

5 Types of English Spelling Patterns

	Simple	Fancy	Insane	Tricky	Scrunched Up
1	cat, big, call, dog, run, stay, jump, at, shop, space	onion, person, station, caution social, crucial, picnic, nature, special	does, have, daughter, should, laugh, was, cousin, laughter, eye	deer/dear, aunt/ant/Aunt be/bee, red/read/reed eye/I/aye flu/flew/flue	it's, didn't, Mr., Mrs., Ms., Ave., Dr., St., they're,
2	stunned, chewing, missed, pinning, outfield, preacher, beginning, dining	suspicious, atrocious constitutionality, initially, chronicles, featured, linguistics, repetition	lingerie, corps, draught, salve, soldering, aye, indicted, coups	do/dew/due aisle/isle/I'll passed/past mist/missed affect/effect taut/taught accept/except yolk/yoke	CIA, PED XING, "sposta," ASAP, "shooda," "hafta," "wanna," "gonna"
3	peddled, strictly, squelched,, belittled, enacted, forgeries, enabled, shackled, neglect, preferred	flambeau, Chablis, mousse, ennui, physiology, cuisine, psychiatrists, cliché, quiche, chateau, rendezvous, suede, escargots, pique, beret	potpourri, quay, Qin, hors d'oeuvres, victuals, cliché, conch, jai alai, ciao, ribald, lough	allusion/illusion, sects/sex venal/venial cache/cash waiver/waver spade/spayed palate/pallet. salon/saloon, obsess/absess/assess	e.g., "whudja," Ste., Y2K, i.e., sic, et. al., SQ3R, WPA, CIA, WASP, "gotcha," ASAP, tsk, tsk.

A frequency chart from *Origins of the English Language* by Joseph M. Williams

Decile	"Simple"	"Fancy"			
	English	French	Latin	Danish	Greek & Other
1 st 1,000	83%	11%	2%	2%	2%
2 nd 1,000	34%	46%	11%	2%	7%
3 rd 1,000	29%	46%	14%	1%	10%
4 th 1,000	27%	45%	17%	1%	10%
5 th 1,000	27%	47%	17%	1%	8%
6 th 1,000	27%	42%	19%	2%	10%
7 th 1,000	23%	45%	17%	2%	13%
8 th 1,000	26%	41%	18%	2%	13%
9 th 1,000	25%	41%	17%	2%	15%
10 th 1,000	25%	42%	18%	1%	14%

Summary: After the 1st 1,000 most frequently used words about only **one out of four words** contain patterns encountered or taught in the first two grades of school. In other words, 3 out of every four words will contain patterns neither taught nor encountered in the first two years of school.