

Word Count Guidelines

Definition: A word is a letter or collection of letters, surrounded by space, which in the target language is comprehensible, and contributes to the development of the task. This definition holds even when words are grammatically incorrect.

Example: *à le* (French) = 2 words; *de el* (Spanish) = 2 words

- Names of people do not count.
- Place names and brand names from the target culture count as words; all other places (*K-Mart*) and brand names (*Coke, Pepsi*) are disregarded.
- Contractions are one word.
- Salutations and closings in notes written in the target language are counted. (There is no penalty if students do not use salutations or closings.)
- Commonly used abbreviations in target language are counted.

French	German	Italian	Spanish
<i>Île St. Louis</i> = 3 words <i>La Tour Eiffel</i> = 3 words <i>La Eiffel Tower</i> = 2 words <i>Paris</i> = 1 word <i>L'hôpital</i> = 1 word <i>Jacques</i> = 0 words <i>des États-Unis</i> = 2 words <i>les Galeries Lafayette</i> = 3 words <i>J'ai</i> = 1 word (verb contractions = 1 word)	<i>Josef</i> = 0 words <i>Auf Wiedersehen</i> = 2 words <i>Wie geht's</i> = 2 words <i>Deutschland</i> = 1 word <i>München</i> = 1 word <i>Marktplatz</i> = 1 word <i>Fanta</i> = 1 word <i>Sprite</i> = 0 words	<i>Giuseppe</i> = 0 words <i>Il Colosseo</i> = 2 words <i>Venezia</i> = 1 word <i>nell 'aula</i> = 1 word <i>la Coca-cola</i> = 1 word <i>fare lo shopping</i> = 3 words <i>all 'una</i> = 1 word <i>alle tre</i> = 2 words <i>d'estate</i> = 1 word <i>in primavera</i> = 2 words	<i>Nueva York</i> = 2 words <i>el Corte Inglés</i> = 3 words <i>La Universidad de Salamanca</i> = 4 words <i>José</i> = 0 words <i>La Torre Pendente</i> = 3 words