

# THE COMMONEST DOUBLE WORD SQUARES

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Draw a stock of  $n$ -letter words in decreasing order of frequency from Kucera and Francis's *Computational Analysis of Present-Day American English* until they yield a double word square. For  $n = 2, 3, 4, 5$ , word stocks of 15, 66, 326 and 1444 are needed, in good agreement with Chris Cole's theoretical predictions of 16, 63, 250 and 992 given in "Mathematics of Square Construction" in February 1993. The Kucera and Francis frequencies (in words per million) are given next to the words in each square.

IN 21420	MAN 1238	SHOW 291	GLARE 7
TO 26253	AGO 246	NONE 108	ROMAN 59
	YET 420	OPEN 332	AVOID 58
IT 8768		WEST 244	DENSE 9
NO 2219	MAY 1399		EDGED 11
	AGE 242	SNOW 62	
	NOT 4618	HOPE 178	GRADE 49
		ONES 116	LOVED 56
		WENT 507	AMONG 370
			RAISE 52
			ENDED 61

Some runners-up include

AN 3745	SAM 79	REST 164	SCARS 10
TO 26253	ERA 30	OVER 1306	HABIT 23
	TEN 165	SITE 66	ANODE 77
AT 5383		ELSE 176	ROUGE 7
NO 2219	SET 414		PETER 36
	ARE 453	ROSE 89	
	MAN 1238	EVIL 72	SHARP 75
		SETS 66	CANOE 7
		TREE 62	ABOUT 1817
			RIDGE 18
			STEER 9