

Subject specific terminology

Design and Technology

Sarah Pook
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Subject specific terminology

Subject-specific terminology enables precise meaning to be conveyed. However, not all words used in design and technology are free of ambiguity. Pupils may use design and Technology-specific vocabulary differently in other contexts

Using words in different contexts

Printed below is a grid which includes some words that have very specific meanings in design and technology, but that may have different, or less specific, meanings in other contexts. Take a few moments to think of the design and technology meaning and then any other meaning pupils might bring to the word. There are blank rows so that you and/or the department can add other words that might confuse pupils. It might be useful for pupils to do such an activity at the beginning of a topic or project to assess their prior knowledge and support you in deciding what needs to be taught.

Subject specific terminology

Using words in different contexts

Word	Everyday/other context	Design and technology context
Bias		
Current		
Discrimination		
Grain		
Mould		
Smart		
Tension		

Subject specific terminology

It is worth noting that:

- the best learning is achieved not through a test, but through an active task
- it is best to introduce terminology at the time it is in use in the topic, so that pupils can see how it is used in context
- there are often moments in a lesson when word level activities can take place; these might be when work is being given out, or at the beginnings and ends of lessons.

Adapted from the 2004 Key Stage 3 National Strategy Literacy in design and technology

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sarah.pook2@hants.gov.uk

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