	0.56	Words	33	0.43	There	26	0.34
You	80	1.04	Be	43	0.56	Are	32	0.42	Work	26	0.34
Yes	79	1.03	Don't	42	0.55	I'm	32	0.42	Say	25	0.33
For	77	1.00	At	41	0.54	Not	30	0.39	From	23	0.30

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How Many Words?

Word **no. 1** occurs **475 times** and accounts for **6.2%**
of the **total no. of words** in the sample.

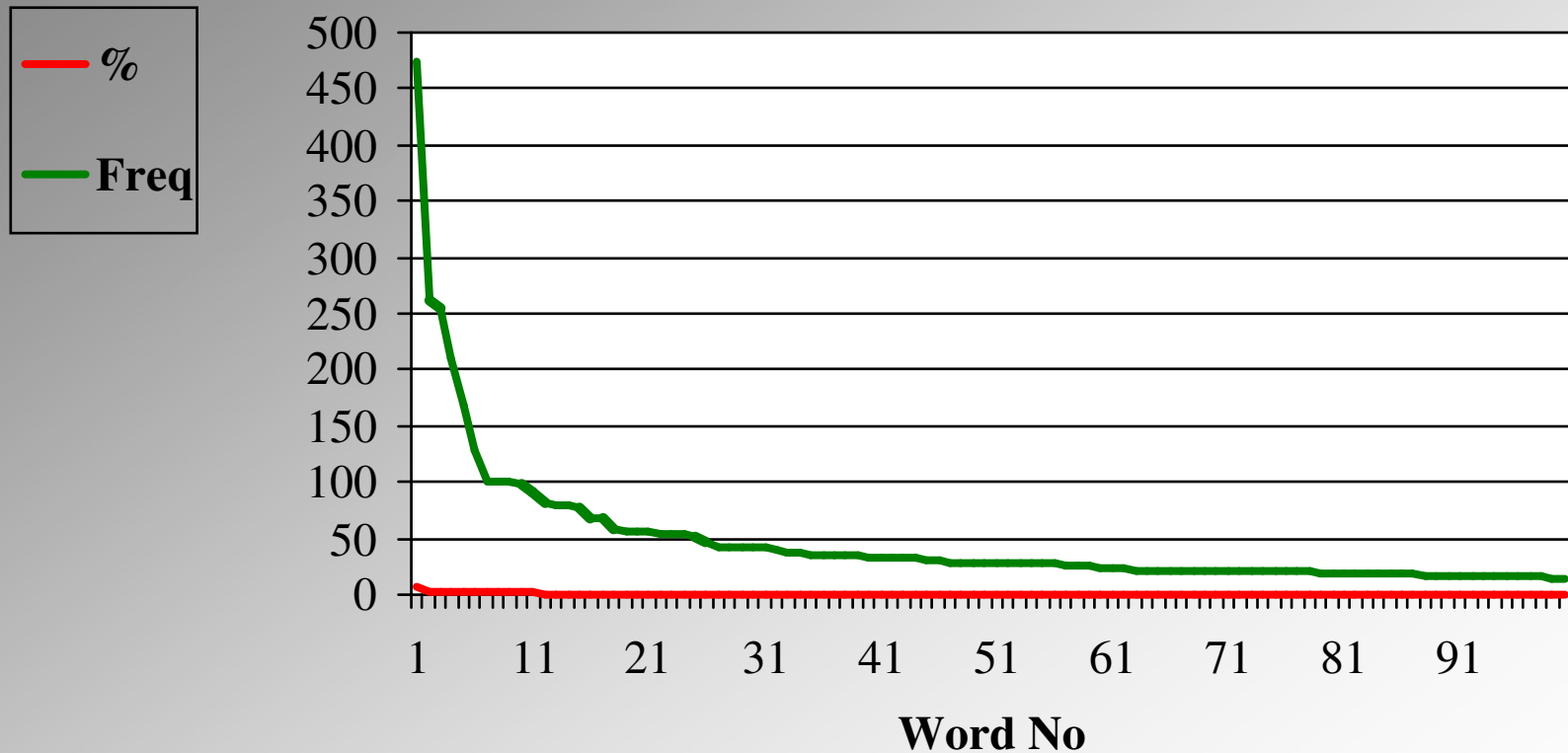
$$\text{if } 6.2\% \times 16.129 = 100\%$$

$$\text{then } 475 \text{ words} \times 16.129 = 100\%$$

$$\text{and } 475 \text{ words} \times 16.129 = 7,661 \text{ total words.}$$

A sum of the **Frequency Column** reveals that these **100 words** account for around **5,000** of the **7,661** total individual word occurrences, or **66%**

Frequency of Occurrence & Percentage of Whole Sample



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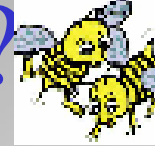
Where Are These Words From?

The **'Fringe words'**: **'Liberator', 'Strategy', 'Speech', 'Pathfinder', 'Unity' and 'Device'** in the **100 Interview Words** indicate that the source of the sample was probably a **data log taken from a Minspeak** communication aid.

And it was **Professor Bruce Baker**, developer of **'Semantic Compaction'** and **'Minspeak'** who gave us the **language sample wordlists**, one from 3-4 years old speaking children, and one from and Interview with an AAC user.



What Are They ?



- Pronoun variations (Me, Myself, I, My, Mine...)
- Verbs
- There are 30 'little' words (placement, joining, indefinite pronouns & articles, time, number, th- and wh- words) in the top 60 of the 100 words list
- Only a few nouns exist in the high frequency words lists. (300 words = 80+% daily speech)

Frequently Occurring Home and School Words
 From "Vocabulary Use Patterns in Pre-School Children: Effects of Context and Time Sampling"

Christine A Marvin, David Beukelman and Denise Bilyeu:

Augmentative and Alternative Communication Volume 10, December 1994

About	Better	Cut	Fixed	Head	Jump	Mommy	Out	So	Three	We
After	Big	Day	Fly	Hear	Jumped	More	Over	Still	Threw	We'll
Again	Bird	Did	Foot	Hello	Jumping	Most	Paint	Some	Through	We're
Ah	Birds	Didn't	For	Help	Just	Move	People	Somebody	Time	Well
All	Bite	Different	From	Here	Kind	Much	Pet	Someone	To	Went
Almost	Black	Do	Found	Here's	Know	Must	Pick	Something	Today	Were
Already	Blue	Doctor	Get	Hi	Last	My	Piece	Sometimes	Together	What
Also	Both	Does	Gets	High	Leaves	Myself	Play	Somewhere	Too	What's
An	Box	Doesn't	Getting	Hill	Let	Name	Please	Stop	Top	When
And	Boy	Dog	Girl	Him	Let's	Named	Push	Stuff	Toys	Where
Another	Bugs	Doing	Girls	His	Lift	Need	Put	Swing	Trees	Where's
Ant	But	Don't	Give	Home	Like	Never	Ready	Tape	Try	Which
Any	By	Done	Go	Hold	Little	New	Really	Tell	Trying	While
Are	Bye	Door	Goes	Horse	Long	Next	Red	Than	Turn	Who
Aren't	Call	Down	Going	Hot	Look	Nice	Remember	That	Turtles	Whole
Around	Came	Drink	Gonna	House	Looking	No	Ride	That's	Two	Why
As	Can	Duck	Good	How	Lot	Not	Right	The	Um	With
At	Can't	Eat	Great	Huh	Lunch	Of	Room	Their	Up	Won't
Away	Candy	Eating	Green	Hum	Made	Off	Run	Them	Us	Would
Baby	Car	Else	Guys	I	Make	Oh	Said	Then	Use	Ya
Back	Catch	Even	Had	I'll	Man	Other	Same	There	Used	Yes
Bad	Cause	Everybody	Hair	I'm	Many	OK	Saw	There's	Very	Yet
Ball	Chair	Everything	Hand	If	May	Old	Say	These	Wait	You
Bedroom	Come	Face	Hands	In	Maybe	On	See	They	Want	You'll
Be	Comes	Fall	Has	Inside	Me	One	She	They'll	Wanted	You're
Because	Coming	Find	Have	Is	Mean	Only	She's	They're	Was	Yours
Been	Coolie	Finger	Haven't	Isn't	Messy	Open	Show	Thing	Wasn't	
Before	Could	Fire	He	It	Middle	Or	Shut	Things	Watch	
Being	Couldn't	First	He's	It's	Mine	Our	Side	This	Water	
Bet	Cup	Five	Her	Juice	Mom	Ours	Sit	Those	Way	

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Word Analysis

Teens & Young Adults

Setting	Total No of Words	No of Fringe Words	Fringe Words = % of Total
Work	25,678	1,443	5.6%
Fact Finding	13,912	1,122	8%
Food	13,119	286	2.2%
Family Life	6,520	703	10.8%
Judgements	5,355	561	10.5%

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A Small Sub-Set Makes Up One Fifth of Daily Speech, e.g:

Personal Pronouns

I
You
He
She
It
We
They

Modals

Do/Does/Did
Will
Would
Could
Must/May
Might
Can
Should/Ought
Shall

Auxiliaries

Am/are/is
Was/were
Be/been
Have/has

Semi-Modal Phrases

Have to
Used to
To be going to
Would like to
Might have been
Don't have to
Mustn't be doing
Ought to be going

Common Co-locations +

What's that? That's mine. My turn. All gone. Want more. Where is it? Here it is. Over there. Like this. Have you? Will You? Can You? Could You? It is. Isn't it? He doesn't, does he? You wouldn't. I used to. Where did you put my..? Have you seen it? I can't find it. Is it in the..? Will you get it for me? What do you think?

(Does anyone know what happened to the little boy who got everything he ever wanted? He lived happily ever after. I like your coat. Where did you get it? I'd like one like that myself. It looks like a warm coat. Can I try it on? I'll give it straight back. Where do you live? Will you come to my house one day? Call me).

Tips for Assessing a Device

- Take a list of high frequency words with you and check that they are stored on the device by default.
- If these words are missing you won't be able to use the device for spontaneous conversation.
- Have some test sentences and phrases ready.
- Ask to meet a proficient user of any device under consideration.
- Ask for a thorough demonstration, and trial loan.

End

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