5.1–10 Words within word classes (Parts of Speech)

Adjectives for regions and nations

This list makes the obvious, if unpalatable, point that a British corpus reflects the assumption that Britain stands at the centre of the known universe, and that the importance of a region or nation diminishes roughly in proportion to its ‘remoteness’ from Britain (frequencies per million).

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general 301  serious 124  practical 77
full 289  previous 123  official 77
far 288  total 122  separate 77
low 286  prime 121  key 76
public 285  significant 121  chief 75
available 272  industrial 116  regular 75
dead 264  sorry 115  due 75
main 245  dead 114  additional 74
sure 241  specific 113  active 73
clear 239  appropriate 113  powerful 72
major 238  top 112  complex 72
economic 236  Soviet 109  standard 72
only 231  basic 109  impossible 71
likely 228  military 108  light 71
real 227  original 108  warm 70
black 226  successful 108  middle 70
particular 223  aware 108  fresh 69
international 221  hon 107  sexual 69
special 220  popular 106  front 69
difficult 220  heavy 105  domestic 69

certain 220  professional 105  actual 68
open 219  direct 104  united 68
whole 216  dark 104  technical 68
white 207  cold 103  ordinary 68
free 200  ready 102  cheap 68
short 198  green 101  strange 68
easy 198  useful 101  internal 67
strong 197  effective 99  excellent 67
european 195  western 99  quiet 66
central 193  traditional 99  soft 66
similar 184  Scottish 98  potential 66
human 183  German 98  northern 66
true 183  independent 98  religious 66
common 182  deep 97  quick 66
necessary 181  interesting 96  very 65
single 177  considerable 96  famous 65
personal 176  involved 96  cultural 65
hard 176  physical 95  proper 65
private 173  left 95  broad 65
poor 166  hot 94  joint 64
financial 165  existing 94  formal 64
wide 165  responsible 94  limited 64
foreign 161  complete 94  conservative* 64
simple 159  medical 93  lovely 64
recent 158  blue 92  usual 64
concerned 158  extra 92  Ltd 64
American 157  past 89  unable 64
various 155  male 89  rural 63
close 154  interested 88  initial 62
fine 150  fair 87  substantial 62
English 150  essential 87  Christian 62
wrong 149  beautiful 87  bright 62
present 148  civil 87  average 62
royal 147  primary 86  leading 61
natural 142  obvious 85  reasonable 61
individual 136  future 85  immediate 61
nice 134  environmental 84  suitable 61
French 134  positive 83  equal 61
following 134  senior 82  detailed 60
current 133  nuclear 81  working 60
modern 131  annual 81  overall 60
labour* 131  relevant 79  female 60
legal 131  huge 79  afraid 60
happy 129  rich 79  democratic 59
final 129  commercial 79  growing 59
red 126  safe 78  sufficient 59
normal 124  regional 78  scientific 59

eastern 59  correct 59
inc 59  Irish 59
expensive 59  educational 59
mental 58  dangerous 58
critical 58  increased 57