

The background image shows a busy port scene. In the upper left, a white cargo plane is in flight. In the center and right, a large cargo ship is docked at a pier, with yellow cranes visible. In the lower left, two white semi-trucks are parked on a paved area. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

ENGLISH FOR LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAIN

A complete guide to the top
50 words spoken in the
logistics industry



EVERYWHERE
ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Everywhere English's guide to the Top 50 English Words for Logistics and Supply chain! If you're working in the world of Logistics and want to boost your English skills, you're in the right place.

In this guide, we've handpicked essential words that will help you navigate the supply chain world with confidence. No jargon, just simple English to make learning enjoyable and practical for you.



You'll learn what it means and how to use it in a sentence.

Let's dive in and increase your communication skills that you'll use everyday! First, see our sample below:

New Word

This is the definition of the word above.

"Here is a sample sentence and an example of how you can use the new word."

Inventory

The total amount of goods a company has.

"We need to check our inventory to see if we have enough stock."

Stock

A supply of something for use or sale.

"We need to reorder items because our stock is running low."

Goods

Items that are produced, bought, and sold.

"The shipping department manages all outgoing goods."

Sourcing

The process of finding and acquiring goods and services from suppliers.

"The sourcing of high-quality materials is essential for our production process."

Distribution

Sharing products out to people or places.

"Distribution involves transportation, packaging, and delivery of goods."

Warehousing

Keeping goods in a big building (warehouse) until they are sold.

"Proper warehousing ensures products are stored safely."

Procurement

Getting supplies of goods or services

"The procurement team is responsible for buying raw materials."

Fulfillment

Completing orders and sending them to customers

"Our fulfillment process is designed to handle large volumes of orders."

Vendor

A person or company that sells goods or services to another company.

"We negotiate prices and terms with each vendor to get the best deals for our supply chain needs"

Packaging

The materials and containers used to protect, handle, and transport goods.

"Our packaging department makes sure that all products are securely packed for shipping."

Lead Time

The amount of time between placing an order and receiving the goods.

"Reducing lead time can improve customer satisfaction."

Demand Planning

Figuring out how much of something people will want.

"Accurate demand planning helps prevent stockouts and overstocking."

Logistics

The process of planning, implementing, and controlling the movement and storage of goods from maker to buyer.

"Our logistics operations are designed to optimize the movement and storage of goods."

Supply Chain Management (SCM)

Controlling the steps to get a product from the maker to the buyer.

"In Supply Chain Management (SCM), we oversee every step from production to delivery, ensuring products reach our customers efficiently and on schedule."

Third-Party Logistics (3PL)

When a company uses another business to handle shipping and storing.

"We have decided to partner with a Third-Party Logistics (3PL) provider for handling our shipping needs."

Freight

Goods transported by any mode of transportation, for example, by ship.

"The freight charges for international shipping have increased."

Carrier

A company or individual that transports goods or people from one place to another.

"We use a reliable carrier to ensure timely delivery of our products."

Shipping

The process of transporting goods by sea, air, or land.

"The shipping department handles all deliveries."

Pallet

A portable platform used for storing, handling, and transporting goods as a unit load.

"The goods were stacked on a pallet for easier transportation."

Route Optimization

Finding the most efficient route for transporting goods.

"Route optimization helps us save on fuel costs and reduce delivery times."

Intermodal

The use of multiple modes of transportation to move goods.

"Intermodal transport can help reduce shipping costs and improve efficiency."

Last Mile

The final step in the delivery process, from a transportation hub to the final destination.

"Last mile delivery is often the most challenging part of the logistics process."

Cross-Docking

A logistics practice where products are unloaded from incoming trucks and loaded directly onto outbound trucks with little or no storage in between.

"Cross-docking helps speed up the distribution process and reduce warehousing costs."

LTL (Less Than Truckload)

A shipping service for relatively small freight.

"We use LTL shipping for smaller orders that do not require a full truck."

FTL (Full Truckload)

A shipping service for large freight that fills an entire truck.

"FTL shipping is more cost-effective for large orders."

SKU (Stock Keeping Unit)

A unique identifier for each product in inventory.

"Each item in our warehouse is labeled with a SKU for easy tracking."

Dock

A platform for loading and unloading goods from vehicles.

"The delivery truck is waiting at the dock."

Yard Management

The process of overseeing the movement and storage of vehicles and containers in a yard.

"Effective yard management helps improve the flow of goods through our facility."

KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)

Metrics used to measure performance and success.

"We track KPIs to monitor our supply chain efficiency."

Compliance

Adhering to laws, regulations, and standards.

"Ensuring compliance with safety regulations is a top priority."

Risk Management

Identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks.

"Risk management strategies help protect our supply chain from disruptions."

Cost Reduction

Strategies to lower expenses and improve profitability.

"We implemented cost reduction measures to increase our profit margins."

Sustainability

Practices that meet current needs without compromising future resources.

"We are committed to sustainability and reducing our environmental impact."

Blanket Order

An agreement to buy a certain quantity of items over an agreed-upon period without specifying exact shipment dates.

"The procurement manager negotiated a blanket order with the supplier to ensure a steady flow of raw materials over the next six months."

Raw Materials

Basic materials used in the manufacturing or production of goods. These materials are typically in their natural state or have undergone minimal processing.

"The factory relies on raw materials such as steel, aluminum, and plastics to manufacture its products."

Consignment

Goods entrusted to a third party (consignee) for sale who pays the consignor (usually the manufacturer) only after selling the goods

"The manufacturer shipped a consignment of new products to the retail store"

Batch

A quantity of goods produced or processed together as a group, typically under similar conditions and within a specified time frame.

"A new batch of biodegradable packaging materials has been produced to fulfill growing orders from eco-conscious retailers."

Efficient

(adjective) Performing or functioning in the best possible manner with the least waste of time and effort.

"Our new distribution strategy is more efficient, reducing delivery times by 20%."

Reliable

(adj.) Consistently good in quality or performance; able to be trusted.

"We rely on our reliable suppliers to deliver materials on schedule."

Cost-effective

(adj.) Producing good results without costing a lot of money.

"Switching to rail transport proved to be more cost-effective than using trucks for long-distance shipping."

Optimized

(adj.) Made as effective or functional as possible.

"We implemented a new inventory management system to optimize warehouse space."

Timely

(adj.) Done or occurring at a favorable or useful time; punctual.

"Timely delivery is crucial to meeting customer expectations."

Flexible

(adj.) Able to change or be changed easily according to circumstances.

"Our logistics network is designed to be flexible, adapting quickly to changes in demand."

Secure

(adj.) Free from danger or threat; protected.

"We use secure packaging to ensure products arrive intact to our customers."

Transparent

(adj.) Operating in such a way that it is easy for others to see what actions are performed; easily understood; clear.

"We maintain transparent communication with our suppliers to avoid misunderstandings."

Scalable

(adj.) Able to be easily expanded or upgraded on demand.

"Our supply chain solutions are scalable, allowing us to handle increased production volumes."

Handle

(verb) To deal with or manage goods, typically involving physical handling.

"The warehouse workers handle incoming shipments with care to avoid damage."

Backorder

(verb) An order for a product that cannot be fulfilled at the time of purchase because it is out of stock.

"Due to unexpectedly high demand, some items are on backorder and will ship as soon as they become available."

Allocate

(verb) To distribute resources (such as inventory, funds, or production capacity) strategically.

"We always allocate warehouse space efficiently to optimize storage."

Track

(verb) To monitor the movement of goods throughout the supply chain.

"We track shipments using advanced software."

Congratulations on completing Everywhere English's guide to the Top 50 English Words for Logistics and Supply Chain!

We hope this resource has equipped you with the language tools you need to excel in your manufacturing journey. Remember, effective communication is key, and mastering these words will undoubtedly enhance your skills all along the supply chain. Stay curious, keep practicing, and may your newfound English proficiency open doors to even greater success in the dynamic world of logistics. Best of luck!



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A big thank you to our content creators,
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