Word Quest 3

List 11 · Science and technology

Vocabulary and example	Write it

aluminum n. /əˈluːmɪnəm/

a light silver-grey metal

Use it with: aluminum foil **Tip:** American spelling; British English writes “aluminium”.

Drink cans are made of **aluminum**.

brass n. /bræs/

a yellow metal made from copper and zinc

Use it with: a brass band

The old door has a **brass** handle.

burn v. /bɜːn/

to be on fire; or to hurt with heat

Family: burns · burned/burnt **Use it with:** burn down · a burn mark

I **burned** my hand on the hot pan.

carbon dioxide n. /ˈkɑːbən daɪˈɒksaɪd/

the gas that people and animals breathe out and plants take in

Use it with: CO_2

Trees take in **carbon dioxide** and give out oxygen.

cardboard n. /ˈkɑːdbɔːd/

thick stiff paper used to make boxes

Use it with: a cardboard box

We built a robot out of **cardboard** boxes.

chemical n./adj. /ˈkemɪkl/

a substance used in or made by chemistry

Family: chemicals · chemically (adv.) **Use it with:** chemical reaction · harmful chemicals

Don’t mix these **chemicals**: it’s dangerous.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

chemist n. /ˈkemɪst/

a scientist who studies substances and how they change; in Britain, also a pharmacy

Family: chemists

Marie Curie was a famous **chemist**.

dial n./v. /ˈdaɪəl/

a round face with numbers, like on a clock; or to press a phone’s numbers

Family: dials · dialled **Use it with:** dial a number

Dial 120 for an ambulance.

echo n./v. /ˈekəʊ/

a sound that comes back to you from a wall or mountain

Family: echoes · echoed

We shouted in the cave and heard an **echo**.

fiber n. /ˈfaɪbə/

a thin thread; also, the part of plant food that helps digestion

Family: fibers **Use it with:** optical fiber · high in fiber **Tip:** British English writes “fibre”.

Vegetables are full of **fiber**.

function n./v. /ˈfʌŋkʃn/

the purpose of something; or to work

Family: functions · functioned **Use it with:** function well

What’s the **function** of this button?

gears n. /gɪəz/

toothed wheels that turn together in a machine or bike

Family: gear (sing.) **Use it with:** change gears **Tip:** Gear (uncountable) also means equipment: camping gear.

My bike has 21 **gears**.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

gene n. /dʒiːn/

a tiny part of a cell that decides how you look and grow

Family: genes · genetic (adj.)

Eye colour comes from your **genes**.

laboratory n. /ləˈbɒrətri/

a room for scientific experiments

Family: laboratories · lab (short) **Use it with:** a science laboratory

The **laboratory** has twenty microscopes.

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microscope n. /ˈmaɪkrəskəʊp/

a tool that makes very small things look bigger

Family: microscopes **Use it with:** under a microscope

We looked at a hair under the **microscope**.

mineral n. /ˈmɪnərəl/

a natural substance from the earth, like salt or iron

Family: minerals **Use it with:** mineral water

Milk has **minerals** that build strong bones.

mode n. /məʊd/

a way of doing or working

Family: modes **Use it with:** flight mode · mode of transport

Put your phone in silent **mode**.

raw adj. /rɔː/

not cooked; also, in its natural state

Use it with: raw meat · raw materials

Sushi is often made with **raw** fish.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

rust n./v. /rʌst/

the red-brown layer on old iron

Family: rusty (adj.)

The old bike was covered in **rust**.

slot n. /slɒt/

a long narrow opening to put something in

Family: slots **Use it with:** a time slot

Put a coin in the **slot**.

thermometer n. /θɜːˈmɒmɪtə/

a tool that measures temperature

Family: thermometers

The **thermometer** says 38°C.

38°C

tin n. /tɪn/

a soft silver metal; also, a metal container for food

Family: tins **Use it with:** a tin can **Tip:** American English says “can” for food.

We opened a **tin** of tomatoes.

wax n. /wæks/

a soft substance used to make candles

Use it with: candle wax · ear wax

The candle **wax** dripped onto the table.