**Useful categories for constructing formal definitions:**

**General fields of study**: science, field, discipline, area, study

**General ways of organizing or investigating facts**: theory, system, method, approach, procedure, technique, model, paradigm, mode, program

**General rules for doing something**: standard, criterion, procedure, rule, [prescription, requirement, regulation, principle, law.

**Tools for doing something**: means, tool, instrument, device, apparatus, mechanism, machine

**Ways things happen**: event, occurrence, phenomenon, condition, phase, stage, process, regularity, series, sequence.

**Ways to describe something**: type, kind, property, characteristic, attribute, feature, aspect, quality, state, condition, change

**Types of matter**: substance, matter, material, element, solid, liquid, gas, particle, molecule, atom.

**Relation of part to whole**: part, component, section, segment, combination, compound, mixture, arrangement.

**Way something looks**: design, form, shape, structure, pattern, configuration, regularity

**Where something is**: point, place, location, continuum, area, region

**Ways of counting or figuring**: number, figure, unit, amount, measurement, calculation, probability, rate

**Acting on things**: action, force, pressure, power, behavior, performance