

Vocabulary and dictionaries

Just say the word!

word  /wɜːd; NAmE wɜːrd/ ■ noun

- **Unit of language 1**  [C] a single unit of language which means sth and can be spoken or written: Do not write more than 200 words. ◇ Words fail me (= I cannot express how I feel). ➔ See also Buzzword, Four-letter word, Household word, Swear word
- **Sth you say 2**  [C] a thing that you say; a remark or statement: Could I have a quick word with you? ◇ She left without a word (= without saying anything). ◇ Not a word to (= don't tell) Peter about any of this.
- **Promise 3**  [sing.] a promise: I give you my word that this won't happen again. ◇ to keep your word (= do what you promised) ◇ I can't prove it – you'll have to take my word for it (= believe me).
- **A piece of information/news 4** [sing.] ◇ She sent word that she would be late. ◇ Word has it that she's leaving. ◇ He likes to spread the word about the importance of healthy eating.



IDM **by word of mouth** because people tell each other and not because they read about it: The news spread by word of mouth. **(right) from the word go** (informal) from the very beginning **(not) get a word in edgeways** (BrE) (NAme **(not) get a word in edgewise**) (not) to be able to say anything because sb else is speaking too much: When Mary starts talking, no one else can get a word in edgeways. **in other words**  used to introduce an explanation of sth: They asked him to leave – in other words he was fired. **the last/final word (on sth)** the last comment or decision about sth: He always has to have the last word in any argument. **not have a good word to say for sb/sth** (informal) to never say anything good about sb/sth: Nobody had a good word to say about him. **put in a (good) word for sb** to praise sb to sb else in order to help them get a job, etc. **say/give the word** to give an order; to make a request: Just say the word, and I'll go. **too funny, silly, ridiculous, etc. for words** extremely funny, silly, ridiculous, etc. **word for word**  in exactly the same words or (when translated) exactly equivalent words: She repeated their conversation word for word to me. \diamond a word-for-word translation

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 9th edition