



## Words, Words, Words

level

1



Look at the following piece of writing and fill in the table below with the tally and frequency for each letter of the alphabet.

"The cat was lying in the sun enjoying the warmth on his sleek fur. In the garden the birds happily flew from plant to plant catching small creatures to take back to their nests. The old grandfather clock struck one o'clock. I turned the television off and went back to school."

	Tally	Frequency		Tally	Frequency
A			N		
B			O		
C			P		
D			Q		
E			R		
F			S		
G			T		
H			U		
I			V		
J			W		
K			X		
L			Y		
M			Z		

Draw a bar chart of your results and complete the sentence below.

"The five most used letters in the piece of writing were -----, -----, -----, ----- and ----- . The least used letters are -----, -----, -----, ----- and -----."

You may want to continue your investigation by working out the most used vowel in this piece of writing.



# Words, Words, Words

level 2



Take two newspapers with different writing styles and select 50 sentences from an article in each newspaper. Count the number of words in each sentence and fill in the tables below.

Numbers of words in sentences in 1st newspaper									

Numbers of words in sentences in 2nd newspaper									

Grouped results for 1st newspaper		
Number of words	Tally	Frequency
Less than 5		
5 but less than 10		
10 but less than 15		
More than 15		
Total		50

Grouped results for 2nd newspaper		
Number of words	Tally	Frequency
Less than 5		
5 but less than 10		
10 but less than 15		
More than 15		
Total		50

Draw two histograms to compare the newspapers and complete the sentence below.

"The paper which had most sentences over 10 words long was-----.  
The longest sentence in either newspaper had ----- words."

Sentence length is only one aspect of writing style. You could continue your investigation by looking at the number of words in each sentence, the proportion of paper used for pictures or the space allocated to advertisements.



# Words, Words, Words

level **3**



Words are made from vowels and consonants. There are five vowels in the alphabet. These are a, e, i, o and u. The remaining letters are consonants.

Some words have lots of vowels. For example, 'acute' has 3 out of 5 letters but 'right' only has 1 out of 5. The proportion of vowels in "acute" is 60% and in "right" is 20%.

Using the words below, calculate the proportion of vowels in each word and record these as percentages to 2 significant figures.

unit		number		prime		total		repeated	
ten		sequence		fraction		score		array	
hundred		continue		mixed		double		share	
digit		predict		whole		leave		remainder	
place		pattern		half		difference		calculator	
least		relationship		proportion		how		jotting	
last		formula		decimal		same		sentence	
exact		divisible		percentage		boundary		sign	
round		square		add		times		operation	
integer		part		subtract		multiple		expensive	

Fill in the tally table.

Proportion of vowels( %)	Tally	Frequency
0 to 9		
10 to 19		
20 to 29		
30 to 39		
40 to 49		
50 to 59		
60 to 69		
69 to 70		

Draw a histogram to show your results and complete the sentence below.

The modal group for the proportion of vowels in the sample of words was found to be \_\_\_\_ % to \_\_\_\_ %.