

The following is a brief list of some representative tier 2 words chosen from thousands of such words in English. The list is suggestive, not exhaustive. The words are listed in approximate grade-level bands to show that there are important tier 2 words to be taught and tested at every grade level. These words are used in many different contexts and exhibit various shades of meaning based on those contexts. Students who know tier 2 words like the ones listed here are greatly advantaged in the close, analytic reading required by the Common Core standards.

Partial, Representative List of Tier 2 Words		
Likely to be in the 3-5 grade band	Likely to be in the 6-8 grade band	Likely to be in the 9-11 grade band
Different	Assume	Specify
Important	Identify	Technique
Choose	Conclude	Compensate
Faithful	Alternative	Arbitrary
Stable	Consist	Random
Exactly	Contribute	Suffice
Center	Define	Verify
Explain	Distinct	Perspective
Excuse	Evident	Pertinent
According	Expand	Evaluate
Actually	Indicate	Feasible
Bound	Individual	Passive
Declare	Initial	Simultaneous
Experience	Intense	Component
Figure	Major	Formulate
Fortunate	Method	Magnitude
Gradually	Publish	Manipulate
Necessary	Structure	Ultimate
Ordinary	Emphasize	Criterion
Measure	Illustrate	Hypothesis
Approach	Exaggerate	Fluctuate
Period	Approximate	Innovation
Establish	Complicate	Respect
Achieve	Modify	Subsequent
Ignore	Tradition	Benevolent
Select	Transmit	Malign
Automatic	Restrict	Abstraction
Concentrate	Negative	Coherent
Construct	Convert	Emanate
Consult	Analyze	Impervious
Establish	Consequent	Succumb
Demonstrate	Impact	Transitory
Interpret	Potential	Empirical
Obtain	Precise	Entity

High-Frequency Words Within The Common Core State Standards

ELA K-5		ELA 6-12	
Understanding	33	Analyze	73
Read	28	Determine	50
Write	22	Develop	41
Demonstrate	19	Research	33
Clarify	18	Clarify	32
Develop	18	Write	31
Produce	17	Relationships	30
Relationships	16	Demonstrate	28
Describe	14	Understanding	27
Compare/contrast	13	Create	26
Explain	13	Read	26
Answer	13	Evaluate	22
Introduce	10	Reflection	20
Sequence	10	Read/comprehend	20
Produce	9	Introduce	17
Determine	8	Produce	17
Accurately	8	Organize	17
Read/comprehend	8	Point of view	15
Point of view	8	Apply	14
Apply	7	Compare/contrast	12
Research/projects	6	Explain	11
Create	6	Inferences for text	10
Decode	6	Sequence	9
Reflection	5	Identify	8
Retell	4	Solve	8
Recall	4	Projects	8
Sequences	4	Answer	8
Inferences	4	Sequences	7
Identify	4	Justify	7
Collaborate	3	Read	6
Organize	3	Understanding	3
Ask/answer	3	Reflect	3
Short research	3		
Interpret	3		
Know and use	3		
Analyze	2		