

What's in a word?

Here are some definitions on what comprises a “word”

1. TOKEN

A **token** is a single occurrence of a word in a text, regardless of its form.

- Example sentence: “I run every day, and she runs too.”
- Tokens: **I / run / every / day / and / she / runs / too**
- “run” and “runs” are **different tokens** because they appear as separate items.

2. WORD TYPE

A **word type** is a unique word form, counting repetitions only once.

- In the same sentence:
Word types = {I, run, every, day, and, she, runs, too}
- If “run” appeared twice, it would still count as **one type**.

3. LEMMA

A **lemma** is the base or dictionary form of a word.

- Lemma of:
 - run → **run**
 - runs → **run**
 - ran → **run**
 - running → **run**

All these forms belong to the same lemma because they share the same core meaning and grammatical base.

4. FLEMMA (FAMILY LEMMA)

A **flemma** groups together related lemmas that are grammatical inflections of each other, but may belong to different parts of speech.

- For “run,” a flemma might include:
 - run (verb)
 - run (noun, e.g., a run in stockings)
 - running (as a noun)
 - running (as a verb)

It's broader than a lemma but narrower than a full word family.

5. WORD FAMILY

A **word family** includes all words derived from the same root, including different lemmas and forms.

- Word family of “run”:
 - run, runs, ran, running
 - runner, runners
 - rerun
 - overrun

This includes derivations (new words formed with prefixes/suffixes).

6. PART OF SPEECH (POS)

Part of speech refers to the grammatical category of a word.

- “run” can be:
 - **Verb:** I run every morning.
 - **Noun:** She went for a run.

So, one word form can have multiple parts of speech depending on usage.

7. WORD SENSE

Word sense is about a word’s **meaning** in context.

- It answers: What does this word mean here?
- A single word can have multiple senses (meanings).

Using “run”:

- I run every day. → “move quickly on foot”
- She runs a company. → “manage/operate”
- The machine is running. → “function”
- The play had a long run. → “period of performances”

Same word form, but **different meanings = different senses**

(WordNet used to be available 😞, but we still have Cambridge’s CEFR website

😊 <https://englishprofile.org/?menu=english-vocabulary-profile>)

Contextualized Word List

No.	English	Japanese
1	historian	歴史家
2	named	名付けられた
3	Roger Ekirch	ロジャー・エカーチ
4	went	行った
5	special	特別な
6	place	場所
7	London	ロンドン
8	called	呼ばれた
9	public	公共の
10	record	記録
11	office	事務所
12	found	見つけた
13	old	古い
14	document	文書
15	written	書かれた
16	someone	誰か
17	Jane	ジェーン
18	talked	話した
19	something	何か
20	first	最初の
21	sleep	睡眠
22	new	新しい
23	working	働いている
24	book	本
25	history	歴史

No.	English	Japanese
26	night	夜
27	looking	見ている
28	documents	文書(複数)
29	long	長い
30	time	時間
31	ago	前に
32	surprised	驚いた
33	happy	幸せな
34	learned	学んだ
35	pm	午後(時間)
36	couple	2人/2つ
37	hours	時間(複数)
38	wake	目を覚ます
39	back	戻る
40	later	後で
41	waking	目覚めること
42	period	期間
43	watch	見守る
44	use	使用する
45	things	物事
46	like	~のような
47	pray	祈る
48	work	働く
49	spend	過ごす
50	family	家族

Sample Reading Passage*

Please listen to the teacher and fill in the blanks

In the 1990s, a historian named Roger Ekirch went to a special place in London called the Public Record Office. There, he found a very old document written by someone named Jane. In the document, Jane talked about something called "first sleep," which was new to Ekirch. Ekirch was working on a book about the history of the night and was looking at old documents from a long time ago. He was surprised and happy when he learned about "first sleep."

In the past, people used to sleep in two parts at night. They would go to bed around 9 or 10 PM and sleep for a couple of hours. Then they would wake up for a while and go back to sleep later. This waking period was called "the watch" and people would use it to do things like pray, work, or spend time with family.

*Adapted from Gorvett, Z. (2022). The forgotten medieval habit of 'two sleeps', BBC.com. Original available at <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220107-the-lost-medieval-habit-of-biphasic-sleep>