

VOCABULARY LISTS FOR BASIC ENGLISH, MATH, AND CONTENT AREA LEARNERS

To learn new vocabulary, students should have several opportunities to hear it, use it in their own communication, and relate it to other words.

The following word lists provide general English terms (p. 2) and words from social studies, science, and math that are essential to student understanding. Teachers at upper grades will want to consult these lists to enable students to use English terms as they are all relevant to upper grade learning—they are basic to learning at earlier grades and should be part of the students' functional vocabulary at the upper grades.

A set of guides for vocabulary activities and writing activities is available at http://teacher.depaul.edu/St_Gabriels_Resources/St_Gabriels_Resources.html for students to work on to expand their vocabularies through classifying words and using them in writing.

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BASIC ENGLISH VOCABULARY

These are the 220 most common words in English communication.

Students should sort these words into categories.

Then they should use them to make up sentences with other words.

DOLCH LIST OF 220 COMMON SIGHT WORDS

a	did	her	never	sing	walk
about	do	here	new	sit	want
after	does	him	no	six	warm
again	done	his	not	sleep	was
all	don't	hold	now	small	wash
always	down	hot		so	we
am	draw	how	of	some	well
an	drink	hurt	off	soon	went
and			old	start	were
any	eat	I	on	stop	what
are	eight	if	once		when
around	every	in	one	take	where
as		into	only	tell	which
ask	fall	is	open	ten	white
at	far	it	or	thank	who
ate	fast	its	our	that	why
away	find		out	the	will
	first	jump	over	their	wish
be	five	just	own	them	with
because	fly			then	work
been	for	keep	pick	there	would
before	found	kind	play	these	write
best	four	know	please	they	
better	from		pretty	think	yellow
big	full	laugh	pull	this	yes
black	funny	let	put	those	you
blue		light		three	your
both	gave	like	ran	to	
bring	get	little	read	today	
brown	give	live	red	together	
but	go	long	ride	too	
buy	goes	look	right	try	
by	going		round	two	
	good	made	run		
call	get	many		under	
came	green	make	said	up	
can	grow	may	saw	upon	
carry		me	say	us	
clean	had	much	see	use	
cold	has	must	seven		
come	have	my	shall	very	
could	he	myself	she		
cut	help		show		

Geography Vocabulary

Use these words to help student learn about places and find examples of the themes of geography: characteristics of a place, location, movement, region, relationships in a place. Those are standards-based themes of geography. Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

P1	P2	P3	M1	M2	M3-ONGOING
above around below down home in inside left map middle neighborhood out outside right up	alley city community country county direction east far map key north sign south state street trade west	border boundary cardinal direction compass distance environment location global metropolitan northeast northwest North Pole pollution population resource southeast southwest South Pole symbol urban	altitude Antarctic Circle Arctic Circle area continent eastern equator exact location flood control hemisphere journey landform latitude longitude mobility navigate population density province rain forest region technology time zone western	absolute location central business district deforestation desertification developed developing ecosystem human characteristics intermediate direction irrigation land use legend migration natural vegetation physical characteristics raw material relative location rural urban	agriculture cartography geographical map industrialization international linear scale linkage manufacturing industry international dateline meridian political map population distribution Prime Meridian raw material relief map revolution rotation settlement patterns shifting cultivation taiga terrace thematic map tropic

Students should:

Make word/picture glossaries; draw pictures or find pictures that show what each word means; translate the words; add more words they find as they learn about this subject; use these words to describe and explain what they learn.

Culture Vocabulary

These terms are important to standards-based social studies.
Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

PK	P1	P2	P3	P4-M3--Ongoing		
brother	color	building	celebrate	agriculture	design	migrant
family	flag	change	city	ancestor	develop	migrate
father	good	law	communicate	archaeologist	diversity	mission
feel	grandparent	need	community	architect	empire	native
help	help	now	cooperate	architecture	ethnic	nationalism
here	holiday	past	distance	artifact	group	nomad
hope	home	place	history	barter	event	patriot
live	hope	present	idea	border	extended	pioneer
mother	light	pride	important	capital	family	progress
share	live	share	landmark	century	forum	progressive
sister	parent	then	message	ceremony	generation	recognize
song	share	today	past	change	heritage	refugee
sound	show	rule	proud	communicate	history	responsibility
	there	value	route	community	historian	shelter
		when	shelter	conflict	homeland	society
		work	transportation	constant	identity	symbol
				continue	immigrant	town
				country	initiative	trade
				culture	justice	value
				current	language	village
				custom	leader	
					liberty	

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Government Vocabulary

These terms are important to standards-based social studies.
Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

P1	P2	P3	P4/5	P6	M1-3/ongoing
family feelings few friend many money neighborhood rule share small today tomorrow yesterday	choose citizen city community country court elect law lead leader rule state tax town	boundary capital cause century choice city council colonist community effect government governor immigrant judge lawyer leadership mayor political party reason responsibility right suburb	allegiance ballot border citizens Civil War Congress county democracy democratic district government branch governor heritage illegal legal nation political politics president rationale representative senate senator state government union	amendment bill civil rights congress constituent district Emancipation Proclamation enact enforce executive injustice judicial justice legislate legislative legislator majority minority overturn representative senate senator veto	alternative assess charter coalition compact compromise decree deliberate dictator electoral college empire evaluate human rights municipal government popular vote provisional regulate republic sovereign swing vote

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Economics Vocabulary

These terms are important to standards-based social studies.
Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6-M/3 Ongoing	
bakery	buy	barter	agriculture	apprentice	boycott	interest
bank	coin	business	cattle	assembly line	capital	invest
have	consumer	consumer	cargo	boom	capitalism	nonrenewable
help	crop	cost	cash crop	boycott	cash crop	per capita
job	dollar	demand	commerce	cash crop	conservation	income
money	factory	energy	communications	depression	credit	policy
need	farm	government	food processing	efficiency	currency	profit
store	goods	health	employer	economy	debt	productivity
street	machines	market	employment	export	development	raw materials
time	needs	mine	goods	housing	division of labor	single source
tool	office	price	harbor	import	economics	economy
want	oil	problem	harvest	industrial	economist	specialization
wish	pipeline	producer	income	revolution	efficiency	standard of
work	producer	railroad	industry	labor union	embargo	living
working	resource	resource	labor	market	excise	subsistence
	sell	service	land use	merchant	financial	economy
	service	worker	lumber	monopoly	free enterprise	surplus
	shopper	shipping	meat packing	poverty	gross national	tariff
	store	suburban	producer	stock	product	taxation
	tools	supply	production	strike	income tax	value
	trade	tax	region	tariff	hunter and	value added
	train	trade	service worker	technology	gatherer	wealth
	truck	transportation	shipment	unemployment	hydroelectric	working
	worker	urban	transport		power	conditions
		workplace	system		industrialization	
			union		inflation	
			wage		interdependence	

Students should:

Make word/picture glossaries; draw pictures or find pictures that show what each word means; translate the words; add more words they find as they learn about this subject; use these words to describe and explain what they learn.

Ecology Vocabulary

These terms are important to standards-based science.

Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

P1	P2	P3	M1	M2	M3-Ongoing
air	autumn	climate	amphibian	adapt	anatomy
alive	different	degree	backbone	algae	asexual
animal	dinosaur	desert	bacteria	amoeba	reproduction
behind	earth	environm	biology	behavior	chloroplast
bird	eat	ent	biome	botany	coniferous
blue	farm	egg	cactus	carnivore	cross-pollination
body	forest	fern	carbon	cell	deciduous
body	frog	food	dioxide	chlorophyll	evergreen
brown	insect	chain	cartilage	cold-blooded	fungus
cloud day	lake	fruit	conservation	ecosystem	germination
far	lakeshore	gas	decay	extinction	homeostasis
fish	measure	grassland	decompose	glacier	host
flower	nature	hatch	energy	herbivore	invertebrate
green	park	leaf	food web	inherit	metamorphosis
in front	rain	life cycle	fossil	instinct	paramecium
less	river	liquid	fuel	marsupial	parasite
more	season	migrate	function	membrane	permafrost
near	seed	mineral	habitat	nucleus	pistil
night	spring	moss	incisor	omnivore	protozoan
plant	summer	planet	mammal	photosynthesis	reproduction
rainbow	weather	pollen	molar	protein	respiration
sunshine	winter	root	ocean habitat	pupa	rhizome
tree		solid	organism	rain forest	savannah
water		stem	oxygen niche	response	scavenger
yellow		survive	reptile	spore	sexual reproduction
		vegetable		stimulus	stamen
				warm-blooded	symbiosis
					taxonomy
					temperate forest
					vertebrate

Students should:

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Technology Vocabulary

These terms are important to standards-based science.

Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

P1	P2	P3/4	P5	P6	M1-3/ongoing
air	few	balance	absolute zero	absorption	data
big	foot	effort	acceleration	Bernoulli's	equilibrium
cold	inch	energy	attract	principal	evidence
color	large	force friction	boiling point	conduction	gravitational force
cool	little	fulcrum function	Celsius	conductor	hypothesis
drink	many	gravity	deceleration	convection	kinetic energy
feel	metal	inclined plane	degree	drag	materials
gas	mile	invention	electromagnet	electrical	matter
hot	paper	lever	energy	expand	momentum
light	rock	machine	transfer	filament	physical
see	short	mechanical	Fahrenheit	fuel energy	potential
shape	tall	motion	force	gravity	potential energy
size	wood	pull	friction	illuminate	predict
small		pulley	inertia	incandescent	probability
smell		simple machine	insulator	lift	procedure
solid		slope	magnet	mass	projectile
warm		wheel	magnetic	prism	proof
water		wheel and axle	magnetic field	radiant	property
wet		work	magnetic force	thermostat	range
			magnetism	wave	resistance
			mechanical	neon	rotate
			energy	power	scientific method
			melting point	radiation	terminal velocity
			pole	rate	theory
			temperature	reflection	thermal
				refraction	universal gravitation
				sound	variable
				thrust	velocity

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Systems of Science Vocabulary

These terms are important to standards-based science.
Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	M1	M2/3
road sound transportation vibration earth rock water weather moon season sun year	rock soil water weather attract magnet repel earth galaxy moon solar system sun	landform lightning mountain storm thunder igneous metamorphic sedimentary soil coal natural resource oil timber water	consumer environment food chain food web producer climate prey produce season survive astronomer gravity meteor planet solar system biome condensation moisture precipitation season temperature	acid rain condensation evaporation landform leaching precipitation storm water table water vapor atmosphere climate cloud type frost hurricane temperature tornado abiotic asteroidal impact atmosphere earth history mass extinction orbit planet season volcanism	air pressure atmosphere dew jet stream moisture temperature glacier leaching rock cycle soil formation storm valley glacier water table black hole density mass red giant telescope white dwarf	botany competition consumer evolution food chain producer reproductive rate scavenger digestive endocrine excretion nervous system organ reproduction respiration respiratory system tissue transport vital function appendage camouflage decomposition defensive structure food chain fungus microorganism reproductive rate season spine atmosphere biodegradability cloud type homeostasis humidity natural resource solar heating temperature regulation troposphere wind	air mass air pressure atmosphere evaporation freezing point front jet stream lithosphere monsoon smog storm asteroid black hole comet constellation gravitational force orbital motion planet radio telescope sphere universe erosion fracture igneous leaching metamorphic organic rock sedimentary seismic seismograph viscosity volcanic eruption water weathering

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Discoveries and Inventions

These terms are important to standards-based science.
Add more words that are important to your curriculum.

Choose the words that your class will learn. Add new words, too.

P1	P2	P3/4		P5/6	Ongoing
big	map	connect	note	analyze	notice
different	dig	could be	observe	data	observation
find	new	discover	predict	detect	prediction
found	now	experiment	prove	design	reasoning
go	read	explore	reason	discoverer	require
hear	same	figure out	reveal	discovery	research
know	saw	idea	results	examine	researcher
learn	see	imagine	science	excavate	resource
listen	small	invent	scientific	expedition	revelation
little	tell	invention	method	enlighten	revolution
look	think	inventor	scientist	findings	route
make	try	knew	search	identify	technique
	use	look for	sense	inform	trace
		look into	sight	information	uncover
		hypothesis	study	innovation	unearth
		improve	technology	inquire	unfamiliar
		locate	tool	knowledge	vision
		news	uncover		
			useful		

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MATH CONTENT AND VOCABULARY

At each of these grade cycles, the following terms should be part of the students' working vocabularies. Source of the lists of words: ISBE. For more math resources from ISBE, go to ISBE.net.

By Primary 3rd Grade

12 inches = 1 foot 12 months = 1 year 2-dimensional 3 feet = 1 yard 365 days = 1 year 366 days = 1 leap year 3-dimensional 52 weeks = 1 year 7 days = 1 week a.m. abbreviations for days and months about above addends addition (+) angle area average bar graph below between capacity cardinal numbers centimeter (cm) cents (50¢ or \$0.50) chance/chances change chart circle circle graph cone congruent coordinates corner cube cup	cylinder decimal diameter difference digit distance divisible division (+, /, fraction bar) dollars (\$) dozen drawn to scale edge/edges equal equation estimate/estimation even/even number face/faces factor farthest figure flips folded foot/feet (ft) fraction gallon gram (g) graph greater greatest grid group height hexagon histogram horizontal hour	hundred impossible inch (in.) is equal to (=) kilogram (kg) is greater than (>) is less than (<) is not equal to (≠) kilometer (km) label least least likely length less than likely line line graph line of symmetry line segment long mass measure measurement meter (m) metric mile (mi) milligram (mg) milliliter (mL) millimeter (mm) minus month more than most most likely multiply/multiplication (X) nickel	non-standard unit number cube number line number pair number pattern number sentence octagon odd/odd number operation order ordered pair (x, y) ordinal numbers ounce (oz) p.m. pair parallel parallelogram pattern pentagon perimeter pictograph pie graph pint place value plane figure plus point polygon possible pound (lb and #) prediction prism probability probable probably problem solving	product pyramid quadrilateral quart quarter quotient radius/radii ray reasonable rectangle rectangular prism rectangular pyramid represents results rhombus right angle round down round up same scale scale of numbers second segment set shape side/sides similar single size solid figure solve spent sphere spinner square square centimeters square pyramid	standard unit steps subtraction (-) sum survey symbol symmetry/symmetrical table tally tally chart temperature thousand time ton total trapezoid triangle triangular prism triangular pyramid true turns twice unit unknown unlikely value variable Venn diagram vertex/vertices vertical volume week (wk) weight wide width yard (yd)
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By Primary 6th grade

acute angle	least common multiple
angle	liter (L)
approximately	lowest terms
arc	mean (arithmetic average)
base	median
bisect	midpoint
characteristic	miles per hour (mph)
chord	mode
circumference	multiple
column	multiply/multiplication (* or •)
combination	nonagon
composite number	<i>n</i> th term
congruent symbols in	obtuse angle
coordinate graph	order of operations
correspond	per
cubic units (3)	percent (%)
data	perpendicular
decimeter	pint (pt)
degrees (°)	polygons
degrees Celsius (°C)	portion
degrees Fahrenheit (°F)	prime number
diagonals	proportion
diagram	quart (qt)
dimensions	quotient
dividend	random
divisor	range
elapsed time	ratio (": or "to")
equilateral triangle	reflections
exactly	regular polygon
expression	right angle symbol
gallon (gal)	right triangle
greatest common factor	rotations
heptagon	row
intersect	scale drawing
intersecting lines	scalene triangle
irregular polygon	sequence
is approximately equal to (≈)	slides
is congruent to (≅)	square units (2)
is parallel to ()	stem-and-leaf plot
is perpendicular to (⊥)	time zone
is similar to (~)	ton (t)
isosceles triangle	triangle (Δ)
	value of

By Middle Grade 2

adjacent	measure of angle
alternate exterior angles	minimum
alternate interior angles	odds
altitude	permutation
approximate	principle
ascend/ascending order	proportionally
axes	Pythagorean
commission	Theorem
complementary	quadrants
compound inequality	radical
consecutive	random
convert	rate
corresponding angles	real number
decagon	satisfy
descend/descending order	scattergram
discount	semi-circle
distinct	sequence
divisibility	simple interest
domain	skew
down payment	square root
earnings	supplementary
factorial	surface area
foot (ft or ')	transversal
function	vertical angles
fundamental counting	x-axis
girth	y-axis
hypotenuse	
inch (in. or ")	
independent	
inequality	
is greater than or equal to (≥)	
is less than or equal to (≤)	
maximum	

Activity Projects to Make these Words Working Vocabularies

Students can sort these words into categories such as "operations" words and "size and shape" words. They also can use them as a check-list for their own math glossaries. Vocabulary from these lists should be included in explanations and in multiple choice and open-ended questions that students construct and take so they become confident math readers and writers. The words are cumulative, so students at upper grades should have a working knowledge of all the words on the tables. Students needing more assistance in learning these terms should learn them in context not as isolated words. Therefore, they should use them in sentences they write to explain what they mean with math examples they find or create.