

One of those interesting statistics

written by Holly

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While editing, I used a word that dinged on my consciousness as having been in the book too often. The word? **Looked**.

Scrivener has a **word frequency** counter that will tell you exactly how many times you've used a word—one of the things I have been missing and yearning for since the days when I wrote with WordStar.

I used **looked** 141 times. *141 times*.

Most of those times are **post**-revision. The majority of the rest of the words in the heavy-use section were articles, prepositions, or proper nouns for main characters—which is as it should be.

141 times on a single verb, though. That's heavy. The next most battered verb was **turned**, with 89 appearances. That's not great, either. After that, verbs improve, showing up a rational number of times in a book with 60,000+ words.

Adjectives were mostly very lean, with two exceptions. **Just** (92), one of my regular bugbears, will also suffer a hunt-and-destroy, as will **very** (40).

It's lovely to have the power in my hands to find these annoyances, identify how bad the problem is—and then hunt the offending words down and kill them.

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