According to me, a word is defined as a meaningful element of speech or writing which when either incorporated in a sentence or deployed as a standalone term, still manages to give a complete meaning. I evaluated whether I knew a word, by testing my ability to guess its meaning or coming up with other similar words and also by validating my command in infusing it in a sentence. I have used two approaches to quantify how many words I know.

Approach 1

Firstly, I took Magoosh flashcards with 1000 words. And for every word, I tried to guess the meaning of it without looking at the solution, and if I was right, I tried to come up with similar words to the current one, and finally, I tried framing a custom sentence using it. I was able to guess 693 words correctly out of the given thousand words. I tried to extrapolate this calculation to the oxford dictionary which has a total of 171,146 words.

Total number of words I know (693/1000)*171146 = **118,832 words**
Link to Magoosh flashcards (Magoosh)

According to this approach, it happened to estimate that I knew 118,832 words. But there are few downsides to this approach.

- Firstly, words in the dictionary will contain onomatopoeic words which are used to describe sounds but have no separate meaning for them.

- Secondly, the dictionary will contain several **stopwords** which will increase the count of words that I know.

- And also in the dictionary, there will be several words that are derived from the same root word. So knowing only the meaning of the root word will increase the count for knowing the other words too (in NLP, we address this issue by incorporating lemmatization).

Approach 2

In this approach, I used the online vocabulary estimator tools. It will give you the final number of words you know based on how many words you get right in the given sample. According to Prolingua Vocab Estimator, it is estimated that I knew **19,800 words** and TestYourVocab estimated that I knew **16,300 words**

Link to Prolingua Vocab Estimator (Prolingua Vocab Estimator)

Link to TestYourVocab (TestYourVocab)

(B) Number of words known in 41 through 70:
23 x 600 = 13800

Add (A) and (B) to find your total English vocabulary:
(A) + (B) = 19800

Vocabulary Level Chart
• **Below 6000 words** - Children up to 9 years old
• **6,000 to 9,000 words** - Children ages 10 to 16
• **9,000 to 12,000 words** - 25% of adults in the U.S. have vocabularies of this size
• **12,000 to 18,000 words** - Most adults have vocabularies in this range
• **18,000 to 24,000 words** - Most college graduates and professional people
• **Over 24,000 words** - People at the top levels of their professions

Few drawbacks, concerned to this approach, are as cited below:

- Firstly, the questions posed were highly imbalanced and contained more adjectives than other parts of speech. Based on the number of adjectives I got right, it extrapolated the count.

- Secondly, the successive questions posed were very similar in meaning, thereby enhancing me to come up with more correct guesses. If I knew one word, I was able to guess the meaning of other words too that followed.

Conclusion

To sum up, deploying an aforementioned couple of mechanisms, analysis on the three asks, namely, what a word meant to me, what is 'knowing a word' according to me and also numerically estimating how many words I knew were carried out, and my native language proficiency was in turn tested upon for the same. The results of the analysis have been covered up in this report.