



Engineering vocabulary dimensions and comparing games (numbers, comparatives and making uncountable nouns countable)

Part One: Definitions and comparatives guessing game

Choose one of the words below and describe it, starting with its dimensions, until your partner guesses what it is. They can only guess once for each clue that you give. If they are wrong, compare the real object and what they guessed, e.g. "No, it's (much/ quite a lot/ a bit/ a tiny bit) longer than a ruler".

Useful phrases

Dimensions

It weighs...

It is ... high/ wide/ tall/ long/ thick.

Its dimension are... by ... (by...)

Its surface area/ volume/ radius/ diameter/ circumference/ height/ width/ length is...

Its biggest/ smallest/ most important part is...

The biggest/ heaviest/ smallest/ lightest example of this is...

It weighs/ costs twice/ three times/ four times as much as...

Other properties

It costs...

It lasts for...

You need... to use it/ make it.

It's made of (more or less)... parts.

You can draw one with... circles/ squares/ rectangles/ ovals/ triangles.

Other numbers

There are... in this office/ building/ street/ area/ town.

It was invented in.../ The first one in this city/ country.../ It has been around for...

I see/ use/ pass this ... a day/ week/ month/ year.

It's usually... above the ground/ from the door.

The one I designed/ use/ usually see/ have is...

Approximating

Approximately/ About/ Around/ More or less

Between ... and...

(Just) under/ Less than/ Up to/ Almost... – (Just) over/ More than...

(Almost) exactly...

On average...

I imagine/ estimate/ think...

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a 40W light bulb | a bag of cement | a ball of string | a bath plug |
| a bathroom tile | a bed spring | a bicycle pump | a nut and bolt |
| a bulldog clip | a Bunsen burner | a calculator's solar panel | a camera tripod |
| a TV aerial (= antenna) | a car dashboard | a gear lever | a coat hook |
| a cog from a wind-up toy | a desk lamp | a door hinge | a door knob |
| a dustbin | a fluorescent lighting strip | a garden hose | a hard hat |
| a house brick | a household fan | a freezer | a kitchen bin (= garbage can) |
| a lab coat | a laptop's transformer | a laser beam | a mechanical (= automatic) pencil |
| a padlock | a pair of pliers | a pair of rubber gloves | a pair of goggles |
| a pair of tweezers | a Phillips screwdriver | a pill battery | a pocket torch (= flashlight) |
| a projector remote control | a protractor | a pushchair axle | a ramp into a driveway |
| a roll of sewing thread | a school microscope | a screw | a set square |
| a sheet of bubble wrap | a smoke detector | a soldering iron | a spanner (= a wrench) |
| a spirit level | a steering wheel | a stepladder | a sushi-bar conveyor belt |
| a tape measure | a tube of superglue | a sink's U bend pipe | a USB (memory) (stick) |
| a Hoover (= vacuum cleaner) | a vacuum flask (= a Thermos) | a voltmeter/ a multi-meter | a washer from a tap (= a faucet) |
| a whiteboard magnet | an AA battery | an accelerator pedal | an air conditioner filter |
| an electric drill | an electrical outlet (= socket) | a two-pin plug | an extension cable |
| an oil funnel | an oscilloscope | a set of kitchen scales | |

Do the same with other objects connected to science and engineering.

Part Two: Comparatives pelmanism

Ask your partner and then the class about any words above that you don't understand.

Choose two of the words in the list and compare them in some way, e.g. "A bicycle pump is simpler than a sushi bar conveyor belt". If your partner accepts that your statement is true and that your grammar was okay you can cross those two off and write your name on it. You must use a different adjective each time.



Suggested adjectives

Use the adjectives below to help you with the random pelmanism game if you get stuck.

bendy/ flexible – inflexible/ stiff

blunt - sharp

bright – dark/ dull

brittle/ delicate/ easily damaged/ fragile – hard wearing/ shock resistant

dated/ old fashioned/ out of date – high tech/ up to date

bulky – portable

buoyant

cheap/ good value – expensive

clean – dirty

cold/ cool – hot/ warm

common – rare

complex/ complicated – simple

curved – straight

dangerous – safe

deep – shallow

difficult to... - easy to...

dry – wet

effective – ineffective

efficient – inefficient/ wasteful

fast/ quick – slow

fire resistant – flammable

flat

hard – soft/ spongy

heavy – light

leaky - waterproof/ watertight

long – short

matte/ unreflective - reflective/ shiny

narrow – wide

necessary – unnecessary

noisy – quiet

pointy - rounded

powerful/ strong – weak

rough – smooth

short – tall

slippery – sticky

smelly

specialised – standard

stable – unstable/ wobbly

symmetrical – unsymmetrical

thick – thin

useful



Part Three: Grammar – Making things countable

Can you remember the missing words from these expressions? You will sometimes need to use the same word more than once.

- a _____ of cement
- a _____ of string
- a _____ of rubber gloves
- a _____ of pliers
- a _____ of goggles
- a _____ of tweezers
- a _____ of sewing thread
- a _____ of bubble wrap
- a _____ of kitchen scales
- a _____ of superglue

Check your answers with the first worksheet.

What other similar words can you think of?

Suggested answers

bar
barrel
bottle
bowl
box
bucket
can/ tin
carton
cup
packet
piece
sachet
spoonful
tank

For homework, think of or find at least three (more) for each word.