4000 ESSENTIAL ENGLISH WORDS 3

• SECOND EDITION •





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SECOND EDITION

400 ESSENTIAL ENGLISH NORDS

3



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INTRODUCTION

About the Vocabulary

The 600 words in each book of this series, along with the additional target words in the appendices found in the first three books of the series, include the most useful words in English. The books are based on the carefully researched BNC/COCA word frequency lists, which can be found on Paul Nation's website. Because of the way that they were chosen, these words have the following characteristics:

- 1. They are useful in both spoken and written English. No matter what English course a learner is studying, the words in these books will be of value.
- 2. Each word in these books is a high-frequency word or mid-frequency word. This means that the effort invested in learning the words will not be wasted. Learners will have many chances to encounter or use them in their studies.
- 3. As a whole, these books cover a large proportion of the words in any spoken or written text. They cover at least 80% of the words in newspapers and academic texts, and at least 90% of the words in novels. They also cover at least 90% of the words in conversation.

About the Books

The activities in these books are specially designed to make use of important learning conditions. The words are introduced using sentence definitions and an example sentence. The activities that follow in the units encourage learners to recall the meanings and forms of the words. Some activities also make the learners think about the meaning of the words in the context of a sentence—a sentence which differs from the sentences that occurred in the introduction of the words. Moreover, each unit ends with a story containing the target words. While reading the story, the learners have a chance to recall the meanings of the words and adapt them to the context of the story. Such activities help learners develop a better understanding of a common meaning for a given word that fits the different uses.

Images for each target word help learners visualize the word as it is used in the example sentence. These word-image associations help students grasp the meaning of the word as well as recall the word later.

Book 1 assumes that the learner knows around 400 words of English and focuses on the remaining words in the first 1000, plus some from the second 1000.

Book 4 focuses primarily on the words in Averil Coxhead's well-known Academic Word List. This list of 570 words is particularly useful for learners of English as a foreign language who need to read academic texts in English at secondary school or university level, and who need to speak, write, and listen to lectures on academic topics in English.

Although many words have more than one grammatical form, this series focuses on the word's most common form. This is mentioned to remind learners that, just because a word is labeled and used as a noun in this series, does not mean that it can never be used in another form. This series has simply focused on the word in the form in which it is most likely to be used.

To ensure that a wide range of learners in any given class can find useful words to learn in each unit, the inclusion of words does not strictly adhere to each 1000-word level. However, there is a progression from the first 1000 words to the fourth 1000 words through the books in the series. Table 1 shows the levels of

Table 1: The books in the 4000 ESSENTIAL ENGLISH WORDS series, frequency levels, and CEFR levels

4000 Level books	Major word level in the books	CEFR level
Book 1	1000	A2
Book 2	1000-2000	A2
Book 3	2000-3000	B1
Book 4	AWL	B2
Book 5	3000-4000	B2
Book 6	4000	C1

Supporting Learning with Other Activities

A well-balanced language course provides four major opportunities for learning: learning through input, learning through output, deliberate learning, and fluency development. The highly structured activities in these books support all four types of learning opportunities. Learning can further be supported through the following activities:

- Have students create vocabulary cards with one word from the unit on one side of the card and the
 translation of the word in the student's first language on the other side. Students should use the cards
 for study in free moments during the day. Over several weeks, students will find that quick repeated
 studying for brief periods of time is more effective than studying for hours at one sitting.
- 2. Assign graded readers at appropriate levels. Reading such books provides both enjoyment as well as meaning-focused input, which will improve student recall of the words.
- 3. Practice reading fluency to promote faster recall of word meaning for both sight recognition and usage. Compass Publishing's *Reading for Speed and Fluency* is an invaluable resource for reading fluency material.
- 4. Include listening, speaking, and writing activities in classes. Reinforcement of the high-frequency vocabulary presented in this series is important across all four language skills.



the books.

Author Paul Nation

Paul Nation is Emeritus Professor of Applied Linguistics in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He has taught in Indonesia, Thailand, the United States, Finland, and Japan. His specialist interests are language teaching methodology and vocabulary learning.

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WORD LIST



□ acre [éikər]

n. An **acre** is a unit for measuring area. They lived on a 150-acre farm.



□ afterlife [æftərlaif]

n. The afterlife is a life that some people believe begins when a person dies.I believe that there is an afterlife.



archaeology [à:rkiálədʒi]

n. Archaeology is the study of the remains left by ancient societies.
 He enjoyed visiting the Great Pyramids of Egypt because he loves archaeology.



chamber [tféimbər]

n. A chamber is a closed space or room used for a special purpose. The meeting was held in the faculty chamber.



Channel [tʃænl]

n. A **channel** is a long, deep space between two edges. The river cut a **channel** through the rocks.



Core [ko:r]

n. A core is the main or central part of something.
 Earth has a solid inner core.



Corridor [kɔ́:ridər]

A corridor is a narrow passage that leads into other areas.
 He took the corridor on the left to go to his office.



■ distinct [distinkt]

adj. A distinct thing is different or stands out. He has a distinct accent.



elite [eilí:t]

adj. Elite means of or from a high-level group.Only an elite group was allowed membership into the club.



engineer [èndʒiníər]

v. To **engineer** something is to skillfully plan out how to make that thing.

After **engineering** the robot, they needed to find the correct parts to build it.



Track 1-1



☐ **found** [féund]

 ν . To **found** something means to start, organize, or establish that thing. My grandfather **founded** the City Bank.



gap [gæp]

n. A **gap** is a space between two things.

There is a small **gap** between the blocks of wood.



☐ **glory** [glɔ́:ri]

n. Glory is the importance, magnificence, or specialness of something.They enjoyed the glory of the beautiful sunset.



interior [intierier]

n. An interior is the inside of something.They looked at the interior of the box.



☐ **lion** [láiən]

n. A lion is a large animal in the cat family.We went to see the lion at the zoo.



☐ role [roʊl]

n. A role is a job, position, or part in something.Her role in the office is to sell products to customers.



oroyal [róiəl]

adj. Royal means related to a king or queen.
The Duchess was part of the royal family.



■ sole [soul]

adj. A **sole** person or thing is the only one. She was the **sole** woman in the room.



stairs [stεərz]

n. Stairs are a set of steps built to go from one level of a building to another.
 He took the stairs instead of the elevator.



Surface [sé:rfis]

n. The surface is the top layer of something.She wiped the surface of the table.

EXERCISES

Cir	Circle the word that fits the definition.			
1.	The study of ancie	ent societies by exam	mining their building	s, tools, and othe
	a. archaeology	b. surface	c. stairs	d. corridor
2.	A large animal fror	m the cat family		
	a. sole	b. distinct	c. sphinx	d. lion
3.	Another life that so	ome people believe	begins after death	
	a. king	b. pyramid	c. chamber	d. afterlife
4.	A unit for measuri	ng area		
	a. royal	b. limestone	c. acre	d. soul
5.	The inside of some	ething		
	a. interior	b. sphinx	c. glory	d. elite

B Write the word from the word bank that best fits each sentence.

W	DRD BANK				
	glory	distinct	interior	role	elite
1.	Members of the _		group were all	lowed to er	ter without a probl
2.	She had a(n)	bir	thmark on her	forearm.	
3.	The Statue of Lib	erty was displ	ayed in all its	Π	
4.	The	_ of the royal	chamber was	beautifully	designed.
5.	Thomas Jefferson United States.	n played an im	portant	ir	the history of the

C

Write the phrase that best fits each sentence.

- a. there was a huge gap under the door
- b. planned the design carefully
- c. she is a queen
- d. he is an only child
- e. differs by religion
- 1. He wanted to **engineer** the machine, so he ______
- 2. Queen Elizabeth can be considered a member of the elite class because
- 3. He is the **sole** heir of the family fortune because
- 4. A **lion** was able to come into the house because ______.
- 5. The idea of an afterlife and what happens after death _____.

D

Match to complete the words. Then write the part of speech.

- 1. archaeo terior →
- 2. in • life →
- 3. sur • face →
- 4. cham • ber → _____
- 5. after logy →

The Great Pyramids Of Egypt

The **distinct** history of the famous Great Pyramids has been studied for many years by people who study **archaeology**. The pyramids were built nearly 5,000 years ago!

According to ancient Egyptians, kings played an important **role** in the building of the pyramids. Egyptians believed that kings were chosen by the gods and that, when a king died, he went on to become the god of the dead in the **afterlife**. Gold, food, and clothes were buried with the body so that the spirit would have these things in the afterlife. The **royal** family and other **elite** individuals were also buried near the king. Pyramids were **founded** for the **sole** reason of helping the king by containing his things for the afterlife.

The biggest of the three pyramids is known as the Great Pyramid. This structure took over twenty years to **engineer**. The Great Pyramid is made of over 2.5 million stone blocks; the base alone covers an area of thirteen **acres**. (One acre is almost the size of a football field.) The visible **core** of the Great Pyramid was originally covered by smooth casing stones. Some of the casing stones that cover the **surface** can still be seen at the base. The stones were laid so well that there is not a single **gap** between them.

The **interior** of the Great Pyramid is accessible through **stairs** that lead to a **channel**, which then divides into a **corridor** going up and another going down. The rising corridor goes up to the Queen's Chamber, the Grand Gallery, and the King's **Chamber**. The other corridor goes down to a underground chamber and an escape tunnel.

The Sphinx is a big statue of a **lion** with a human head and can be found near the Great Pyramid. The statue is also made from big stones, and it is said to guard the pyramid.

Surrounded by history and mystery, the Great Pyramids of Egypt are a popular place to visit, and tourists come from around the world to see their **glory**.





fal	se sta	atements to make them true.
1.		The Great Pyramids are located in China.
2.		Kings lived in the pyramids when they were alive.
3.		The Great Pyramids of Egypt were built in 2000.
4.		A queen and king shared the same chamber inside the Great Pyramid.
5.		The Great Pyramids of Egypt are a popular spot for visito
6.		In the afterlife, a king went on to become the god of the pyramid.

- culture?
 - a. He was special because he was chosen by the gods.
 - b. He built the Sphinx.
 - c. He liked gold.
 - d. He was a god during his lifetime.
- 2. Why did ancient Egyptians build the Great Pyramids?
 - a. To help their king and provide for him in the afterlife
 - b. So that Egyptians could be famous
 - c. So that people from all over the world would visit Egypt
 - d. To employ the workers who built the pyramids
- 3. Why was the king buried with gold, food, and clothing?
 - a. So he would not have to leave those things to his children
 - b. So his spirit would have everything it required in the afterlife
 - c. So the gueen would miss him when he died
 - d. So that tourists would not be able to take his gold

2

WORD LIST



agreement [əgrí:mənt]

n. An **agreement** is a formal decision about future action. I think you'll get Tom's **agreement** to this proposal.



☐ arise [əráiz]

v. To **arise** is to happen.

Difficulties **arose** with his computer because it was old.



■ benefactor [bénəfæktər]

n. A benefactor is a person who gives money to help someone.
The student's benefactor gave him money to spend on his studies.



□ blacksmith [blæksmiθ]

n. A blacksmith is a person who makes things out of metal.
 The blacksmith pounded the piece of metal until it was flat.



☐ **chimney** [tʃimni]

n. A **chimney** is a tall pipe used to carry smoke out of a building. The cat was sitting on the roof next to the **chimney**.



Compensate [kámpənsèit]

v. To **compensate** is to pay someone for the time they spent doing something. Her boss **compensated** her for the extra work she did last week.



encounter [inkáuntər]

v. To **encounter** is to find or meet a person or thing.

I **encountered** a sea turtle while I was swimming.



exceed [lksí:d]

v. To **exceed** is to be more than something.

Since I **exceeded** my limit, I decided to get rid of my credit cards.



☐ forge [fɔ:rdʒ]

v. To **forge** is to make or produce, especially with difficulty.

Stacy and Heather **forged** their friendship when they were teenagers.



☐ humble [hámbl]

adj. People who are humble do not believe that they are better than other people. Even though Bob is the smartest boy in his class, he is humble.



Track 2-1



iron [áiərn]

n. Iron is a strong metal that is used to make many objects.The horse had shoes made of iron.



□ ladder [lædər]

n. A ladder is an object that is used to climb up and down things. He used a ladder to climb to the top of his tree house.



☐ modest [mádist]

adj. If people are **modest**, they do not think that they are too important. Derek is very **modest** for someone who is so rich.



OCCUPY [άkjupài]

v. To **occupy** a place is to live, work, or be there. Kevin and Alice **occupied** the chairs and had a long discussion.



penny [péni]

n. A penny is a coin worth one cent.
 US President Abraham Lincoln is on the penny.



preach [pri:tj]

v. To **preach** is to talk about and promote a religious idea.
 Aaron often **preached** about living an honest life.



prosper [práspər]

v. To **prosper** is to be successful or make a lot of money.

Frank's new business finally **prospered** after many years of hard work.



province [právins]

n. A **province** is an area that is controlled by a country. Canada is divided into several different **provinces**.



satisfaction [sætisfæk[en]

n. Satisfaction is the feeling of having done or received something good.
Brad was filled with satisfaction when he saw what was for dinner.



Sustain [səstéin]

v. To sustain something is to keep it going.

Wind power is a clean way to sustain a city with energy.

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EXERCISES

Circle the word that fits the definition.

- 1. to make or produce with difficulty
 - a. prosper b. arise c. penny
- 2. a person who works with metal
 - a. iron b. blacksmith c. agreement d. benefactor

d. forge

- 3. to keep something going
 - a. exceed b. sustain c. preach d. occupy
- 4. an area that is part of a country
 - a. ladder b. province c. encounter d. compensate
- 5. thinking of oneself as not being too important
 - a. penny b. satisfaction c. chimney d. modest

B Circle the right definition for the given word.

- benefactor
 - a. giver b. an area c. money d. too much
- compensate
 - a. where smoke goesb. to shape metalc. a tool used to climbd. to pay someone
- 3. occupy
 - a. to be richb. to happenc. to see someone you knowd. to be in a place
- 4. iron
 - a. a small coinb. a type of metalc. a good feelingd. a person who makes things with metal
- exceed
 - a. to keep something goingb. to not talk about yourself too muchc. to be kind to othersd. to go past a certain limit

Circle the answer that best fits the question.

1.	Which of the following is a form of money?				
	a. A province	b. A penny			
	c. A blacksmith	d. A ladder			
2.	If you meet a boy on the street,	you him.			
	a. exceed	b. occupy			
	c. encounter	d. sustain			
3.	Which of the following is a good	d feeling?			
	a. Modest	b. Humble			
	c. Satisfaction	d. Charitable			
4.	Which one is part of a house?				
	a. Forge	b. Compensate			
	c. Arise	d. Chimney			
5.	Which word relates to religion?				
	a. Iron	b. Preach			
	c. Benefactor	d. Prosper			
6.	Which of the following means to	o happen?			
	a. Sustain	b. Arise			
	c. Province	d. Prosper			
7 .	Which of the following do peop	le use to reach high places?			
	a. A chimney	b. A blacksmith			
	c. A benefactor	d. A ladder			
8.	If you are smart with your mone	ey, then what will happen to you?			
	a. You will occupy a jail cell.	b. You will forge a strong relationship.			
	c. You will prosper.	d. You will become humble.			
9.	What do we require from every	one before beginning something in a group?			
	a. Laughter	b. Agreement			
	c. Home	d. Ladder			
10.	Which of the following describe others?	es people who think they are not better than			
	a. Benefactor	b. Satisfaction			
	c. Humble	d. Compensate			



At Christmas, children wait for Saint Nicholas to bring gifts down the **chimney**. But it's not just a story. Saint Nicholas was a real person.

A long time ago, a man named Marcus **occupied** a house with his family. He was not **modest**. He always told everybody he was the strongest man in the **province**.

He worked hard, but he could barely **sustain** his family. He wanted to save money and **prosper**. Still, he could never earn a **penny** more than he needed.

One day, Marcus made an agreement with a **blacksmith**. The blacksmith had a lot of work to do, but he couldn't do it all by himself. Marcus wanted to help him **forge iron**. The blacksmith agreed to **compensate** him with a lot of money.

In the same town, there was a man named Nicholas. At an early age, Nicholas started **preaching**. But he also believed that he should be **humble** and helpful. He learned that helping people gave him even more **satisfaction** than preaching.

One day, Nicholas **encountered** Marcus. Marcus told Nicholas about his **agreement** with the blacksmith. "I worked hard for him," Marcus said, "but a problem **arose**. Even though I worked for him, he didn't pay me."

Nicholas wanted to help Marcus. That night, he went back to Marcus's house. He brought a bag of gold. It **exceeded** the amount that Marcus needed. Nicholas climbed up a **ladder** and dropped the bag of gold down the chimney. Marcus thanked his **benefactor**.

Soon, people found out about Nicholas's gift. He became well known and loved. Even today, people still give secret gifts to children. And we say they are from Saint Nicholas.



READING COMPREHENSION

PART	Mark each statement T for true or F for false. Rewrite th
^	false statements to make them true.

1		Marcus occupied a home with Nicholas.
1.		marcus occupied a nome with Nicholas.
2.		Marcus told Nicholas about his problem when he encountered Nicholas.
3.		A problem arose for Marcus because he enjoyed preaching.
4.		Nicholas got a lot of satisfaction from being charitable and humble.
5.		Marcus was compensated by the blacksmith for helping forge iron.
6.	_	The money that Nicholas gave Marcus exceeded the amount he needed.

Answer the questions.

- 1. Which of the following is true about the job Marcus did?
 - a. He made pennies.
 - b. He was always compensated fairly.
 - c. He preached to people.
 - d. He barely sustained his family.
- 2. Why didn't Nicolas tell people that he gave money away?
 - a. He prospered.
 - b. He didn't want to be modest.
 - c. He wanted to be humble.
 - d. He wasn't popular in the province.
- 3. Why did Marcus want more money?
 - a. To buy more iron
- b. To feed his family
- c. To give it away
- d. To become a blacksmith



WORD LIST



acquire [əkwáiər]

v. To acquire something is to get or gain possession of that thing. Tina acquired a strange package yesterday.



■ awkward [ó:kwərd]

adj. An **awkward** thing is embarrassing and uncomfortable. After dropping his coffee cup, Robbie felt **awkward**.



Caretaker [kέərtèikər]

n. A caretaker is a person who takes care of very young, old, or sick people.
My grandmother's caretaker helps her get around the house.



deceive [disí:v]

v. To **deceive** is to make someone believe something that is not true. He tried to **deceive** his friends with a card trick.



☐ discourage [diské:ridʒ]

v. To **discourage** is to make someone feel less excited about something. Mr. Perry **discouraged** the students from quitting school.



☐ fake [feik]

adj. A **fake** thing is made to look real in order to trick people. The model was wearing **fake** hair.



hatred [héitrid]

n. **Hatred** is a strong feeling of not liking someone or something. I have a **hatred** for the taste of medicine.



□ hut [hʌt]

n. A hut is a house made of wood, grass, or mud that has only one or two rooms.
We all went into the hut to sleep.



inferior [infiəriər]

adj. An inferior thing is not as good as something else.

Cars built a hundred years ago are inferior to ones built today.



☐ lodge [ladʒ]

n. A lodge is a house in the mountains used by people who hunt or fish. During our ski trip, we stayed at a lodge.