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I like (3) the best, pineapple vietnam: I often learn five new words every day. (4) is okay: I often learn five new vocabulary words every day. If you must make it clear to your listener that you are learning new words only to increase your vocabulary, then "vocabulary words" makes some sense.(1) and (2) are strange. I never use "vocabulary" or "vocabularies" that way. A vocabulary is not a word. See the WRF dictionary:vocabulary/vkblr/n ( pl -laries)a listing, either selective or exhaustive, containing the words and phrases of a language, with meanings or translations into another language; glossarythe aggregate of words in the use or comprehension of a specified person, class, profession, etcall the words contained in a languagea range or system of symbols, qualities, or techniques constituting a means of communication or expression, as any of the arts or crafts: a wide vocabulary of textures and colours Vocabulary word is not a combination I have ever seen or would expect to see.A table leg is a leg that is part of a table. Other legs can exist that are not parts of a table.What is a word that is not part of a vocabulary? Vocabulary word is not a combination I have ever seen or would expect to see.A table leg is a leg that is part of a table. Other legs can exist that are not parts of a table.What is a word that is not part of a vocabulary? It was very common when I was in school, back in the '60s. "Vocabulary words" were "words we are studying for this week's vocabulary lesson." It was very common when I was in school, back in the '60s. "Vocabulary words" were "words we are studying for this week's vocabulary lesson." Hi everyone!(1) I often learn 5 vocabulary every day. (unidiomatic, illogical and misdirected)or (2) I often 5 vocabularies every day (illogical and "vocabulary" is not a verb)or (3) I often learn 5 new words every day. (although you don't have to say "new" since they obviously are new if you are just learning them)or (4) I often learn 5 new vocabulary words every day. (OK in the context RM1(SS) provides, otherwise wordy and redundant) My preference is "I learn five words a day" (Since I'm working on Portuguese) All thanks everyone for your replies! From what we have discussed so far, I think that the best way to express the meaning of the example sentence is: "I learn five (new) words a day". Another way is that "I learn five (new) vocabulary words a day". However, this way seems redundant and must be used in suitable contexts. I'm a polyglot and I want to learn as much languages as possible. I have learned that vocabulary is one of the most important aspects and that it is the key to understanding a language besides grammar. I wonder actually which languages have the smallest vocabulary and are easiest to learn because of this reason. I know for instance that English has a very big vocabulary, almost the biggest in the world and that Arabic also has a very big vocabulary, because for a lot of meanings you have different words. Are Hebrew and Turkish languages with small vocabulary? A Turk told me that Turkish has a small vocabulary and I can already read some Turkish and wonder if she is right, because I can read quite some Turkish already. I also heard that Hebrew doesn't have a big vocabulary, which is due to the limited vocabulary in the Hebrew Bible and that Ben Yehuda artificially created new words.Besides these 2 the question is just which languages have a small vocabulary. With this I mean natural languages by the way. Hebrew is dense, though from helping a native US person i know its still hard for one to grasp the idea for words in hebrew... Hebrew is dense, though from helping a native US person i know its still hard for one to grasp the idea for words in hebrew... So learning Hebrew is much easier than Arabic because the vocabulary is smaller and the grammar is simpler? The only problem though is that although I want to learn both languages I can find more books for Arabic. IMHO Classical Latin has quite a small vocabulary (certainly much less than 50.000 entries) due to the obvious fact that we know only limited number of Classical texts. There are, of course, many "Latin" words like assistentia, falsificatio, confessarius, campanula, simultaneus, secundogenitus, respective, pungitivus, etc., however they are not attested in the Classical texts. Esperanto, you just have to memorize a small number of roots (about 1000!!!)...I think that's the real language for you... So learning Hebrew is much easier than Arabic because the vocabulary is smaller and the grammar is simpler? The only problem though is that although I want to learn both languages I can find more books for Arabic. No, hebrew is dense in words meanings, but not in number of words in total; also it does have a large amount of irregulars. I agree with arelpei, Hebrew has many irregulars. Also, when it comes to learning, the writing is very difficult to learn. The grammar and writing are not so easy, so i think it makes up for the vocabulary.I think that pronunciation though is quite easy if you're a Dutch speaker Btw. A Flemish guy once told me: "if you can speak your language, you can speak any language..." I don't know if Turkish has a small or big vocabulary, but reading is easy since it's written in Latin characters and is quite phonetic, as you already know... I did noticed that the word order is different than it is in Dutch (and Hebrew) (The subject does not always come in the beginning of the sentence etc.) I think grammar and pronunciation are also important criteria. IMHO Classical Latin has quite a small vocabulary (certainly much less than 50.000 entries) due to the obvious fact that we know only limited number of Classical texts. There are, of course, many "Latin" words like assistentia, falsificatio, confessarius, campanula, simultaneus, secundogenitus, respective, pungitivus, etc., however they are not attested in the Classical texts. I'd personally like to see more examples of this kind. I think it would be a nice thing to be able to learn two or three (or even one) poorly attested dead languages in a short time. How extensively attested is Sumerian? In the current Turkish dictionary (TDK), there are around 112,000 words and 616,700 entries.I'm not saying this in defense of Turkish or anything, but we can discuss better with physical numbers, rather than speculations of individuals such as your friend.I heard the amount of words in the L'Academie francaise is also about the same. I might be wrong on this, though.Your friend might have referred to the fact that we have a lot of technological words from English such as login, online, authentication, guitar stand, violin case etc. (these are not in the dictionary by the way). Many people translate them, on the Internet and such, but in spoken language it feels easier to sometimes just go with the English word. I'm having a hard time remembering the Turkish word for authentication for instance, which is not exactly a technological word but is mainly used in computers, and so I tend to use the English word when I speak sometimes ~ which is sad, I agree. I can also agree that Turkish copes absolutely horribly when it comes to computers. But it's not our topic. Last edited: Mar 11, 2013 Hi, Roel.I think Scandinavian languages may not have such a big vocabulary, compared to English at least. However, I think you should really learn the language you love, and not one that has fewer words. It may take you three times as long, and least to learn a language you have no particular interest in, or you may never be able to learn it, in fact. There is no such a thing as an express method of learning languages -- it is all bogus -- some ads like that.I think you need at least three years to learn a language to a reasonable level. Hi, Roel.I think Scandinavian languages may not have such a big vocabulary, compared to English at least. However, I think you should really learn the language you love, and not one that has fewer words. It may take you three times as long, and least to learn a language you have no particular interest in, or you may never be able to learn it, in fact. There is no such a thing as an express method of learning languages -- it is all bogus -- some ads like that.I think you need at least three years to learn a language to a reasonable level. Hi, Roel.I think Scandinavian languages may not have such a big vocabulary, compared to English at least. However, I think you should really learn the language you love, and not one that has fewer words. It may take you three times as long, and least to learn a language you have no particular interest in, or you may never be able to learn it, in fact. There is no such a thing as an express method of learning languages -- it is all bogus -- some ads like that.I think you need at least three years to learn a language to a reasonable level. This is relative actually, because at the start I didn't like French, but because I thought it was cool to be able to speak to native speakers in their own language I was motivated to learn their language although I didn't like it at first and I started to like French after that I could understand it. I think that this is with any language, because I also like to listen to English, French or German, because I can understand these languages. So I think that a language with a small vocabulary could be a language which you aren't motivated for at the start, but once you know it you could really get interest into it. The functionality is a thing too, because I notice how much more of the world i can understand now that I speak French, because I can understand people at tv speaking French now, but also 1/3 of the world population who speak French. This is one of the reasons why I want to learn Arabic in the future too. In the current Turkish dictionary (TDK), there are around 112,000 words and 616,700 entries.I'm not saying this in defense of Turkish or anything, but we can discuss better with physical numbers, rather than speculations of individuals such as your friend.I heard the amount of words in the L'Academie francaise is also about the same. I might be wrong on this, though.Your friend might have referred to the fact that we have a lot of technological words from English such as login, online, authentication, guitar stand, violin case etc. (these are not in the dictionary by the way). Many people translate them, on the Internet and such, but in spoken language it feels easier to sometimes just go with the English word. I'm having a hard time remembering the Turkish word for authentication for instance, which is not exactly a technological word but is mainly used in computers, and so I tend to use the English word when I speak sometimes ~ which is sad, I agree. I can also agree that Turkish copes absolutely horribly when it comes to computers. But it's not our topic. Well, if Turkish vocabulary is similar to the French ones, it has relatively few words, because the English vocabulary is very big and this makes English a language which is quite hard to learn to master at a good level. Actually I didn't start long ago with Turkish and although the grammar is very different I can already understand small texts because certain words are very prevalent. As far as I know, Chinese is very polysemic: every hieroglyph has many meanings, so the number of lexemes should be limited. That doesn't mean it'll be the easiest to learn, though. In fact it's quite the opposite Many words in Chinese are formed combining more than one ideogram. Some words are formed with the phonetic transcription of foreign words, and thus the ideograms used for it don't carry their meaning.Some people includes acronyms of English letters as Chinese words, such as GDP, SARS, WTO, etc.Among constructed languages: Basic English and Toki Pona. I guess many dialects or regional languages, especially those without a literary tradition and are not used as education medium, have fewer vocabulary.When I talk about "higher" subjects in my native language (Qingtian dialect) I have to borrow many Mandarin words, and if the audiences understands it, Italian words. Are there any phonetic elements to Chinese characters (like hirigana in Japanese) or is Chinese all about memorizing characters? Chinese has multiple systems of romanization for written characters, the official and most popular being Pinyin. That is the only phonetic aspect to it, and therefore you can not learn the characters by memorization other than certain "building block" smaller characters that are found in many other characters that hints at a certain meaning. Even with this it has nothing to do with the pronunciation of the character itself. Last edited: Dec 26, 2014 Even when adapting phonetics loans, Chinese characters (hanzi) are used, according to how these characters are pronounced. Esperanto, you just have to memorize a small number of roots (about 1000!!!)...I think that's the real language for you... What about Malay? Doesnt that also have very few words? I remember reading that somewhere. I think Scandinavian languages may not have such a big vocabulary, compared to English at least. The Swedish Academy dictionary, SAOL, have about 125 000 words, compared to the Oxford English dictionary with 600 000 words. Not all Swedish words are in the SAOL, and Swedish is one of the languages where you can make/create compound words, so the number of words in SAOL doesn't really say anything. Take for example tråtkantarellsoppallringsk That word will never end up in SAOL. Lexis usually refers to all words in a language that have a meaning but not their inflections. Lexicon - this includes the morphemes. Vocabulary - a list of words with an explanation. Thank you for the help.Does anybody disagree? Does my use of "lexicon" below work?By reading authentic materials such as newspapers and magazines, language learners can see how people use lexicon in real life. This is far superior to reading grammar books alone.Many thanks! How come Cambridge says vocabulary is both countable and uncountable? Thanks. vocabulary Show phonetics noun! [C] all the words known and used by a particular person:a wide/limited vocabularyBy the age of two a child will have a vocabulary of about two hundred words. 2 [C or U] all the words which exist in a particular language or subject:Every week our French teacher gives us a list of vocabulary (= words) to learn.Computing, like any subject, has its own vocabulary.(from Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary) The first meaning is considered uncountable because it refers to a particular person's global store of words, of which there can only be one.In the second, there can be multiple vocabularies because there are multiple languages, or specialized lists of words. Also, if speaking of a number of people, they each have their own vocabulary, so one could say, for example: "the vocabularies of English speakers vary greatly in size". Thank you very much, it is clear.bmo Actually, Loob has pointed out that the first is is marked countable, not uncountable, and the second is either, so I have got it wrong. In fact, despite what I said, I demonstrate how the first can be countable, when considering a number of people's vocabularies! I'm therefore now puzzled about the answer, as I can't come up with an example of it being uncountable, other than my original attempt.Sorry for the confusion. Hi bmo In sense 1, all the words known and used by a particular person vocabulary is countable because you can put an indefinite article in front of it (as in the dictionary's example sentence) and you can make it plural, as in MM's "the vocabularies of English speakers vary greatly in size". In sense 2 all the words which exist in a particular language or subject it's countable when it refers to the total number of words:The English language is said to have a vocabulary of over 5 million words.The vocabularies of other languages are said to be smaller. But it's uncountable when it's seen as a component part of a language, like grammar or punctuation:What shall we do today, class? Spelling or vocabulary? I think that's right, anyway Sounds good to me Loob You don't know a vocabulary, you have one. As gasman says, you have a vocabulary (countable: sense 1). But you also know a lot of vocabulary (uncountable: sense 2). And you know a lot of grammar too! You could say "I know a lot of internet vocabulary" and "I have been studying Greek, and I know a lot of vocabulary, but I have yet to understand the grammar." I think "I know a lot of vocabulary" is fine. A vocabulary is primarily a list of words known to you, or to the authors of a dictionary, but I would suggest that one does not know a lot of vocabulary. You may have a vocabulary-a unit containing the words you know- in different languages, or you may know the internet vocabulary, in the same way that you know much of the English vocabulary, but I will continue to argue that you do not know a lot of vocabulary-you do know a lot of the words found in a vocabulary. A different concept. Gasman, you're puzzling me. I've recently been going to Swahili classes. As a result, I know a lot of Swahili vocabulary that I didn't know before. (I'm lying, of course, about the Swahili. One day, maybe!) A vocabulary is the sum of all the words you know, and a Swahili vocabulary would be the total words in Swahili as recorded in a dictionary, or a similar collection. As a result the total number of words you know make up your vocabulary, no matter what language they are. Like all of us here, you have an English vocabulary, but by no means all the known words in English are part of it. The total, or at least the nearest to a total that we can imagine, will be in the OED, and, if you are anything like me, you only know a fraction of them. Gasman, I don't understand how your post helps us distinguish between the countable and uncountable uses of "vocabulary". I thought you had settled that question. If you mean vocabulary as in words, then all my teachers say vocabulary in the 2nd sense as "vocab" and vocabulary as in all the words you know as "vocabulary" all my teachers say vocabulary in the 2nd sense as "vocab" What a pity! Let me explain what I mean by vocabulary; a) a listing, either selective or exhaustive, containing the words and phrases of a language, with meanings, or translations into another language. b) The aggregate of words in the use or comprehension of a specified person, class, profession, etc. 3) All the words contained in a language (which I don't believe is possible to determine, as language is a living entity gaining, and losing, words constantly). What is the difference between key term and key vocabulary? students are asked to record the meaning of key vocabulary in the article they read. For example, what a students read an article about the cause of urbanization, the student highlighted urbanization, push factor and pull factor and explained it using the information from the text. Actually, look like a summary of key concept in the article can we say the student recorded the meaning of key vocabulary? If not, what written comments should I leave? My suggestion: You identified and explained the key term using the information from the article, but it does not necessarily records the meaning of key vocabulary in the text as instructed. What was the original instruction? "Key vocabulary" makes no sense to me. The vocabulary of a piece of writing is the entire range of words it contains, and if the instruction really asked about "key vocabulary" in relation to a passage of writing, I think it must really mean "key words" or "key phrases". I cannot think how "key" can be used with an uncountable noun at all, although I expect there are examples that I cannot think of off the top of my head.It looks to me that the student has done exactly what was required, or at least, they have done what I would have done, and interpreted "key vocabulary" as meaning "key words and phrases", taking "key" to mean of specific importance to that passage. What was the original instruction? "Key vocabulary" makes no sense to me. 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In other words, in the article, they word/or term is already explained by the authors. That means, students do not have to use a dictionary or do some research to find out the meaning. In such case, can I leave comments as follows?The word student selected is already explained in the article by the authors, so it seemed unnecessary to record the meaning of the words again in the margin. If the text includes specialist words and phrases, then these, surely, are words that are "important to understand the text", and are exactly what the question is asking about. If the writer of the test wants students to exclude words that are defined within the text, then this should be stated. As I said earlier, your student appears to have followed the instructions correctly. It is not the student's fault if the instructions are not written clearly. Hi,One of the reasons for the mystification that obscures economics is the vocabulary it employs. Not only does it use common, ordinary words, such as saving or investing, in ways that are not exactly the way we use them in everyday talk, but it leans on barbarous and intimidating terms like macroeconomics or gross national product. (This comes from my English study book and I don't find its origin.) What does "mystification" here mean? Is it redundant? Does the blue part mean "One of the reasons that obscure economics is..."?Thanks in advance! Source: Economics Explained: Everything You Need to Know About How the Economy Works, by Robert L. Heilbroner and Lester Thurow You must log in or register to reply here.

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