

APSU Writing Center

Gage and Gauge

Word	Gage	Gauge
Definition	something given as security against an obligation; a pledge	an instrument that measures the amount, the volume, or the magnitude of something

Gage is defined as something deposited to guarantee good faith.

- Example: He thought it was time to throw down the **gage** to his opponent.
- Example: Can you **gage** what her reaction is likely to be?

Gauge is a noun defined as a standard dimension, quantity, or capacity. It is also a verb that means to measure dimensions, evaluate, or estimate.

- Example: Use a thermometer to **gauge** the temperature.
- Example: The instrument can **gauge** a distance with the push of a button.

- **Hint:** A gauge is both a *measurement* and a *measurement tool*. Gauge and measure both have the letter “U” in them. If you can pair these two words by the common letter “u,” you will be all set.

Disc and Disk

Word	Disc	Disk
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thin, flat, circular object or plate; a round, flattened object. • refers to ophthalmology and music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thin, flat, circular object or plate; a round, flattened object. • refers to computer components and anatomy

American English

Disc is used when referring to a phonograph record, and optical disc (audio compact disc or videodisc), a tool found on a plow (disc harrow), a component of a brake system (disc brakes, and disc jockey).

- Example: A **disc** jockey, more commonly abbreviated as DJ, is a person who plays recorded music for an audience.
- Example: The compact **disc** is a miracle of modern technology.

Disk is the preferred spelling for all general references to thin circular objects

- Example: I think the **disk** drive in my computer is about to crash.
- Example: Do you want to go out and throw some **disk**?

British English

Disc is the standard choice in British English.

- Example: The optic **disc** or optic nerve head is the point of exit for ganglion cell axons leaving the eye.
- Example: This **disc** includes the piano sonata in C minor.

Disk is used to refer to all things computer related.

- Example: The data is stored in the floppy **disk**.
- Example: The magnetic **disk** drive symbolized a monumental advance in mass-storage technology.

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References

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