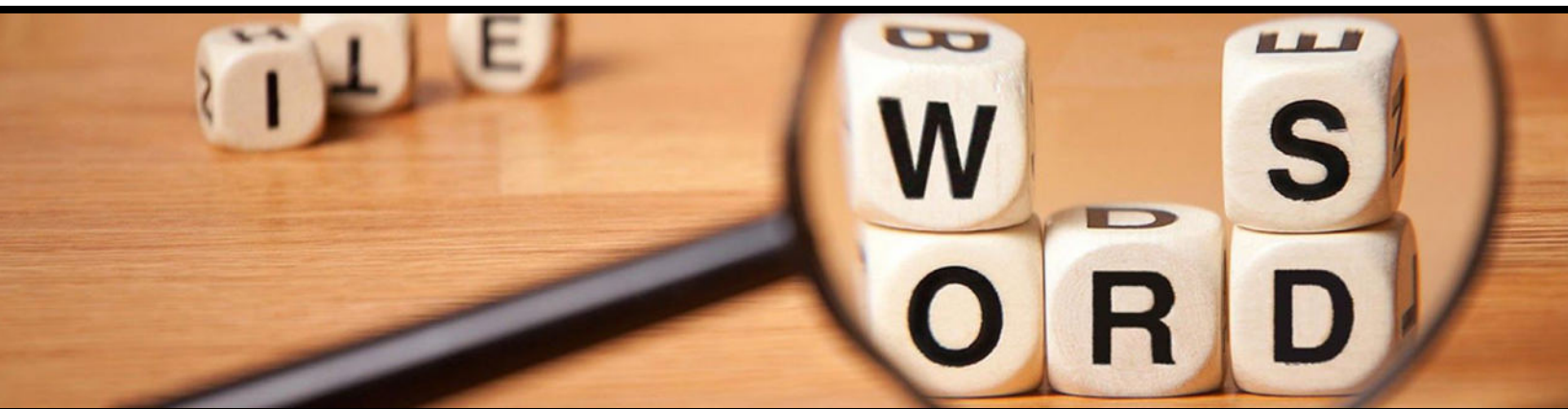


Wonderful Words **Smarty**

Long, short, old, new, changed in meaning, sounding the same, stolen from another language or completely made-up and nonsensical, words are delicious, delightful things to roll around in your mouth and spit out to convey a meaning. Most of us think in words, dream in words and talk in words and this Smarty will explore some of your favourite words, challenge you to invent new words and see if you can guess the surprising meanings of some words.



Smarties are inspirational guides for educational activities. Click on the **red** button below to know more about them.

Smarties are complemented by our **Smart Spin** online encyclopedia. Click on the **green** button below to explore it.

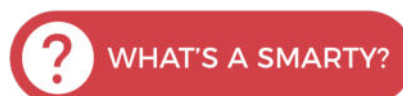




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We all know a lot of words. Not many of us stop to think about our favorites.

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For anyone who cares about words, we have some great recommendations here.



1. Your Favorite Words



Here are some questions to get your learner's vocabulary going, to think about the words she or he knows.

- Do you have a favorite word (we don't mean your own name), or several words? Maybe it's one of the first words you learned to say as a baby, or maybe it's a word you recently discovered? Maybe there's a special meaning associated with these words, or maybe they just sound really silly to say? If you don't have one, try and search for one - either in your memory or a dictionary (or type "favorite words" into a search engine).
- Do you get to say or write these words often? How many times do you think you used them throughout your life? How often do you think you'd get to use them in the future? Today or this week, why not try and use them as much as possible.
- Do you know of anyone else's favorite words? Can you think of anyone you know who constantly keeps using certain words? Maybe a family member who prefers using the word "definitely" or "absolutely" instead of a simple "yes"? Maybe it's a friend of likes to use the hyperbole "literally" all the time (literally!).
- Why do you think some people tend to use certain words, or enjoy hearing/reading certain words? Consider the reason from an emotional and psychological perspective (do these words tap into exciting associations that produce a good feeling?), from a neurological and cognitive perspective (do these words come more easily to mind?), as well as other perspectives, such as cultural (are these words now very popular?)
- What words do you hate hearing or saying? Is it because of what they mean or how they sound? Is it because they are difficult to say or hard to hear? Did you know that some people are afraid of hearing or saying words? The phobia is



called Onomatophobia. There's a more specific phobia of long words which is called Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia (ironically, one of the longest words in the English language), and you should check out our [phobia words](#) topic.

2. Beautiful Words



Below you can find some of the most beautiful words in the English language (based on popularity surveys). We also like them and thought you and your learner might want to appreciate them together. They can also be used for a writing assignment.

- ☐ **Mellifluous:** A sound that is sweet and smooth, pleasing to hear.
- ☐ **Sonorous:** An imposingly deep and full sound.
- ☐ **Bombinate:** To make a humming or buzzing noise.
- ☐ **Ineffable:** Too great to be expressed in words.
- ☐ **Serendipity:** The chance occurrence of events in a beneficial way.
- ☐ **Ethereal:** Extremely delicate, light, not of this world.
- ☐ **Aquiver:** Quivering, trembling.
- ☐ **Petrichor:** The pleasant, earthy smell after rain.
- ☐ **Aurora:** Dawn. It also means a natural electrical phenomenon characterized by the appearance of streamers of reddish or greenish light in the sky, usually near the northern or southern magnetic pole.
- ☐ **Phosphenes:** the light and colours produced by rubbing your eyes.
- ☐ **Iridescent:** Producing a display of rainbowlike colours.
- ☐ **Luminescence:** Light products by chemical, electrical, or physiological means.
- ☐ **Incandescent:** Emitting light as a result of being heated. Also full of strong emotion; passionate.



- ❑ **Effervescence:** Bubbles in a liquid.
 - ❑ **Epiphany:** A moment of sudden revelation.
 - ❑ **Ephemeral:** Lasting for a very short time.
 - ❑ **Eloquence:** The art of using language in an apt, fluent way.
 - ❑ **Ebullience:** The quality of being cheerful and full of energy
 - ❑ **Sonder:** The realization that each passerby has a life as vivid and complex as your own.
 - ❑ **Somnambulist:** A person who sleepwalks.
 - ❑ **Supine:** Lying face upwards.
 - ❑ **Epoch:** A particular period of time in history or a person's life.
 - ❑ **Syzygy:** An [alignment of celestial bodies](#).
 - ❑ **Elysian:** Heavenly or relating to paradise; divine and perfect.
-

2. Synonyms



SOMETHING TO DO

Your learner may want to practice their synonymy skills with the following activity (yes, we know we just made up the word “synonymy”; on that note, check out the word-inventing activity in this Smarty - Wordsmith).



RELATED TOPICS

★ [Synonym](#)

Synonyms are words with the same (or very similar) meaning.

Pick words you like, or choose from the list below, and jot down or mull over as many words you can think of with the same meaning.



- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| 1. Good | 8. Correct |
| 2. Bad | 9. Funny |
| 3. Big | 10. Honest |
| 4. Small | 11. Strong |
| 5. Happy | 12. Upset |
| 6. Sad | 13. Difficult |
| 7. Eat | 14. Amazing |

- You can check in a [thesaurus](#) if you missed anything.
- Did you know that the word "drunk" has over 2985 synonyms. From [all the words that you know](#) (how many words do you think you know?), which one word do you think has the most synonyms? Try to search your mind and think about what it might be. You may search a Thesaurus to find out whether you're right, or to help you in your search.
- You may want to flip this exercise around and try it with [antonyms](#) - words that have the opposite meaning - instead of synonyms (for example, the opposite of "eat" is "starve" or "fast", though "fast" is also the opposite of "slow"; see the Different Meanings sections below).

Below you will find different versions of the activity, or ways to expand on it...

Different meanings I

In the activity above, when you find synonyms, try and find different meanings for them based on different uses.

- Try and think how close the different meanings are, or whether they are completely different.
- You might specifically want to look for idioms, expressions and turn of phrases that give these words different meanings. For example, urban slang uses the



word “sick” as a positive, where the phrase “that’s sick!” means something that is exceptionally cool.

Background information

Some synonyms might mean different things depending on how and where the words are used.

→ For example, the words “sick” and “ill” may be considered synonyms, however they mean different things in different sentences. The sentence “I was sick” can be replaced with “I was ill”, keeping the same meaning. The sentence “his behavior makes me sick” (which uses a turn of phrase that means his behavior is disgusting) cannot perfectly be replaced with “his behavior makes me ill” (which more accurately means his behavior actually gives me a disease), though it shares a semantic similarity (sick and disgusting is related to feeling ill and having a disease). The sentence “the candidate came ill prepared for the interview” (meaning he was not prepared, in a somewhat archaic phrasing) cannot be replaced with “the candidate came sick prepared for the interview” - the latter sentence doesn’t even use the word “sick” correctly.

Similarity Level

You might notice that different synonyms of the same word have different levels of similarity.

→ Take the word “beautiful” for example. It’s synonyms may include attractive, pretty, gorgeous, stunning, good-looking, alluring, pleasing, lovely, appealing, etc. (there are many synonyms to “beautiful”). The word “pretty” might be more similar to “beautiful” than “lovely” because something (or someone) can be lovely without being beautiful, but if something is beautiful, most likely they are pretty. The word “gorgeous” most of the time means a high level of beauty compared to “pretty”. Someone might say about a celebrity that they are gorgeous, while



someone else might object and say - “they are definitely pretty, but I wouldn’t go so far as to call them gorgeous”.

In the activities above, when you list the synonyms of a word, you may want to arrange them by their level of similarity to the original word. Try to think of how you would use these words in different sentences, and whether they mean exactly the same thing or not exactly (and how different the meaning is).

Word alchemy

Here’s a fun exercise that takes advantage of different meanings of words.

- Find a synonym to a word, and then find a synonym to the one you have found, but one that has a different meaning. Create a path of synonyms that change meanings as you list more words. For example, “brilliant” can mean “fantastic”, and “fantastic” can mean “imaginative” (as in remote from reality), and “imaginative” can mean “original”, and “original” can mean “new”, and so on. So the path would be: brilliant -> fantastic -> imaginative -> original -> new
- Try to follow such a path as far as you can. Think about the word you started with and the word you ended up with. That’s word alchemy!
- Try to get from the word “light” to the word “almost”? Can you try to get from “listen” to “silent” (which are [anagrams](#) of each other)? How many synonyms did you need in order to get from one word to the other?
 - ◆ Light -> ??? -> Almost
 - ◆ Listen -> ??? -> Silent
- A fun game could be for one player to think of two words and for the other player to try and follow synonyms from one of the words to reach the other.
- You may also try this with [antonyms](#), each time selecting a synonym with the opposite meaning to the word that came before.



Connotations

For the synonyms you find in the activities above, try and think what **connotations** they may hold, in addition to their literal meaning.

- Next to each synonym that you find you may note its connotations (for example, if you're making a list of synonyms, you may include annotations or footnotes that describe the connotations of some words on the list).
- Think and note whether the connotations are negative, positive or neutral (for example, "picky" may be negative, "meticulous" may be positive, and "selective" may be negative or positive depending on how it is used).
- Below are groups of similar words used to describe people. Can you think of the different connotations of each word?
 - ◆ Childlike, Youthful, Childish, Young
 - ◆ Relaxed, Laid-back, Lackadaisical, Easygoing
 - ◆ Slim, Skinny, Slender, Thin
 - ◆ Cheap, Frugal, Miserly, Economical
 - ◆ Adolescent, Immature, Juvenile, Innocent
 - ◆ Inquisitive, Interested, Curious, Prying, Nosy
 - ◆ Confident, Secure, Proud, Egotistical
 - ◆ Talkative, Conversational, Chatty, Jabbering

Background information

You might notice that different synonyms of the same word might have different **connotations** - ideas or feelings which a word invokes in addition to its literal or primary meaning.

- For example, consider the words "group," "clique" and "club." All three can be considered synonyms - they have basically the same denotative meaning: a set of more than one person. Each of these words has a different connotative meaning, however. "Group" has a neutral connotation, because it simply



describes a number of people. It does not inspire either positive or negative feelings. "Clique," also means a group of people, but it carries a negative connotation. This is because "clique" is typically used in circumstances where the group is known for excluding others. This word should be used carefully: If you want to be thought of as a welcoming group, the negative connotation of this word will turn people off! Likewise, "club" also refers to a group of people, but this word has a more positive connotation because a club is a collection of people that voluntarily come together for a shared passion or purpose.

- For another example, consider the word "father" and "dad". "Father" is used more formally. It's not something one would naturally call their parent when addressing him (you wouldn't say "father, can you help me solve this puzzle?"). "Dad" is an affectionate way to talk to or about a parent, but would not be something found in a form (you wouldn't see a formal document asking you to "state your dad's full name"). These two meanings are used brilliantly by contrasting them in the film Guardians of the Galaxy 2 ("He may have been your father, but he wasn't your daddy."), father meaning a biological parent, and daddy meaning a father figure responsible for upbringing. It's also used well in the movie Dan in Real Life ("You're a good father, but sometimes bad dad."), father meaning someone who provides and supports, and dad meaning a parent who listens and understands.
- Another great use of contrasting connotations in synonyms can be found in the phrase "Just because you're correct, it doesn't mean you're right." which contrasts factual correctness with moral rightness.

Different Meanings II

For extra fun, you may want to do the above activity (i.e. listing synonyms) for words that themselves have different meanings. Choose words that have more than one meaning and find synonyms for any of these meanings.



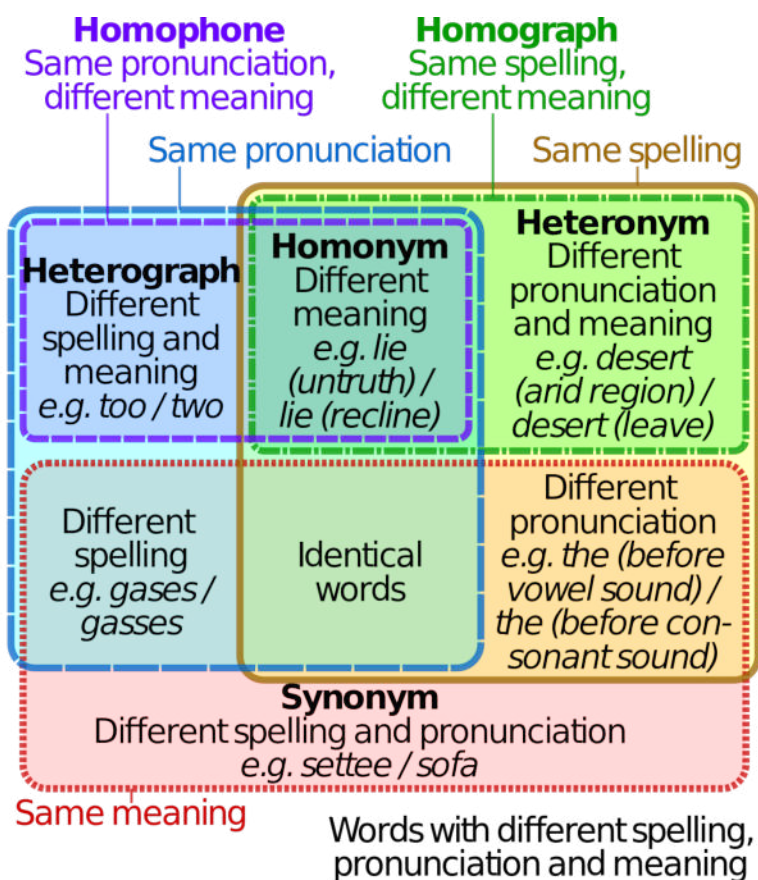
- You may want to divide the synonyms you find for a word into separate “sets”, based on their meaning. For example, the word “brilliant” can mean “fantastic”, “very clever” or “very bright”, depending on the context (“that’s brilliant!” = “that’s fantastic!”; “she’s brilliant” = “she’s very clever”; “a brilliant glow” = “a very bright glow”), so it can have different sets of synonyms (one set including words such as “clever”, “talented”, “gifted”, and another set including words such as “bright”, “shining”, “glaring”).
- For each set, include a sentence that demonstrates the specific meaning of the words in that set.

Background information

Some words have different meanings, or may actually be two different words that just sound the same, or spelled the same.

- They might be [homographs](#) - having the same spelling, but not necessarily the same pronunciation, but meaning different things. For example, “lie” can mean something that is not true, or it might mean having a resting or horizontal position. “Tear” might mean a drop coming from your eye, or a rip or hole (noun) or to pull apart (verb).
- They might be [homonyms](#), so they might sound alike ([homophones](#)), or they might be spelled the same ([heteronyms](#)), but have a different meaning. For example of a homophone, “pear” is a fruit and “pair” is a couple (spelled differently but sounding the same). Another example is “cell” and “sell”. For an example of a heteronym, “bow” can be used like this - “you must bow front of her majesty”, or “you must use your bow to shoot arrows to defend her majesty”. In each sentences, the word means something different, but is also pronounced differently.
- This venn diagram might help you distinguish between these different types (it definitely helps us), but hopefully not confuse you further:





→

→ A word can have such different meanings that the same word can mean two opposite things. These are called [contronym](#).

4. A Picture's Worth




SOMETHING TO MAKE

While this Smarty is about words, we thought of a great activity that uses no words at all, to explore other forms of communication.

While some pictures are [worth a thousand words](#) (think of a Rembrandt's famous painting [The Night Watch](#) and try to describe everything in the picture, including fine details of the objects and outfits, the atmosphere, the poses and expressions... We're





sure it'll be hard to do it in less than a thousand word), some words are hard to depict in picture form. This is especially true for abstract concepts. A dog, for example, can be illustrated with a few lines. Love, on the other hand, might not be something that can be shown with even a thousand comic book boxes.

Most books are written in words (whether in English, another of the thousands of languages that exist in the world, and even braille and hieroglyphs are words, even though [hieroglyphs](#) are also pictures). However, in this activity, your challenge is to tell a story and describe a whole narrative without using a single word.

Put all your words aside and tell a story using only images and pictures.

- You may draw, paint or sketch. You may use cutouts and printouts to create a collage. You may also sculpt or model 3D characters and scenes. You may use any materials you want, whether it's pen and paper, paints, clay, or drawing and computer graphics applications (Autodesk Sketchbook and Adobe Photoshop Sketch are good free ones we recommend).
- You may actually want to film a silent clip or short movie instead of drawing. We suggest producing a [fan film](#), or taking inspiration from movies that have little or no dialogue (see recommendations below).
- Try to include at least 1-2 main characters, 1-2 environments or settings, and an event that takes place. Think through what you want the story to convey, such as the genre it belongs to, the moral it holds, etc.
- Try to think of a story that can be told better by using images rather than words. Take this opportunity to practice [showing rather than telling](#). Try to use images to your advantage. Sometimes the right image at the right place can convey more, and affect the reader or viewer more, than words can ever do. By the way, the story does not need to be fictional, and can be based on true events and real people.



- You may prefer to do this activity by adapting an existing story, such as in your favorite book or that you heard from someone else.
- As a first step, you might want to write out (in words) the story that you want to tell, as reference that can aid you through the creative work process. You can flesh out the plot and characters, such as how the story will end and what happens to the characters along the way. You can break down the events, scenes, acts, etc. You can even write down dialogue between the characters, which you will later convert to images so that the reader (or viewer) can have a sense of what it said without the actual words (it's a challenge!).
- Or you can jump straight to the visual story. Before you get to the actual images, you may want to do the first step as a storyboard, instead of using words.
- Try to make sure that your images really convey what happens in your story, as well as anything else you want to communicate to the reader or viewer, such as hidden meanings, feelings and thoughts, etc.
- Once your finished - the drawings complete, the collage assembled, the film edited... - hand it over to your family and friends to read or view. What do they think? What did they understand? Did they get what you tried to communicate? Do they have different interesting interpretations? What did they experience (thoughts, feelings, etc.)? You may want to create a questionnaire for them to answer (in writing or in person) in order for you to receive from them the type of feedback you want. For example, you may ask them what they think of the main characters and what they thought about its actions. You may ask them what they're suggesting as improvements or additions, to the story or to the way it is shown (e.g. making the images more colorful, including a subplot that complements the main one, etc.)
- So what do you think? Can a picture replace words or are there some things that are best told with words? Does an image conjure up feelings and thoughts that words simply cannot? Or can words be just as evocative and dramatic as a




picture? What words did you find are more difficult to show? What pictures can depict things that can only be described using many words (or even impossible to describe even with an unlimited number)?

- If you have written down the story in words before you began to create the images, you might want to compare the two versions, and even show it to friends and family to see which they liked better or what they think about the differences. If you haven't, you might want to now try and write your visual story in words and think about the differences between the two creative processes, and how the two final creative works compare.

Inspiration

- The New Yorker [Cartoon Caption Contest](#)
- ◆ This famous content for readers of the publication to suggest captions to a wordless cartoon can be a great source of inspiration for subtext in imagery, and can encourage one's mind eye to think in visual form.
- Movies with very little or no dialogue
- ◆ Wall-E (2008)
 - ◆ Cast Away (2000)
 - ◆ Metropolis (1927)
 - ◆ Modern Times (1936)
 - ◆ The General (1926)
- Comic books
- ◆ The Batman Adventures: The Little Red Book
 - Batman: The Animated Series' classic opening sequence is fondly remembered for its silent, noir-inspired visual storytelling—and its accompanying comic book spinoff, The Batman Adventures, wasn't afraid to dip into similar waters, too. The Little Red Book features Batman infiltrating the mansion of a mobster to get hold of a book





that could incriminate some of Gotham's seediest criminals—the action is punctuated by nothing but the sound of gunfire as the Dark Knight glides his way around in absolute silence, taking out the goons one by one. Artist Mike Parobeck captures the aesthetic of the cartoon perfectly, and it's a stunning sequence to boot.


◆ Age of Reptiles

- Ricardo Delgado's long running series features no dialogue at all—unsurprising, as the protagonists are ancient dinosaurs, living their lives in the Mesozoic era. And yet, Age of Reptiles' incredible art can tell all sorts of great stories. Tales of vengeance, tales of loss, even a simple story about the decaying body of a dinosaur, the series is almost like watching a muted nature documentary—it's just that the animals in front of the lens are creatures from millions of years ago. You should also check out our [Dinosaurs collection](#).

◆ The Arrival by Shaun Tan

- The Arrival is a book that contains serious, and often quite dark, subject matter, but is totally understandable and relatable to readers of all ages. Chased from their home by unknown forces, a man travels to a strange land to create a new life for his family. Tan uses surrealism to represent the immense and overwhelming confusion which a new arrival would feel in a strange land and transforms a narratively simple tale of displacement, immigration and integration into a sometimes disturbing visual feast. The removal of speech allows the allegory to speak all the more loudly; without placing his characters in a specific world or even providing them with names or nationalities, Tan's immigration fable can be understood without political or national overtones. His mixture of pages of small panels with double-page spreads crammed with





surreal details means that the reader, like the new arrival, experiences the dislocation of moving from claustrophobic offices and bureaucracy to wide expanses of chaotic cityscapes. The tale of the immigrant is universal and *The Arrival* tells that story with heart, beauty and a touching understanding and sweetness.

◆ *Monsters* by Gustavo Duarte

- At the other end of the scale from Shaun Tan's dense and atmospheric pencils is Gustavo Duarte's *Monsters and Other Stories*. Duarte uses clean linework and sparing colours combined with a sharp eye for graphic design to create light, breezy pages, which heighten the surreal and darkly comic nature of this collection. His use of matte blue against clean white backgrounds gives this book a look unlike anything else on the shelves. The three stories in *Monsters* feature a man who turns into a pig, the tale of two birds and their run-in with death and the titular story, in which a fisherman takes on three enormous, rampaging kaiju. Duarte gives a masterclass in visual comedy excelling in expressive faces, grotesque creations and comedic timing. Small comic details and beautifully laid-out pages make words totally redundant to have you laughing along with this one.

◆ *Pinocchio* by Winshluss

- French comic artist and filmmaker, Winshluss, doesn't have many books on the shelves, but his tour de force *Pinocchio* is a visually stunning book, displaying what I feel is a quintessentially French mixture of satire, pathos and grotesquery. The book follows the titular Pinocchio on his quest for humanity, but this is no wooden puppet with a good fairy and a happy insect, but rather a robot designed for war, guided by nobody; lost in a world both brutal and



surreal. Pinocchio confronts all the vices, sins and hypocrisy
imaginable and his journey is enough to bring the reader to tears.

5. Wordsmith



Learning about words can be much fun when creating new ones. Your learner may want to try it with the help of the following guidelines.

A [wordsmith](#) is someone who is a skilled user of words, a person who works with words or in some cases, a person who creates words! And now it's your turn to create a brand new word.

- Pick something that doesn't have a word (see "[sniglet](#)" for example). Take inspiration from your favorite hobby, from something you're a [fan](#) of, from feelings that you have, things you own, sensations you've experienced, things that people do... Try to think of situations in which you tried to describe something that didn't have a specific word for it. A behavior, an occurrence, an object.
- You may create a combination of two other words ([portmanteau](#)) that together mean something else, preferably something that is related to the original words you combined. As practice, you may try to create new celebrity couple names (also called [Name Blending](#)), even for people you know who are not celebrities (how many celebrities do you know?!).
- You may try and first think of words that sound cool or clever or cute ([ideophone](#)), and only then find a definition for them, preferably describing something that is somehow related to the sounds.
- You may take an existing word and give it a new definition ([daffynition](#)).



- You may take an existing words and jumble its letters around ([anagram](#)) to arrive at a new word. The definition you choose for the new words may be related to the original word which you jumbled.
- What is your word? What part of speech is it? An adjective? A noun? What is its definition? How is it used in a sentence?
- What (and how many) [synonyms](#) can you find for your word? What is the [opposite](#) of your word? Does it come with any [connotations](#)? Can you use it to mean more than one thing?
- Sound out your new word. Write it out, as well as the definition you have given it. Use it in a few different sentences. Have conversations (talk or text, for example) in which you use the word as part of the chat. If you say it to someone, do they immediately get what it means? Is it because of how it sounds, or the context in which it was used? When you explain what it means, does it make sense to the person reading or hearing it? Can you convince someone else to use the word when they speak or write, to you or to anyone else? Do they find it useful?

Tada! You've invented a word!

Check out how other words came to be with the field of [Etymology](#).

RELATED TOPICS

★ [Lewis Carroll's words](#)

★ [Roald Dahl's words](#)

★ [Dr Seuss's words](#)

★ [Shakespeare's words](#)

★ [Pseudoword](#)

★ [Sniglet](#)

★ [Portmanteau](#)

★ [Daffynition](#)

★ [Ideophone](#)

★ [Onomatopoeia](#)

★ [Phonology](#)

★ [Anagram](#)



6. Mini Word Games



SOMETHING TO PLAY

Anagram

Can you find the words that can be created from using all the letters in each of the following sets ([anagram](#))? The number of words that can be made out of each set are in brackets. If you find an arrangement of letters that looks (or sounds) like it might be a word you don't know - you may look it up.

- ☐ AELRST (11)
- ☐ LEAST (10)
- ☐ RETAINS (9)
- ☐ INSERT (9)
- ☐ RAES (6-7)
- ☐ OPST (5)

You may find many more words using only some of the letters in each set.

Just a Minute

Pick a subject, preferably one you know well, and talk about it for 1 full minute without stopping. No pauses, “umms”, or repetition. This is best played when one participant picks the subject and the other participant has to immediately start talking.

Here are a few suggestions for subjects:

- ☐ **Your own name** (your surname and family tree, the meaning of your first name, your nickname, etc.)
- ☐ **An idiom or expression** (for example “Actions speak louder than words”, or “Don't bite off more than you can chew”, or “Every cloud has a silver lining”)
- ☐ **Words and language** (spin the [collection](#) for inspiration)
- ☐ **Tongue twisters** (for extra points, talk about the following topics that are also tongue twisters - ‘She sells sea shells on the sea shore’, ‘Swiss wristwatches’, ‘Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers’, ‘How much wood would a woodchuck chuck’, ‘Freshly-fried flying fish’ or ‘Greek grapes’)



This challenge really encourages you to think fast and talk carefully. It doesn't all have to make sense. It doesn't all have to be true! It's just a fun way to see if you can keep your words coming without stopping for a full 60 seconds!

Alphabetically

Can you write a sentence or more, that make grammatical sense, in which each word begins with the next letter of the alphabet? For example: After Barney's Cancelled Dance, Eight Flower Girls Hurried Into Jersey's Knitting Library, Making Noise Occasionally. Pete Quickly Raced Southward To Uncle Vinny's Wagon... (X is a difficult one!)

Can you write a [pangram](#)?

7. Recommendations

★ Related topic: [Word Play](#) & [Pun](#)

- Novel: The Phantom Tollbooth
 - This fantastic book (one of our own childhood favorites) is packed with brilliant wordplay and puns, and brings to life the magic of words and storytelling. It might be for a younger age range, but we recommend it for anyone with a childlike spirit (you?).
 - From the book *"Coming home from school one day, Milo finds an unexpected gift: a highway tollbooth, a map and directions to a place called the Lands Beyond. So off he goes on his journey of discovery. He travels to Dictionopolis, the kingdom of words, to Digitopolis, the land of numbers, escapes from the doldrums, goes*



astray by jumping to the Island of Conclusions and at last rescues the two princesses, Rhyme and Reason, from the Castle in the Air."

★ **Related topic:** [Anagram](#)

- Board game: Anagrams
- Board game: Boggle
- Board game: Scrabble

★ **Related topic:** [Pangram](#)

- Novel: Ella Minnow Pea, by Mark Dunn
 - The novel is set on the fictitious island of Nollop, off the coast of South Carolina, which is home to Nevin Nollop, the supposed creator of the well-known pangram, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." This sentence is preserved on a memorial statue to its creator on the island and is taken very seriously by the government of the island. Throughout the book, tiles containing the letters fall from the inscription beneath the statue, and as each one does, the island's government bans the contained letter's use from written or spoken communication. A penalty system is enforced for using the forbidden characters, with public censure for a first offense, lashing or stocks (violator's choice) upon a second offense and banishment from the island nation upon the third. By the end of the novel, most of the island's inhabitants have either been banished or have left of their own accord. The island's high council becomes more and more nonsensical as time progresses and the alphabet diminishes, promoting Nollop to divine status. Uncompromising in their enforcement of Nollop's "divine will", they offer only one hope to the frustrated islanders: to disprove Nollop's



omniscience by finding a pangram of 32 letters (in contrast to Nollop's 35). With this goal in mind "Enterprise 32" is started, a project involving many of the novel's main characters. With but five characters left (L, M, N, O, and P), the elusive phrase is eventually discovered by Ella in one of her father's earlier letters: "Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs," which has only 32 letters. The council accepts this and restores the right to all 26 letters to the populace.

★ **Related topic:** [Metaphor](#)

- Non-fiction: "Metaphors We Live By", by George Lakoff

★ **Related topic:** [Roald Dahl's words](#)

- Book: Oxford Roald Dahl Dictionary
- Book: The Glorumpious Worlds of Roald Dahl

★ **Related topic:** [Dr Seuss's words](#)

- Book: Seuss-isms! A Guide to Life for Those Just Starting Out...and Those Already on Their Way, by Dr. Seuss

★ **Related topic:** [Buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo buffalo buffalo Buffalo buffalo](#)

- Non-fiction: The Language Instinct, by Steven Pinker.
 - A sentence with eight consecutive "buffalo"s is featured in Steven Pinker's 1994 book The Language Instinct as an example of a sentence that is "seemingly nonsensical" but grammatical. Pinker names his student, Annie Senghas, as the inventor of the sentence. However, he was wrong. His analysis of the sentence, and the book as a whole, is fascinating nonetheless.



★ **Related topic:** [Sniglet](#)

- Dictionary: The Meaning of Liff, by Douglas Adams and John Lloyd
- Collection: Sniglets, by Rich Hall

★ **Related topic:** [Ambigram](#)

- Book: “Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid”, by Douglas Hofstadter
 - Douglas Richard Hofstadter invented the term "ambigram" in 1984; many ambigrammists all over the world have since taken up the concept. He is a professor of cognitive science whose research focuses on the sense of self in relation to the external world, consciousness, analogy-making, artistic creation, literary translation, and discovery in mathematics and physics. Hofstadter's book Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid, first published in 1979, won both the Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction and a National Book Award for Science.

★ **Related topic:** [Etymology](#)

- The Etymologicon: A Circular Stroll Through the Hidden Connections of the English Language, by Mark Forsyth

★ **Related topic:** [Most Common Word in English](#)

- Words frequency in books - a [timeline by Google](#)
 - Search for a word and Google Books will show you the how much it has been used in books for the past 200 years. Pretty cool!

