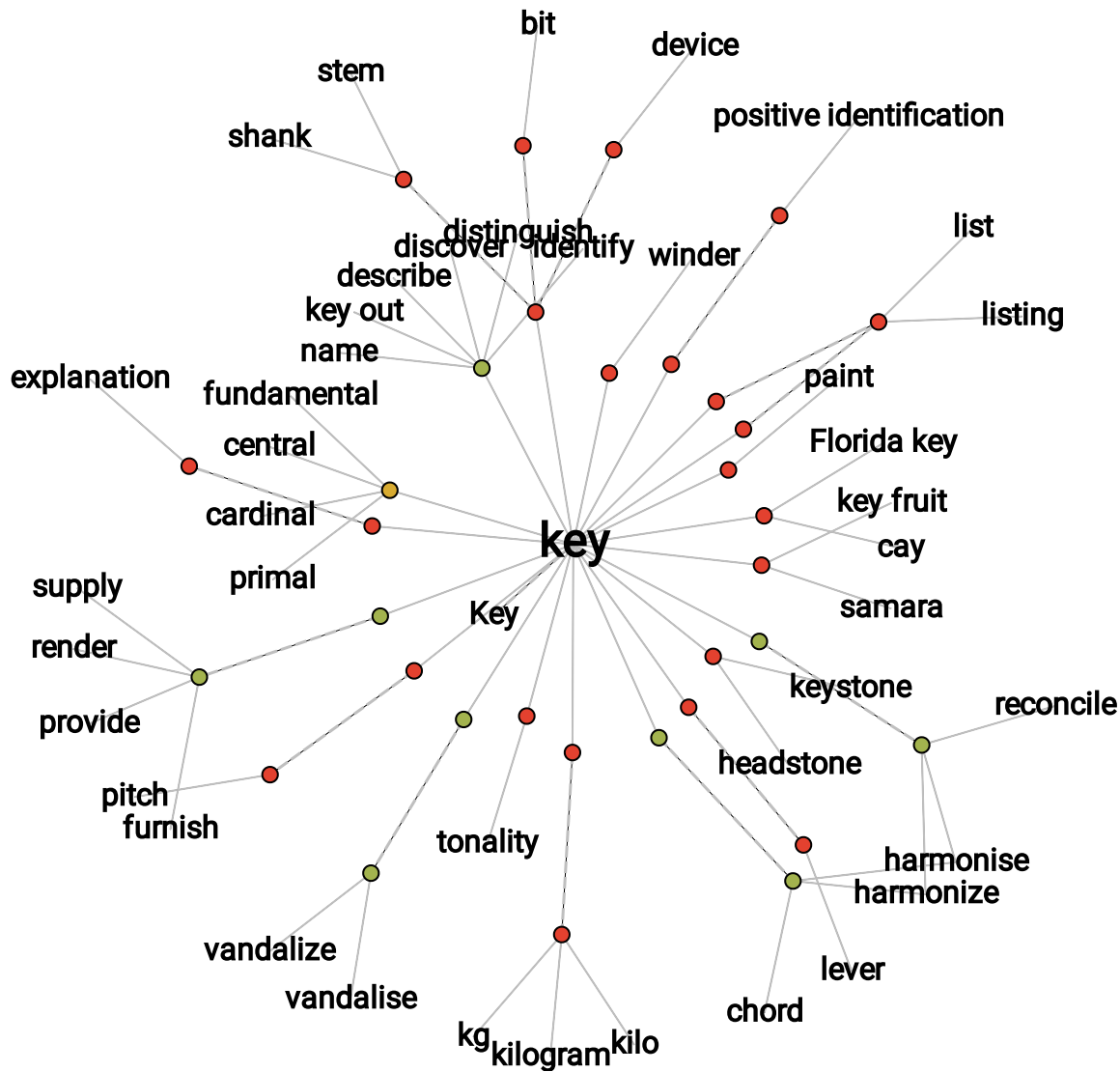


key



NOUNS

- **key**
metal device shaped in such a way that when it is inserted into the appropriate lock the lock's mechanism can be rotated
- **key**
something crucial for explaining
"the key to development is economic integration"
- **key**
pitch of the voice
"he spoke in a low key"

- **key, tonality**

any of 24 major or minor diatonic scales that provide the tonal framework for a piece of music

- **key**

a kilogram of a narcotic drug

"they were carrying two keys of heroin"

- **key, samara, key fruit**

a winged often one-seed indehiscent fruit as of the ash or elm or maple

- **key, cay, Florida key**

a coral reef off the southern coast of Florida

- **key, paint**

(basketball) a space (including the foul line) in front of the basket at each end of a basketball court; usually painted a different color from the rest of the court

"he hit a jump shot from the top of the key"

"he dominates play in the paint"

- **key**

a list of answers to a test

"some students had stolen the key to the final exam"

- **key**

a list of words or phrases that explain symbols or abbreviations

- **key**

a generic term for any device whose possession entitles the holder to a means of access

"a safe-deposit box usually requires two keys to open it"

- **key, winder**

mechanical device used to wind another device that is driven by a spring (as a clock)

- **key, headstone, keystone**

the central building block at the top of an arch or vault

- **key**
a lever (as in a keyboard) that actuates a mechanism when depressed

ADJECTIVES

- **key, fundamental, central, cardinal, primal**
serving as an essential component
"a cardinal rule"
"the central cause of the problem"
"an example that was fundamental to the argument"
"computers are fundamental to modern industrial structure"

VERBS

- **key, identify, distinguish, discover, describe, key out, name**
identify as in botany or biology, for example
- **key**
provide with a key
"We were keyed after the locks were changed in the building"
- **key**
vandalize a car by scratching the sides with a key
"His new Mercedes was keyed last night in the parking lot"
- **key**
regulate the musical pitch of
- **key**
harmonize with or adjust to
"key one's actions to the voters' prevailing attitude"