

# Watch your Words!

## Science vocabulary with dual meanings

WORD	SCIENCE MEANING	PUBLIC MEANING
<b>Earth</b>		
<b>Shear</b>	difference in wind speed/direction	cut wool off of
<b>Mantle</b>	planet layer between crust and core	important role passed from person to person
<b>Crust</b>	outermost layer of planet	edge of pizza/pie
<b>Fault</b>	fracture in a rock with movement	responsible for accident/misfortune
<b>Dating</b>	determining age of site/artifact	initial stage of romantic relationship
<b>Grade</b>	gradient/slope	level of proficiency
<b>Plastic</b>	substance that is easily shaped/molded	synthetic material
<b>Matter</b>	physical substance in general	be of importance, have significance
<b>Surf</b>	line of foam on seashore from breaking waves	riding a surfboard
<b>Shelf</b>	a submarine bank	a surface for displaying/storing objects
<b>Submarine</b>	existing/occurring under the sea surface	a ship that stays submerged under water for extended periods
<b>Current</b>	water or air moving in a direction	belonging to the present time
<b>Bank</b>	land alongside a river/lake	a place where people store money
<b>Fetch</b>	distance traveled by wind/waves over water	go far and then bring back something/someone
<b>Swell</b>	sea movement in rolling waves that do not break	to become larger in size (e.g. a body part)
<b>Processes</b>		
<b>Model</b>	computer simulation	promotes fashion/product
<b>Cycling</b>	flow of nutrients or elements	riding a bicycle
<b>Bonding</b>	electrostatic attraction between atoms	making an emotional connection
<b>Driver</b>	influential factor	someone who drives a vehicle
<b>Force</b>	strength/energy of action/movement	make someone do something against their will
<b>Stress</b>	pressure/tension exerted on a material object	mental/emotional strain
<b>Sample</b>	to take a sample for analysis	a small part of something
<b>Productive</b>	creating organic matter through photo/chemosynthesis	busy and efficient
<b>Code</b>	software/computer language	encrypted message
<b>Space</b>		
<b>Jet</b>	gas stream ejected from an accretion disk surrounding star	an aircraft powered by jet engines
<b>Belt</b>	collection of asteroids in a disc shape	materials worn around waist to support clothes
<b>Dwarf</b>	celestial body resembling small planet	characters from Snow White
<b>Units</b>		
<b>Charge</b>	force experienced by matter when in an electromagnetic field	demand a price for rendered goods/services
<b>Hertz</b>	the SI unit of frequency	rental car company
<b>Scale</b>	system of marks used for measuring	device used for measuring weight
<b>Bar</b>	unit of measure of atmospheric pressure	place to drink alcoholic beverages
<b>Pressure</b>	force per unit area that gas/liquid/solid exerts on another	use of persuasion to make someone do something
<b>Mole</b>	SI unit used to measure amount of something	small rodent-like mammal

# Watch your Words!

What are three words/phrases you use regularly in your work that might be inaccessible or misinterpreted by those outside your field?

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What are some alternatives you could use?

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If you really need to use it, what's a clear and memorable way to explain or define it?

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## IS IT JARGON? PLAY THE GAME AND FIND OUT!

- Do you only use it when talking about your science?
- Does it have a different meaning in day-to-day conversation?
- Are friends/neighbors/relatives in a different profession unable to explain or define it?
- When you defend using it, do you say things like "Everyone SHOULD know what it means"?
- Is it serving as a barrier to communication instead of a bridge?

If you checked a box for any of these questions, it's probably jargon!

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