

A Consideration of English Education in Two-Year-College Programs

—a proposal for basic English words (1)—

Reiko Megumi

I. Introduction

We live in an advanced scientific age and in an ever shrinking world. Information travels almost instantaneously around the world via satellite and international travel continues to expand. National boundaries, in terms of human interaction, cultural exchange, and business, continue to diminish. Demand for English comprehension and fluency is, therefore, increasing in importance. Bilingual skills are a fundamental element in strong academic and business growth.

Unfortunately, new high school graduates enter college with decreased English training. Since 1981, for example, English classes in junior high school have been reduced from 5-6 hours per week to 3 hours per week¹⁾. Attempting to enhance Japanese student's English ability, this paper reviews a proposed English vocabulary to serve as a basis for the improvement of reading and understanding English in newspapers, books, television, and radio.

Improvements in curriculum planning regarding English training are also recommended. Given the deep importance of English ability in our society, dilution of English training with other foreign language requirements such as French, German, Spanish, etc., should be reconsidered. Perhaps these secondary foreign languages should be available as electives as the option of the student. Such a reorganization would improve the English faculty-to-student ratio in some schools by expanding English.

II. English Competance in Native Speakers

According to *A Guide to Research on English Language Education* (1979:114—125) and *The English Journals* 29 (1987:10-11), American linguist, Mario Pei found that American children upon entering elementary school, had a vocabulary of 2000-3000 words and that college graduates understood 10,000 to 30,000 words. Dr. Pei proposed that only about 10,000 words were involved in daily life, with the remaining 20,000 words recognizable because of a common root with the every day 10,000. Another scholar, Watt found that American children upon entering elementary school had 2000 words and that 14-year-old students understood 14,000 words. Frisby stated that educated people in general understood 15,000 words.

By analyzing word usage frequency, Thorndike found that command of the top 1000 frequently used words allowed understanding of 89.6% of everyday English language among native speakers. Mastering the top 2000 words allows understanding of 95.3% of English words. Mastering the top 3000 allows 97.7%, the top 4000 allows 98.7%, and the top 5000 allows 99.2%.

Proposed Vocabulary

This paper proposes 3000 basic words for 2-year-college students. Words were taken from the studies of the Japanense Association of College English Teachers' Basic Words List. This study was done for 4-year-college students (up to sophomore) and recommends this list to be acquired before entering their major subjects. Therefore it is appropriate to employ this JACET Basic Word List as a basis in producing the vocabulary list of 3000 words for 2-year-college students.

All 3000 words were consulted from Dale's Words List²⁾, the Longman Dictionary³⁾, Professor Kiyokawa's Words List⁴⁾, Kenkyusha Dictionary and the top 2000 frequently used words from other scholars' lists⁵⁾. This number corresponds approximately with the total words recommended by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry specifies the 490 words (that are marked with an asterisk) in English Language Training.

BASIC WORDS FOR TWO-YEAR-COLLEGE

† : homonym

*a	afford	*always	apartment
ability	afraid	*am	apparent
able	Africa	a m.	apparently
aboard	*after	amateur	appeal
*about	afternoon	amazing	appear
above	afterward	ambassador	appearance
abroad	*again	ambition	apple
absence	against	ambitious	application
absent	age	ambulance	apply
accept	agency	America	appoint
acceptable	agent	American	appointment
accident	*ago	amen	appreciate
according	agree	*among	approach
account	agreement	amount	appropriate
ache	agriculture	amuse	approval
achieve	ah	amusing	approve
acid	ahead	*an	approximately
acre	aid	analysis	*April
*across	aim	ancestor	apron
act	air	ancient	arch
action	aircraft	*and	architect
active	airline	angel	*are
activity	airplane/aeroplane	anger	area
actor	airport	angle	argue
actress	alarm	angry	argument
actual	alcohol	animal	arise
add	alert	ankle	arithmetic
addition	alien	anniversary	arm/arms
address	alike	announce	army
adjective	alive	annoy	arose
admire	*all	annual	around
admission	allow	another	arrange
admit	almost	answer	arrangement
adopt	alone	ant	arrest
adult	*along	anxiety	arrival
advance	aloud	anxious	*arrive
advantage	alphabet	any	arrow
adventure	*already	anybody	art
adverb	*also	anyhow	article
advertise	alter	anyone	artificial
advice	alternative	anything	artist
advise	although	anyway	artistic
affair	altitude	anywhere	*as
affect	altogether	apart	ash

ashamed	awake	bay	*between
Asia	awaken	*be	beyond
Asian	award	beach	Bible
aside	aware	beak	bicycle
*ask	*away	beam	bid
asleep	awful	bean	*big
aspect	awkward	†bear	bill
assemble	awoke	beard	billion
assembly	ax(e)	beast	bind
assign	axis	beat	*bird
assignment	baby	beautiful	birth
assist	*back	beauty	birthday
assistance	background	became	bit
assistant	backward	*because	bite
associate	bacon	*become	bitter
association	*bad	bed	*black
assume	badly	bedroom	blackboard
assumption	bag	bee	blade
assure	baggage	beef	blame
astronaut	bake	been	blank
*at	baker	beer	blanket
ate	balance	*before	bleed
athletic	ball	beg	blend
atmosphere	ballet	began	blew
atom	balloon	*begin	blind
atomic	banana	beginning	block
attach	band	begun	blood
attack	†bank	behave	blossom
attempt	bar	behavior	†blow
attend	barber	behind	*blue
attention	bare	being	board
attitude	barely	belief	*boat
attorney	bargain	believe	body
attract	bark	bell	boil
attractive	barn	belong	bold
audience	barrel	below	bomb
*August	base	belt	bone
*aunt	baseball	bench	*book
Australia	basement	bend	boot
author	basic	beneath	border
authority	basis	benefit	bore
automatic	basket	bent	born
automobile	basketball	berry	borrow
autumn	bat	beside	boss
available	bath	besides	*both
avenue	bathe	best	bother
average	bathroom	bet	bottle
avoid	battle	better	bottom

bought	bush	carpet	cheese
bound	business	carriage	chemical
boundary	*busy	*carry	chemistry
†bow	*but	cart	cherry
bowl	butcher	carve	chest
*box	butter	†case	chew
*boy	butterfly	cash	chicken
brain	button	cashier	chief
brake	*buy	cast	*child
branch	*by	castle	childhood
brass	cabbage	cat	children
brave	cabin	*catch	chimney
*bread	cabinet	cattle	chin
breadth	cage	caught	China
*break	cake	cause	Chinese
*breakfast	calculate	cave	chocolate
breath	calendar	ceiling	choice
breathe	calf	celebrate	choose
breeze	*call	cell	chorus
brick	calm	cent	chose
bride	came	centimeter	chosen
bridge	camel	center	Christ
brief	camera	central	Christian
bright	camp	century	Christmas
brilliant	campaign	cereal	church
*bring	*can	ceremony	cigarette
Britain	Canada	certain	cinema
British	canal	certainly	circle
broad	candle	chain	circus
broadcast	candy	*chair	citizen
broke	cane	chalk	*city
broken	cannon	challenge	civil
*brother	cannot	champoin	civilization
brought	canyon	chance	claim
brown	cap	change	*class
brush	capable	chapter	classmate
bucket	cape	character	*classroom
*build	capital	characteristic	clay
*building	captain	charge	clean
built	capture	charm	clear
bullet	*car	chart	clerk
bunch	card	chase	clever
bundle	care	cheap	cliff
burden	career	cheat	climate
burn	careful	check/cheque	climb
burst	carefully	cheek	clock
bury	careless	cheer	†close
*bus	carpenter	cheerful	closet

cloth	conduct	county	customs
clothes	cone	couple	*cut
clothing	confidence	courage	cycle
*cloud	conflict	course	dad
cloudy	confuse	court	daddy
*club	congress	cousin	daily
coach	connect	cover	dam
coal	conscience	cow	damage
coast	conscious	coward	damp
coat	consider	cowboy	dance
coconut	considerable	crack	danger
coffee	consist	craft	dangerous
coin	consonant	crash	dare
*cold	constant	crawl	daring
collar	constitution	crazy	*dark
collect	contact	cream	darling
college	contain	create	dash
*color	content	creature	data
column	contest	credit	date
comb	continent	creep	*daughter
combination	continue	crew	dawn
combine	continuous	crime	*day
*come	contract	criminal	daytime
comedy	contrast	crop	dead
comfort	control	cross	deaf
comfortable	convenient	crossing	deal
command	conversation	crow	*dear
commercial	*cook	crowd	death
commission	cookie	crowded	debt
committee	cooking	crown	deceive
common	*cool	cruel	*December
communication	copper	crush	decide
community	copy	crust	decimal
companion	cord	*cry	decision
company	core	cultivate	deck
compare	corn	cultural	declare
comparison	corner	culture	decorate
compete	correct	*cup	decrease
complain	cost	cupboard	deed
complete	cottage	cure	deep
completely	cotton	curl	deer
complex	cough	current	defeat
compound	could	curse	defend
computer	council	curtain	defense
concern	count	curve	definite
concert	counter	cushion	degree
conclusion	*country	custom	delicate
condition	countryside	customer	delight

deliver	disease	drove	electrical
demand	dish	drown	electricity
dentist	dislike	drug	element
department	dismiss	drum	elephant
depend	display	drunk	elevator
dependent	distance	dry	eleven
deposit	distant	duck	eleventh
depth	district	due	else
decend	ditch	dug	elsewhere
describe	dive	dull	emphasis
description	divide	*during	employ
desert	division	dust	employment
deserve	*do	dusty	empty
design	dock	duty	enclose
desirable	doctor	dying	encourage
desire	*does	*each	end
*desk	dog	eager	enemy
despite	doll	eagle	energy
destroy	dollar	*ear	engine
destruction	done	*early	engineer
detail	donkey	earn	England
determination	don't	earth	*English
determine	*door	ease	enjoy
develop	doorway	easily	enjoyment
devil	dot	east	enormous
dew	double	eastern	*enough
diamond	doubt	*easy	enter
*dictionary	*down	*eat	entertainment
did	downstairs	eaten	entrance
die	downtown	economic	envelope
difference	dozen	economy	environment
different	Dr.	edge	equal
difficult	drag	educate	escape
difficulty	drank	education	*especially
dig	*draw	effect	essential
dim	drawer	effective	establish
dime	drawing	effort	establishment
*dinner	drawn	egg	estimate
dip	dream	*eight	Europe
direct	dress	*eighteen	European
direction	drew	*eighth	eve
dirt	drift	*eighty	even
dirty	drill	*either	*evening
disappoint	*drink	elbow	event
discourage	*drive	elder	*ever
discover	driven	elect	*every
discovery	driver	election	everybody
discuss	drop	electric	everyday

*everyone	*fall	figure	footstep
*everything	false	file	*for
everywhere	fame	fill	forbid
evidence	familiar	film	forehead
evil	*family	final	foreign
exact	famous	finally	foreigner
exam(ination)	†fan	*find	forest
examine	fancy	*fine	forever
example	*far	finger	*forget
excellent	faraway	*finish	forgive
except	fare	fire	forgot(ten)
exchange	*farm	fireplace	fork
excite	farmer	firm	form
excited	*father	*first	formal
exciting	fashion	*fish	former
excuse	*fast	fisherman	formerly
exercise	fasten	fist	formula
exist	fat	fit	fort
existence	fate	*five	forth
exit	fault	fix	fortunate
expect	favor	flag	fortune
expensive	favorable	flake	*forty
experience	favorite	flame	forward
experiment	fear	flash	fought
explain	feast	flashlight	found
explanation	feather	flat	fountain
explode	feature	flesh	*four
explosion	*February	flew	*fourteen
explosive	federal	flight	fourth
express	fee	float	fox
expression	feed	flood	frame
extend	feel	floor	free
extent	feeling	flour	freedom
extra	feet	flow	freeze
extreme	fell	*flower	freight
*eye	fellow	*†fly	frequent
*face	felt	foam	fresh
fact	female	fog	*Friday
factor	fence	fold	*friend
factory	fever	folk	friendly
faculty	*few	follow	friendship
fail	field	following	frighten
failure	fierce	fond	frog
faint	*fifteen	*food	*from
fair	*fifth	fool	front
fairy	*fifty	foolish	frost
faith	fig	*foot	*fruit
faithful	fight	football	fry

fuel	gold	gun	hell
full	golden	guy	hello/hallo/hullo
fully	golf	habit	help
fun	gone	had	helpful
funeral	*good	*hair	hen
funny	*good-by(e)	haircut	*her
fur	goodness	*half	herd
furnish	goods	hall	*here
furniture	goose	ham	hero
further	got(ten)	hammer	*hers
future	govern	*hand	herself
gain	government	handful	hey
gallon	grab	handkerchief	hidden
*game	grace	handle	hide
gang	grade	handsome	*high
garage	gradual	hang	highway
garbage	gradually	happen	*hill
*garden	graduate	happiness	*him
gas	grain	*happy	himself
gasoline	grammar	harbor	hind
gate	grand	*hard	hint
gather	grandfather	hardly	hire
gave	grandmother	hardy	*his
gay	grape	harm	historical
gear	grass	harmful	history
general	grateful	harvest	hit
generation	grave	*has	hold
generous	gray/grey	haste	hole
gentle	grease	hat	*holiday
gentleman	*great	hate	hollow
gentlemen	green	hatred	holy
geography	greet	*have	*home
*get	grew	hay	honest
giant	grief	*he	honey
gift	grieve	*head	honor
*girl	*ground	headache	honorable
*give	group	health	hook
*glad	grow	healthy	hop
glance	*grown	heap	*hope
*glass/glasses	growth	*hear	horizon
glory	guard	heard	horn
glove	guess	heart	horse
glow	guest	heat	horseback
glue	guidance	heaven	hospital
*go	guide	heavy	host
goal	guilt	heel	*hot
goat	gulf	height	hotel
god	gum	*held	*hour

*house	independent	jail	*know
household	index	jam	knowledge
housewife	India	*January	known
*how	Indian	*Japan	labor
however	indicate	*Japanese	laboratory
huge	industry	jar	lace
human	influence	jaw	lack
humble	inform	jealous	lad
humor	information	jelly	ladder
humorous	ink	jet	lady
*hundred	inn	jewel	laid
hung	inner	job	*lake
hunger	inquire	join	lamb
hungry	inquiry	joint	lamp
hunt	insect	joke	land
hurry	inside	journey	lane
hurt	insist	joy	language
husband	instance	judge	lap
hut	instant	judg(e)ment	*large
*I	instead	juice	*†last
ice	instruction	*July	late
icy	instrument	jump	lately
idea	insurance	*June	laugh
ideal	insure	junior	laughter
identify	intend	*just	law
*if	interest	justice	lawn
ill	interested	keen	lawyer
illness	*interesting	*keep	lay
image	interior	kept	lazy
imaginary	international	kettle	†lead
imagination	interrupt	key	leader
imagine	interview	kick	leaf
imitate	*into	kid	lean
immediate	introduce	kill	leap
immediately	introduction	kilo	*learn
importance	invent	kilogram	least
important	invention	kilometer	leather
impossible	invitation	*†kind	*leave
improve	*invite	king	led
improvement	iron	kingdom	*†left
*in	*is	kiss	leg
inch	island	*kitchen	legal
include	issue	kitten	lemon
including	*it	knee	*lend
income	Italy	knew	length
increase	*its	knife	less
indeed	itself	knock	lesson
independence	jacket	knot	*let

let's	lower	maybe	mirror
*letter	loyal	mayor	miss
level	loyalty	*me	*Miss
liberty	luck	meadow	mission
*library	lucky	meal	mistake
lid	lump	†mean	mix
†lie	*lunch	meaning	mixture
life	lung	means	model
lift	lying	meant	modern
*†light	machine	measure	moment
lightning	machinery	meat	*Monday
*†like	mad	medical	*money
likely	made	medicine	monitor
lily	magazine	*meet	monkey
limb	magic	meeting	*month
limit	magician	melt	monthly
line	maid	member	*moon
lion	mail	memory	moral
lip	main	men	*more
liquid	major	mend	moreover
list	majority	mental	*morning
*listen	*make	mention	moss
lit	male	mere	*most
literature	mama	merry	mostly
*little	*man	mess	*mother
*live	manage	message	motion
lively	manager	messenger	motor
living	manner	met	mount
load	*many	metal	*mountain
loaf	map	meter/metre	mouse
loan	maple	method	*mouth
local	marble	mice	move
lock	march	microscope	movement
locomotive	*March	middle	movie
log	mark	midnight	*Mr.
lonely	market	might	*Mrs.
*long	marriage	mighty	*much
*look	marry	mile	mud
loose	mask	military	multiply
lord	mass	*milk	murder
*lose	master	mill	muscle
loss	mat	million	*music
lost	†match	mind	musician
lot	material	†mine	*must
loud	math(ematics)	mineral	*my
*love	matter	minister	myself
lovely	*may	minor	mysterious
low	*May	*minute	mystery

nail	normal	onto	paint
*name	north	*open	painter
narrow	northern	operate	painting
nasty	*nose	operation	pair
nation	*not	opinion	palace
national	note	opportunity	pale
native	*notebook	opposite	pan
nature	nothing	*or	pants
navy	notice	oral	papa
*near	novel	orange	*paper
nearby	*November	order	parade
nearly	*now	ordinary	paragraph
neat	nowhere	organ	parallel
necessary	number	organization	parcel
neck	numerous	origin	pardon
*need	nurse	original	parent
needle	nut	*other	*park
negative	nylon	otherwise	parliament
negro	oak	ought	part
neighbor	oar	*our	particular
neighborhood	obey	*ours	particularly
neither	object	ourselves	partner
nervous	observe	*out	party
nest	obtain	outdoor(s)	pass
net	obvious	outer	passage
network	occasion	outline	passenger
*never	occur	outside	*past
nevertheless	ocean	outward	paste
*new	*o'clock	oven	pasture
news	*October	*over	pat
*newspaper	odd	overall	path
*next	*of	overhead	patience
*nice	*off	overnight	patient
nickel	offend	owe	pattern
*night	offer	owl	pause
*nine	office	own	pay
*nineteen	officer	owner	pea
*ninety	official	ox(en)	peace
*no	*often	oxygen	peaceful
noble	oh	pace	peach
nobody	oil	pack	peak
nod	*old	package	peanut
noise	*on	packet	pearl
noisy	*once	*page	*pen
none	*one	paid	pence
nonsense	oneself	pail	*pencil
*noon	onion	pain	penny
nor	*only	painful	*people

pepper	plastic(s)	postman	production
per	plate	pot	profession
percent	platform	potato	professor
perfect	*play	pound	profit
perform	player	pour	program
perfume	playground	powder	progress
perhaps	pleasant	power	project
period	*please	powerful	promise
permanent	pleasure	practical	pronounce
permission	plenty	practice	pronunciation
permit	plow	praise	proof
person	plural	pray	proper
personal	plus	prayer	property
personality	pocket	precious	protect
persuade	poem	prefer	protection
pet	poet	preparation	proud
petrol	poetry	prepare	prove
phase	point	presence	provide
phone	poison	†present	provided
photo(graph)	pole	preserve	provision
photography	police	president	public
phrase	policeman	press	pull
physical	policy	pressure	pump
piano	polish	pretend	pumpkin
pick	polite	*pretty	punish
picnic	political	prevent	pupil
*picture	politician	previous	puppy
pie	politics	price	purchase
piece	pond	pride	pure
pig	pony	priest	purple
pigeon	pool	primarily	purpose
pile	*poor	primary	purse
pillow	pop	prince	push
pilot	popular	princess	*put
pin	popularity	principal	puzzle
pine	population	principle	quality
pink	porch	print	quantity
pint	pork	printing	quarrel
pipe	port	prison	quarter
pitch	portion	private	queen
pitcher	position	prize	queer
pity	positive	probably	*question
place	possess	problem	quick
plain	possession	procedure	*quickly
plan	possible	process	quiet
*plane	possibly	procession	quit
planet	post	produce	quite
plant	postage	product	rabbit

race	regard	*ride	saint
racket	region	rifle	salad
radio	regret	*right	sale
rail	regular	rim	salt
railroad	relation	†ring	*same
railway	relationship	ripe	sample
*rain	relative	*rise	sand
rainbow	relax	risk	sandwich
rainy	release	*river	sang
raise	relief	road	sank
ran	religion	roar	sat
ranch	religious	roast	satellite
rang	remain	rob	satisfaction
range	remaining	robber	satisfactory
rank	remark	†rock	satisfy
rapid	remarkable	rocket	*Saturday
rapidly	remember	rocky	sausage
rare	remind	rod	savage
rat	remove	rode	save
rate	rent	role	savings
rather	repair	roll	saw
raw	repeat	roof	*say
ray	repeatedly	*room	saying
reach	reply	root	scale
reaction	report	rope	scare
*read	represent	†rose	scarf
reader	representative	rough	scatter
reading	republic	round	scene
*ready	request	route	scenery
real	require	row	*school
realize/realise	research	royal	science
really	respect	rub	scientific
rear	respectful	rubber	scientist
reason	responsible	rude	scissors
recall	†rest	rug	score
receive	restaurant	ruin	scratch
recent	result	rule	scream
recently	return	ruler	screen
recognition	review	*run	*sea
recognize	revolution	rush	seal
record	reward	sack	search
recorder	rhythm	sad	*season
*red	rib	saddle	seat
reduce	ribbon	safe	*†second
reduction	rice	safety	secret
refer	*rich	said	secretary
reference	rid	sail	section
refuse	ridden	sailor	secure

*see	sheet	singer	sock
seed	shelf	single	soda
seek	shell	singular	soft
seem	shelter	sink	softly
seen	shepherd	sir	soil
seldom	shield	*sister	solar
select	shine	*sit	sold
section	shiny	site	soldier
self	ship	situation	solemn
*sell	shirt	*six	solid
*send	shock	*sixteen	solution
sensation	shoe	*sixth	solve
sense	shone	*sixty	*some
sensible	shook	size	somebody
sensitive	shoot	skate	somehow
sent	*shop	ski	*someone
sentence	shopping	skill	*something
separate	shore	skillful	*sometimes
*September	*short	skin	somewhat
series	shortly	skip	somewhere
serious	shot	skirt	*son
servant	*should	*sky	song
serve	shoulder	slave	*soon
service	*shout	sled	sore
set	*show	*sleep	sorrow
settle	shower	sleepy	*sorry
settlement	shown	slept	sort
*seven	shut	slice	sought
*seventeen	shy	slide	soul
*seventh	*sick	slight	†sound
*seventy	side	slip	soup
several	sidewalk	slipper	sour
severe	sigh	slope	source
sew	sight	slow	south
sex	sign	*slowly	southern
sexual	signal	*small	space
shade	signature	smaller	spade
shadow	silence	smart	*speak
shake	silent	smell	special
*shall	silk	*smile	specialist
shame	silly	smoke	species
shape	silver	smooth	specific
share	similar	snake	speech
sharp	simple	*snow	speed
shave	sin	*so	spell
*she	*since	soap	spelling
shed	sincere	social	*spend
sheep	*sing	society	spent

spider	stone	sum	tap
spin	stood	*summer	tape
spirit	stool	*sun	task
splash	*stop	*Sunday	taste
splendid	*store	sung	taught
split	storm	sunlight	tax
spoil	*story	sunny	taxi
spoke	stove	sunrise	tea
spoken	straight	sunset	*teach
spoon	strange	sunshine	*teacher
*sport	stranger	supper	team
spot	straw	supply	†tear
spread	strawberry	support	technical
*spring	stream	suppose	teeth
square	*street	sure	telephone
squeeze	strength	surely	telescope
squirrel	stress	surface	television
stable	stretch	surprise	*tell
staff	strike	surround	temper
stage	string	swallow	temperature
stair(s)	strip	swam	*ten
stamp	stripe	swear	tend
*stand	*strong	sweat	tendency
standard	strongly	sweater	tender
*star	struck	sweep	tennis
stare	structure	sweet	tense
*start	struggle	swell	tent
state	stuck	swept	*tenth
statement	*student	swift	term
*station	*study	*swim	terrible
*stay	stuff	swing	territory
steady	stupid	switch	terror
steak	style	sword	test
steal	subject	swung	*than
steam	substance	syllable	*thank
steel	subtract	symbol	thanks
steep	succeed	sympathy	thanksgiving
steer	success	system	*that
stem	successful	*table	*the
step	*such	tag	theater
†stick	suck	tail	*their
sticky	suddenly	*take	*theirs
stiff	suffer	taken	*them
*still	sufficient	tale	themselves
stir	sugar	*talk	*then
stock	suggest	*tall	theory
stocking	suit	tame	*there
stomach	suitable	tank	therefore

*these	*today	trial	*until
*they	toe	triangle	*up
thick	*together	tribe	upon
thief	toilet	trick	upper
thin	told	trip	upright
thing	tomato	tropical	upset
*think	*tomorrow	trouble	upside
*third	ton	trousers	upstairs
thirst	tone	truck	upward
thirsty	tongue	true	urge
*thirteen	tonight	truly	urgent
*thirty	*too	trunk	*us
*this	took	trust	*use
thorough	tool	truth	used
*those	tooth	*try	useful
though	top	tub	useless
†thought	topic	tube	usually
*thousand	tore	*Tuesday	vacation
thread	torn	tulip	valley
threat	toss	tune	valuable
threaten	total	tunnel	value
*three	touch	turkey	variety
threw	tough	*turn	various
throat	tour	*twelfth	vary
*through	tourist	*twelve	vase
throughout	toward	*twenty	vast
*throw	towel	twice	vegetable
thrown	tower	twin	vehicle
thumb	*town	twist	*very
thunder	toy	*two	vessel
*Thursday	trace	type	victory
thus	track	typical	view
ticket	trade	ugly	*village
tidy	traffic	umbrella	vine
tie	trail	*uncle	violence
tiger	train	*under	violent
tight	training	underline	violin
*till (or until)	transfer	*understand	*visit
*time	translate	undo	visitor
tin	trap	unhappy	voice
tiny	travel	uniform	volume
tip	tray	union	vote
†tire	treasure	unite	vowel
tired	treat	universal	voyage
title	treatment	universe	wage
*to	*tree	university	wagon
toast	tremble	unknown	waist
tobacco	tremendous	unless	*wait

waiter	went	willing	worm
wake	were	win	worn
*walk	west	*†wind	worry
*wall	western	*window	worse
wander	wet	wine	worship
*want	whale	wing	worst
war	*what	*winter	worth
*warm	whatever	wipe	worthy
warmth	wheat	wire	*would
warn	wheel	wisdom	†wound
was	*when	wise	wrap
*wash	whenever	wish	wreck
waste	*where	wit	wrist
*watch	whether	witch	*write
*water	*which	*with	writing
wave	whichever	within	written
wax	while	*without	wrong
*way	whip	witness	wrote
*we	whiskey/whisky	woke	*yard
weak	whisper	wolf	*year
wealth	whistle	*woman	yell
weapon	*white	women	*yellow
wear	*who	won	*yes
weather	whole	wonder	*yesterday
wedding	*whom	wonderful	*yet
*wednesday	*whose	won't	*you
weed	*why	wood	*young
*week	wicked	wooden	*your
weekly	wide	wool	*yours
weep	widespread	*word	yourself
weigh	width	wore	yourselves
weight	wife	*work	youth
welcome	wild	worker	zero
*†well	*†will	*world	zoo

Ministry of Education English Words Schedule⁽⁶⁾

		New Words	
		Minimum	Maximum
Jonior High School	1st year	300	350
	2nd year	300	350
	3rd year	300	350
Senior High School	English I	400	500
	English II	600	700
	English IIB	400	700
Jonior H. + Senior H.	total	2300	2950

IV. Perspectives

Since scientific words and popular words specifically reflecting daily life are changing rapidly in society, in contrast with basic functional words, it is very hard to specify 3000 words. Besides the top 1000-3000 frequently used words in America, England and other English speaking countries are different from those used in Japanese, especially in the Education system.

JACET Basic Words were mainly chosen for the purpose of reading. Therefore this proposed 3000 word list may not serve colloquialism heavily enough except reading vocabulary. For the purpose of the aural-oral communication, this proposed list may need to be refined in the future.

Also textbooks and teaching materials specifically for 2-year-college students should be researched, developed and published.

As mentioned before, improvement in English curriculum planning is necessary to meet students abilities and needs. Mastering these basic words in 6-12 months is desirable and recommended after which time the students can accumulate basic words in their choosen major subject.

Finally it goes without saying that the improvement of the English faculty-to-student ratio should be considered to succeed English training in 2-year-college.

NOTES

- 1) *Chugako Shidosho gaikokugo hen*, Monbusho (1978), p.102.
- 2) Dale, E. and Chall, J. "A Formula for Predicting Readability : Instructions", *Educational Research Bulletin*, Feb. 18, (1948), pp.45-54.
- 3) The Longman Defining Vocabulary.
- 4) Kiyokawa, H. "A New List of Basic Words(1)", *SENSHU LANGUAGE LABORATORY BULLETIN*, 9 (1980), pp.40-49.
- 5) Sakiey, E. and Fry, E. *A Jamestown Teacher Tool 3000 Instant Words*, Jamestown (1984), Carroll et al (1971).
- 6) *Daigaku Ippankyoyo Katei niokeru Eigo Kohdokuyo Kyokasho no Arikata*, JACET (1981), p.27.

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