The Last Word

Mommy, what’s the last word?

[pic of kid looking up to “mommy”]

Hmmm…

Well while we speak and understand English. And in the whole wide world that is only one of the languages.

Across the whole world, there are many different languages.

Each language has many words.

Words are sounds we make that we have decided have meaning. Say “table”. Can you pick out the sounds?

Each sound is a part of the whole sound

So, the simplest answer to the question “what is the last word?” is there isn’t one until we run out of sounds and sound combinations.

A better question might be, “What’s the most expressive and useful word to achieve brevity?”

There are kids in your class that know another language other than English. It’s common in the United States to hear Spanish, Chinese, Italian, and on and on.

The United States is likely the only place on Earth where so many languages are spoken in the same nation.

If we can make some comparisons, let’s say the English language is a large bucket of popcorn, extra crunchy, hot and fresh. Each word we use – say, write, hear, etc. is a kernel of that popcorn. And the bucket of popcorn is a large as the Empire State Building.

Fun right? Huge Popcorn Explosion. Words have as much power as you give them. Just like popcorn, you only need a tiny bit of energy to cause a reaction.

Now consider there are approximately 7,150 languages in 2022 (yes, this number does change and we will discover why later).

That’s over 100 billion Empire State Building sized popcorn buckets.

And so, there is never a “last word”. We always make more.