Since the appearance of Zipf’s works (esp. Zipf 1932, 1935) his hypothesis “that the magnitude of words tends, on the whole, to stand in an inverse relationship to the number of occurrences” has been generally accepted. In the present paper, this hypothesis is being tested. Though this kind of examination does not, at first sight, seem to yield new theoretical insights with regard to the original hypothesis itself, the focus on the variable ‘text’, which, thus far, has not been systematically studied, promises the clarification of at least some of the above-mentioned problems. We restrict ourselves exclusively to the textual aspect of the problem, assuming that, in a given text, word length is a variable depending on word frequency. Therefore, we concentrate on testing this relationship with regard to individual texts and not – as is usually done – with regard to corpus or (frequency) dictionary material. The results reveal new insights into the organization of concrete texts as opposed to that of language as an abstract system.