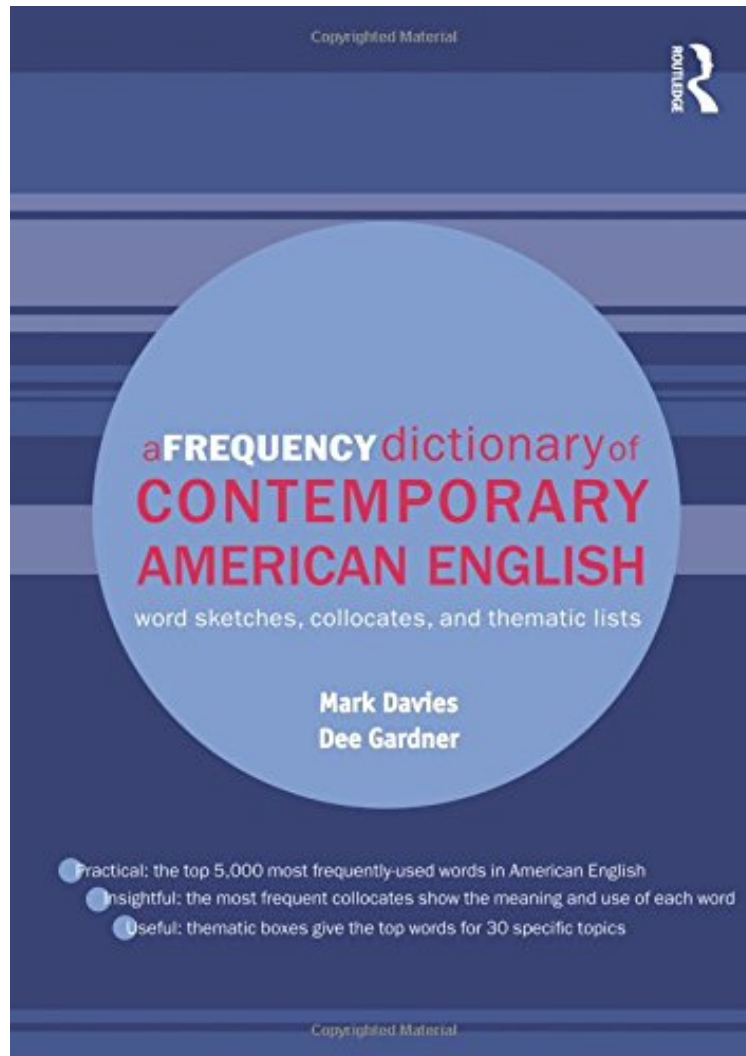


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## A Frequency Dictionary of Contemporary American English: Word Sketches, Collocates and Thematic Lists (Routledge Frequency Dictionaries)

Mark Davies, Dee Gardner

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Mark Davies, Dee Gardner : A Frequency Dictionary of Contemporary American English: Word Sketches, Collocates and Thematic Lists (Routledge Frequency Dictionaries) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Frequency Dictionary of Contemporary American English: Word Sketches, Collocates and Thematic Lists (Routledge Frequency Dictionaries):

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Phenomenal Job of Providing very Fascinating Information about American English By Clinton D. Stevens I love word books of many types, and this book not only contains word frequency data on the 5000 most used words in American English, but also provides additional words that most often accompany the 5000 words when they appear in speech and print. For example, the 1974th most commonly used word is "apart," and the associated words that are most often used with apart, are: fall, tear, foot, far, set, break, inch, pull, rip, year, keep, about, mile, and shoulder-width. The book also contains a full index of the words and their frequency ranking, so they can easily be found without going through the front of the book. The entries for each word also contain the part of speech for each word, as well as variants of the words, such as goes, going, went, and gone which belong to the "head word" or "lemma" go. The word's statistical dispersion (the degree to which the word is found across 100 corpora) is also included. Interestingly, the corpus the book was based on contains over 400 MILLION words, so this was no small task. Another feature of the book is the presence of 31 different thematic vocabulary lists ranging from colors and professions to emotions and word length. Overall, this is one outstanding book for any logophile, linguist, researcher, and English professor. It contains outstanding information and is an excellent reference book for anyone who loves the English language.

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Resource By nathanrutledge This is a must have for anyone teaching ESL/EFL. Why waste your time teaching vocabulary words that the students will never use? With this book, you get the 5000 most common vocabulary words based on a 385 million plus corpus. If it's not in this book, odds are your students won't need to know it in everyday conversation. Each word has a list of words around it so you know the context in which the word is used. There are many sub lists of things such as animals, professions, weather, etc based on the main book. Very helpful for creating vocabulary lists and simplifying your writing for a lower level audience. Anyone teaching, learning, or writing for the ESL/EFL populace should have a copy of this book.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. 5,000 Words and Their Known Associates By John M. Ford This book contains standardized information about the 5,000 most frequently-used words in American English. The words are listed in descending rank order of frequency. In addition to the frequency information, the entry for each word contains a list of the top 20 or so words which most often appear near it. The frequency and collocation information was obtained from a 385 million word corpus, assembled from 150,000 documents. In addition to its primary list, the book also contains 31 smaller lists with the most frequent words used for specific topics. Two indices allow word lookup in the main list alphabetically or by part of speech. As the authors intend, this material has a number of uses in language learning and translation. It is also a great resource for text analysts and computational linguists (see Weiss, Indurkha and Zhang's Fundamentals of Predictive Text Mining). Its contents can be used to create expected frequency word lists that can detect patterns of emphasis in text documents. The collocation information can also be used to resolve ambiguity between different word senses in natural language processing. This source is conveniently organized for those who want to explore the connections between frequent words and the words around them. Those contemplating large projects might be best served by the disc-based version.

A Frequency Dictionary of Contemporary American English is an invaluable tool for all learners of American English, providing a list of the 5,000 most frequently used words in the language. The dictionary is based on data from a 385 million word corpus evenly balanced between spoken English (unscripted conversation from radio and TV shows); fiction (books, short stories, movie scripts); more than 100 popular magazines; ten newspapers; and 100 academic journals for a total of nearly 150,000 texts. All entries in the rank frequency list also feature the top 20-30 collocates (nearby words) for that word, which provide valuable insight into the meaning and usage. Alphabetical and part-of speech indexes are provided for ease of use. The dictionary also contains 31 thematically organised and frequency-ranked lists of words on a variety of topics, such as family, sports, and food. New words in the language, differences between American and British English, and grammar topics like the most frequent phrasal verbs are also covered. A Frequency Dictionary of Contemporary American English is an engaging and efficient resource enabling students of all levels to get the most out of their study of vocabulary. It is also a rich resource for language teaching, research, curriculum design, and materials development. A CD version is available to purchase separately. Designed for use by corpus and computational linguists it provides the full text in a format that researchers can process and turn into suitable lists for their own research work.

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