

The Digital Diet

A small byte of



wordle

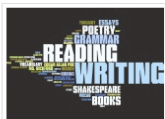
Wordle is a toy for generating "word clouds" from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends.

[Create your own.](#)

View some examples created by others...



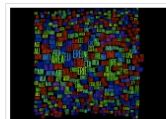
[English notebook cover](#)
by [Ace Academic](#)
6 months, 1 week ago



[Period G](#)
by [Meredith](#)
5 months, 4 weeks ago



[US Constitution](#)
by [Jonathan](#)
3 months ago

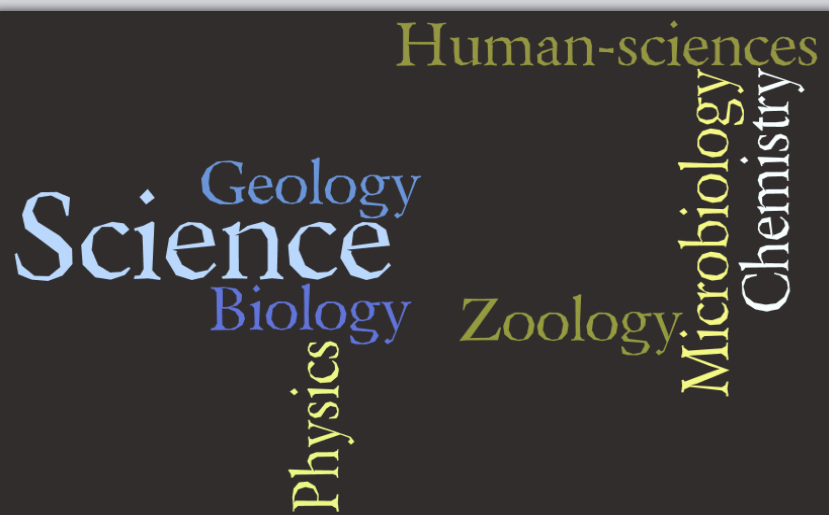


[Most Common Crossword Answers](#)
by [Jonathan](#)
1 year, 2 months ago

Paste in a bunch of text:

Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Geology
Zoology
Microbiology
Human-science

Go



What Is Wordle?

Wordle is a website that allows the user to enter text content in order to generate a "word cloud." The size of the words in the cloud are based on the frequency with which they appear in the main text body that the word cloud applies to. You can easily customize color, direction and flow within your projects.

Visit www.wordle.net to get started building word clouds.

Getting Started

There is no account registration necessary—Wordle is ready to use when you go to the site. You begin by creating a list of keywords for your cloud. Wordle recognizes words by themselves, so if you want to insert a phrase, use a hyphen to link the words together (ex: *first* and *class* are recognized individually, whereas *first-class* will be regarded as a linked phrase).

Next, go to the Wordle website. Enter your words by clicking "create" to open the text entry box. Once entered, words that are repeated will be increased in size, so the most frequently repeated word will appear largest in the cloud.

Note in this word cloud pictured on the bottom left, the word "science" is larger than the rest due to its increased frequency, and "human-sciences" is entered as one word.

Finally, you edit your word cloud by clicking in the color and layout drop-down menus. You can select a pre-made color scheme or create a custom palette. In layout, you can also adjust the direction of the word flow and their appearance.

You now can print your word cloud by clicking on the print option. If you have Cute PDF or something similar installed, you can use the print function to create the cloud as a PDF file. Because of the limitations of Java, Wordle cannot save as an image file to your computer, so the easiest way of making an image out of your Wordle project is to take a screen shot.

[illegible]

2

Small-Bytes

DIGITAL-GENERATION

education

digital

new-skills

technology

headware

digital-age

teaching

Digital-Diet

21st-Century-Fluency

relevant

3

chuck
a How
wood woodchuck
much could if would

1. Making Clouds Like Magic

In Example 1, the creator used the URL for their favorite blog, “The Committed Sardine.” As soon as they click “submit,” Wordle automatically creates a word cloud based on words that are used commonly in the blog, with the main words being displayed in larger text. This can also be done with Delicious—simply enter the user name of the Delicious account to generate a cloud for their bookmark tags.

In Wordle's Advanced options, the user has more personal control. In creating a more tailored word cloud, the user in Example 2 used words/concepts from the *Digital Diet* book. But when they entered the words into the text generator, they included custom sizes for their text.

If you have a hard time deciding how you want your word cloud to look, click on the “Randomize” icon at the bottom of the screen, for a random appearance display.

Web developers can post text from their website code. In Example 3 (from the actual Wordle site), this was posted to the URL <http://www.wordle.net/advanced>, with the “text” parameter added. This is all put inside the div tag for a form. When the text is posted, the designer or their users can submit it and randomize it for different effects.

Wordle's User Gallery offers a look at some of the word clouds posted by various users. They have lots of different creative ideas and approaches to making effective clouds.

How Do You Use Wordle to Develop the Five Fluencies?



Solution Fluency— Wordle can be useful in the challenge of determining the main idea of a website or blog. If the challenge is to determine what a medium is all about, Wordle can generate an image of the most commonly mentioned words and ideas in the site or blog, simply by using the site's URL and generating a word cloud. The medium must have an RSS feed for this to work, however.

Information Fluency— Creating a word cloud centered around a specific idea or concept requires the right word input to have impact. Although Wordle is not a searching tool, it does provide a purpose for extracting relevant words and information for submission to generate a word cloud that is effective and defines a point well. It can be a reflection of one's ability to research and choose the right words and phrases to convey a message.

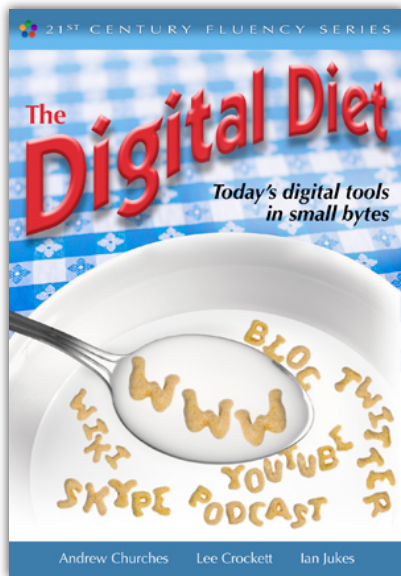
Collaboration Fluency—Students can collaborate on a word cloud in Wordle by collecting words or ideas centered around a concept, then submit their ideas in the text box for either a group cloud, or to create individual clouds that relate to one another.

Creativity Fluency—Wordle's advanced tools allow users to get very artistic and creative with designing word clouds. They can customize text from a variety of available fonts and arrangement options. They can use the provided color templates for visual appeal, or add their own color codes for both the text and the backgrounds. They can also edit custom color palettes to create their own unique styles.

Media Fluency—The concept of word clouds is used in a number of different methods of advertising and business presentation. If properly constructed, a word cloud can generate a powerful message with a minimum of input, in a single impacting image. The words and the concepts that are used can be arranged well enough to convey a sense of urgency or value to the product or issue being represented.

The Digital Citizen— When sending a message using a word cloud, the creator should be aware of what the message conveys about them and their mindsets. It can be a telling reflection of a person's standards and values. Is the message unbiased and appropriate for a wide range of public viewing? Could it possibly offend certain cultures or institutions?

about this small byte



the book

For more information or to buy a copy of the book

www.thedigitaldiet.com

help spread the word

[Become a Committed Sardine](#) and receive notifications of each new small byte as it is created. You'll also receive our free ebook, *Highly Educated Useless People*.

There are a whole bunch of other reasons too, other than the coolness factor of being able to tell others that you are a Committed Sardine, so [check it out](#).

To book one of our presenters for your next event, [please contact us](#).

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21st Century Fluency Project

This resource is the collaborative effort of a group of experienced educators and entrepreneurs who have united to share their experience and ideas and to create a project geared toward making learning relevant to life in our new digital age. Our purpose is to develop exceptional resources to assist in transforming learning to be relevant to life in the 21st century. At the core of this project are our [Curriculum Integration Kits](#)—engaging, challenge-based learning modules designed to cultivate the essential [21st century fluencies](#) within the context of the required curriculum. For more information please visit our web site www.21stcenturyfluency.com.