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CS 584

September 18, 2024

# In-Class Activity 2: What Qualifies as a Word?

## Activity: Defining a Word

In this activity, you will explore and define what qualifies as a ”word” in various

contexts. The goal is to think critically about the boundaries and rules that

determine whether something is or isn’t a word, and how these definitions might

vary depending on context, language, or purpose.

### What is a word?

1. A word is something that we use to document language to interpret the meaning of something else.

### 2. What properties should something have in order to be classified

### as a word? Break down the definition you just made. Brainstorm as

### many properties as possible. For example:

1. A word can be anything that is > 0 characters and must exist or can be interpreted to an existing word database.
2. A word is typically separated by space or a punctuation marks (unique characters used to separate words);

### 3. How would you implement the properties you’ve discussed in a

### program? In other words, how would you write code to identify and

### extract words from a large text based on these properties? Think about

### which properties would need to be encoded as rules.

* I would first have a database of all of the words in the language that the word we want to identify/extract.
* I would then have an algorithm where use the word and use edit distance, basically replacing, deleting, or inserting characters and see which word in my database closely matches my word I’m trying to extract.
* I would have a for each word trans formation and how many transformations it took, and then use to to help me find the word with the least transformation. That would be my word.