

word \ˈwɜrd\ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *wort* 'word', L. *verbum*, Gk *eirein* 'to say, speak'] (bef. 12c) **1 a**: something that is said **b pl** (1): TALK, DISCOURSE (putting one's feelings into ~s) (2): the text of a vocal musical composition **c**: a brief remark or conversation (would like to have a ~ with you) **2 a** (1): a speech sound or series of speech sounds that symbolizes and communicates a meaning without being divisible into smaller units capable of independent use (2): the entire set of linguistic forms produced by combining a single base with various inflectional elements without change in the part of speech elements **b** (1): a written or printed character or combination of characters representing a spoken word (the number of ~s to a line) (2): any segment of written or printed discourse ordinarily appearing between spaces or between a space and a punctuation mark **c**: a combination of electrical or magnetic impulses conveying a quantum of information

word-smiths

word *vi*, *archaic* (13c): SPEAK ~ *vi*: to express in words: PHRASE

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