

Word	Meaning	Section(s) Found In
Boundary or Boundaries	Separates the system from its environment (limits the area) usually by a thick line in a systems map. That is basically where the system ends and the environment begins.	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 11, Section 3 - pg. 24, Section 6 - pg. 41
Bounded	Implied not just that it is fairly limited, but that one knows roughly where those limits are.	T551 - A Primer - Section 4 - pg. 28
Casual Thinking	A way of linking activities or events together.	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 12
Complexity	The quality of being intricate and compounded.	T551 - A Primer - Section 3 - pg. 23, Section 5 - pg. 33
Components	An abstract part of something	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 14
Difficulty, Difficulties	Simpler, more <i>limited</i> sorts of situations.	T551 - A Primer - Section 4 - pg. 27
Environment	The area in which something exists or lives. The environment of a system comprises those elements, activities, people, ideas and so on that are not part of the system but which may nevertheless be important in understanding it. System is the foreground; environment is the background, the relevant context of the system.	T551 - A Primer - Section 3 - pg. 24, Section 6 - pg. 41
Explanatory System	The components might not be seen as connected into a system by other people, but they are seen as connected by this cyclist and by me.	T551 - A Primer - Section 6 - pg. 43
Feedback Loops	Many different interacting factors.	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 14
Hard Complexity	Generating difficult computational problems (think of a chess game).	T551 - A Primer - Section 5 - pg. 33
Holistic Thinking	Deals with wholes rather than parts.	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 14, Section 3 - pg. 24
Information	Data collected all the time by the senses	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 16
Interconnectedness	Many interacting factors and feedback loops	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 14, Section 3 - pg. 23
Logical Thinking	Starts with a generalization, a premise which is assumed to be true and then deduces a conclusion about a particular case.	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 12
Mess, Messes	Nastier more taxing situation.	T551 - A Primer - Section 4 - pg. 27
Multiple Causes	Chains of causes and consequences.	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 12
Multiple Partial Views		T551 - A Primer - Section 8 - pg. 70
Perspectives	How things look from your current position or that of others. Points of view of the people involved in its use.	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 11, 17
Purpose	To look at what the system actually does (i.e. the system does something).	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 18, Section 6 - pg. 39
Recognized System	A system that is already existing and 'out there'. For example, a computer system, the nervous system, etc. They are either deliberately created or they have discrete, naturally occurring phenomena that have long since been delineated and analysed by scientists. They are popularly referred to as systems in common through our culture (tools, organisations, etc.).	T551 - A Primer - Section 6 - pg. 43
Reductionism	Artificially restricts the components in a system to make it possible to observe repeatable experiments.	T551 - A Primer - Section 2 - pg. 14
Rich Picture	Rich pictures are drawn at the pre-analysis stage, before you know clearly which parts of the situation should best be regarded as process and which as structure. The drawings can both <i>evoke</i> and <i>record</i> insight into a situation, and different visualizations techniques.	T552 - Diagramming - Appendix - A1 - pg. 62 & 63
Soft Complexity	Each person will have their own take on the situation - events can often be ambiguous and emotional involvement can be high as well.	T551 - A Primer - Section 5 - pg. 34

