Word Quest 4

List 9 · Science and technology

Vocabulary and example	Write it

absorb v. /əb'sɔ:b/

to take in a liquid, heat or information

Family: absorbs · absorbed · absorption (n.) **Use it with:** absorb information

A sponge **absorbs** water.

circuit n. /'sɜ:kɪt/

a complete path that electricity flows around

Family: circuits **Use it with:** an electric circuit · short circuit **Tip:** Pronounced SUR-kit.

The bulb lights up when the **circuit** is complete.

concrete n./adj. /'kɒŋkri:t/

a hard building material made of cement, sand and water; also, real and specific

Use it with: a concrete example

The bridge is made of **concrete**.

database n. /'deɪtəbeɪs/

a large set of information stored on a computer

Family: databases

The library has a **database** of all its books.

dissolve v. /dɪ'sɒlv/

to mix with a liquid and become part of it

Family: dissolves · dissolved

Sugar **dissolves** in hot water.

electron n. /ɪ'lektrɒn/

a very small part of an atom with a negative charge

Family: electrons · electronic (adj.)

Electrons move around the centre of an atom.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

genetic adj. /dʒɪ'netɪk/

about genes

Family: genetically (adv.) · genetics (n.) **Use it with:** genetic disease

Eye colour is **genetic**.

grease n. /gri:s/

thick oil, or fat from cooking

Family: greasy (adj.)

Use soap to wash the **grease** off the pan.

hydrogen n. /'haɪdrədʒn/

the lightest gas; water is made of it and oxygen

Use it with: hydrogen fuel

Water is made of **hydrogen** and oxygen.

input n./v. /'ɪnpʊt/

information or ideas put into something

Family: inputs **Tip:** Opposite: output.

I'd like your **input** on this plan.

magnet n. /'mægnɪt/

a piece of metal that pulls iron towards it

Family: magnets · magnetic (adj.)

We stuck the photo to the fridge with a **magnet**.

molecule n. /'mɒlɪkju:l/

the smallest part of a substance, made of atoms

Family: molecules · molecular (adj.)

A water **molecule** has three atoms.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

nuclear adj. /ˈnjuːklɪə/

about the energy from splitting atoms

Use it with: nuclear power · nuclear weapons

France gets most of its electricity from **nuclear** power.

operate v. /ˈɒpəreɪt/

to make a machine work; also, to do surgery

Family: operates · operated · operation (n.) · operator (n.)

Can you **operate** this machine?

plaster n. /ˈplæstə/

a material that becomes hard, used on walls; also, a small sticky bandage

Family: plasters **Tip:** American English says “Band-Aid” for the bandage.

Put a **plaster** on that cut.

reflect v. /rɪˈflekt/

to send back light or sound; also, to think carefully

Family: reflects · reflected · reflection (n.) **Use it with:** reflect on

The lake **reflected** the mountains.

textile n. /ˈtekstaɪl/

cloth or fabric

Family: textiles

The city is famous for its **textile** factories.

timber n. /ˈtɪmbə/

wood used for building

The old house was made of **timber**.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

upgrade v./n. /ˈʌpgreɪd/

to improve a machine or service with a newer version

Family: upgrades · upgraded

I **upgraded** my phone’s memory.