

5SSEL026 – Language Construction
L1 Interactive session: What's in a Word?

In groups, discuss the nature of words in a language. In particular, think about the roles of:

- Meaning – how is the meaning negotiated? How do we know meaning has been negotiated? What does it mean to mean?
- Sound – is there a set of language sounds? Could it be expanded? Can you think of a new vocalisation that could be merged into language?
- Boundaries – how do we know the boundaries of words?
- Grammatical role – how can we identify the grammatical role of a word? Are identifiable grammatical roles necessary?
- Syntactic properties – how can words combine with other words? How can they stand alone?
- Form – are there limits to the set of sounds we would accept as being a word?