## GEOLOGIC NOUNS, VERBS, ADJECTIVES, MODIFIERS, AND QUALIFIERS

Source: 20-queries exercise, version 1.0 Science Language Technical Team 5 May, 2000

The following list of English words is an attempt to identify various nouns, verbs, adjectives, modifiers, and qualifiers that occur in the 20-queries responses submitted by Science Langauge Technical Team participants (20 queries, v. 1.0). Such a list is one step in understanding the nomenclatural ambiguities, clarities, and uncertainties involved in our geo-nomenclature (for example, is there concensus on the meaning of "certain", "deposit", "environment", "lithology", "low-angle", "coarse-grained", "alluvium", "plutonic", "mylonitic", "fabric", "unit", "approximate", "inferred"). The list also helps in understanding the geometric, quantitative, and qualitative relationships that exist among geo-terms ("overlies", "greater than", "as young as", "associated with", "buried by", "resting on", "developed on", "underlies", "overtops", "less than").

- < 2000 years ago
- > 3m above
- > 50% quartz
- 1:24,000 scale
- 2 micas

20 to 80 m above sea level

2-mica granites

90% confidence limits on the location of

abandoned

abundant

acid neutralizing capacity

acid-rock-drainage potential

active

adjacent to

aeromagnetic data

aeromagnetic survey flight lines

age assignments of units

age between 1345 and 1326 Ma

age dates

age determined

age, how determined

age, who did

aggregate

aggregate deposits

aggregate resources, crushed-sandstone, economic

aggregate, concrete, highway-grade

aligned

alkalic plutonic

allochthonous rocks

alluvial deposits

alluvial fans

alluvial thicknesses of 500 ft and greater

alluvial-fan deposits dominated by debris-flow depositional processes

alluvium

alluvium, terrace

alteration, hydrothermal

altered rock

amphibolite facies

analytical data

ancient

andesitic volcanic rocks

anhydrite

anticlines, overturned

anticlines, upright

apatite fission-track cooling-age

aquifer

Archean

Archean and Proterozoic

are they any good? (data)

areas

arkose

arkosic wackes

aspect of 135-270 degrees

aspects, north

associated with

at surface

at the surface

Atlantic Coastal Plain Province

attitude data

attitude symbols, nth generation

Avalon zone

average

average standard-penetration values

backarc basin

Baraga Group

basalt

basalt units

basaltic units

basement

basin fill

basin fill units

basis for the identification of

beach erosion

bed thickness less than 1 foot

bedding attitudes, upright

bedding dips greater than 30 degrees

bedding measurements

bedding measurements for which tops are known

bedding thickness less than 6 inches

bedding, overturned

bedding, sedimentary

bedrock

bedrock geologic map

bedrock geologic units

bedrock geology

bedrock topography

bedrock units

bedrock units, non-intrusive

bedrock vs. alluvium

beds, lacustrine

below other surficial cover

beneath

bentonite

between 10 and 20 m above stream level

between 25% and 75%

between 450 and 423 Ma

between 60 and 75 ppm

between X and Y Ma

biota

biotite

black shale

bog or peat deposits

Bouguer gravity-anomaly contours

breccia, fault

brownish-red

buried beneath

buried by < 3m of material

calc-alkalic

calcrete

calcrete soil > stage IV

caldera

caldera boundaries, approximate

caldera boundaries, certain

caldera boundaries, concealed

caldera margin, outside of

caldera, intracaldera

calderas

caliche

Cambrian rocks

carbon content > 3%

carbonate deposits

carbonate rock, whether dolostone or limestone

carbonate rocks

carbonate, indurated

cataclasis

cataclastic rocks

catastrophic flood deposits

caves

cementation

Cenozoic

certain (as in fault, certain; contact, certain)

channels

characteristics

charnockites

chert

chert and shale combined

chloritized

clast

clast populations

clasts

clay

clay deposits

claystones

cliff forming

closed, partly

coal

coal beds

coal deposits, mined-out

coal fields

coal mines, underground

coal seams

cobbles

cobbles, basaltic

coexisting

cohesive strength

colluvium

combined

commodity

compile

compiled from

compiled sources

composition

composition, alkalic

composition, calc-alkalic

concrete aggregate

conglomerates

conglomeratic

conodont

consist mainly of

consist of two or more

contact

contact, approximate

contact, between

contact, certain

contact, concealed

contact, depositional, overlying angular unconformities

contact, gradational

contact, inferred

contact, separating

contact, nonconformable

contact, paraconformable

contact, unconformable

contact-metamorphosed zones

contacts, gradational

contacts, unconformable

contain

contain more than 50% carbonate rock

continental breakup

continental shelf

convegent margin magmatism

cooling-age values between X and Y Ma

copper mines, abandoned (from mineral resource database)

cover (noun)

cover (verb)

Cretaceous

Cretaceous and younger

Cretaceous and younger units

cross section

cross section indices

cross section, geologic

cross-cutting relationships

crushed stone (from mineral resource database)

cut by thrust faults

damage zone

damage zone, not plugged

data

data, analytical

data, density

data, redundancy

data, sufficient

data, sources

debris flow

debris flows

debris-flow deposit

decay constants

deep

deep-seated landslides

define

deformation, syndepositional

denser than

deposited in

depositional processes

deposits

deposits, aggregate

deposits, alluvial

deposits, alluvium, terrace

deposits, bog or peat

deposits, carbonate

deposits, clay

deposits, coal, mined-out

deposits, debris-avalanche

deposits, debris-fan

deposits, debris-flow

deposits, dome

deposits, drift

deposits, eolian

deposits, eolian silt

deposits, evaporite

deposits, flood

deposits, glacial

deposits, glacial bog

deposits, glacial, on specified bedrock unit

deposits, glacial, sandy

deposits, gold, placer

deposits, gravel

deposits, impermeable

deposits, karst

deposits, lacustrine

deposits, lahar

deposits, lake

deposits, lava-flow

deposits, levee

deposits, loess

deposits, massive sulfide

deposits, moraine

deposits, mudrock

deposits, Neogene

deposits, outwash

deposits, outwash, Chippewa lobe

deposits, phosphate

deposits, playa

deposits, pull-apart basin

deposits, pumice

deposits, pyroclastic-flow

deposits, sand

deposits, sand and gravel

deposits, sandstone

deposits, sedimentary, nonmarine

deposits, skarn

deposits, slope-failure

deposits, surficial

deposits, terrace

deposits, till

deposits, tsunami

deposits, unconsolidated

deposits, volcanic

depth estimates

depth to basement

derived from

developed over

devitrified

Devonian

Devonian, middle

dextral movement

diamictons less than 2 m thick

dikes

dikes, clastic

dikes, rhyolite

dip direction, reversal of

dip directions

dip information

dips greater than 45 degrees

dips northwestward greater than 25 degrees

displacement (fault)

distribution and thickness

divergent margin magmatism

distribution of

documented (confidence measure)

dolomite

dolostone

dominant lithology (> 50%)

dominated by

downhill direction

drain (verb)

drainage basin

drainage line

drainage pattern

draw a map of my groupings

drill holes

dune migrations

dunes

earthflows

economic mineral potential

edge effects (as in map edge or map boundary)

ejecta blankets

element

elemental abundances

environment

environments, barrier-bar

environments, intertidal

environments, oxygen-deficient

environments, platform-margin

environments, strand-plain

eolian sand

eolian sand <5%

epithermal gold systems

eskers

excavatable, easily

exceeds 4.0 degrees C

exposures

extensional

extrapolation

fault

fault intersection

fault movement

fault rocks

fault scarps that slope 15 to 25 degrees

fault system, named

fault system, transform

fault zones, Brevard and Mountain Run

fault zones, named

fault, named

fault, normal

fault, reverse

fault, specified

fault, specified, surface trace of

fault, strike-slip, dextral

fault, strike-slip, sinistral

faults

faults (by type)

faults, active

faults, approximate

faults, certain

faults, circular pattern

faults, clustered

faults, concealed

faults, dipping 60 degrees or greater

faults, high-angle

faults, historically active

faults, inferred

faults, listric

faults, low-angle

faults, normal

faults, nth generation

faults, reverse

faults, specified age

faults, specified type

faults, strike-slip

faults, strike-slip, left-lateral

faults, strike-slip, right-lateral

faults, thrust

faults, thrust, blind

faults, thrust, reactivated

faunal assemblages

faunal provinciality, Celtic

felsic

field investigation

filled with

fine-grained

fine-grained quartzite

fission-track cooling-age

flanking

flight line

flood basalt

flood plain

flood plain, 100-year

flow foliation, magmatic

fluvial deposits

fold, named

folds (by type)

folds, approximate

folds, certain

folds, concealed

folds, inferred

folds, nth generation

foliated

foliation

foliation measurements

foliation surface, single

foliations, regional

foreland

formation

Formation

formation polygons

formation x

Formation Y

**Formations** 

formations

fossil

fossil clams

fossil localities

fossil localities that conflict with age assignments of units

fossil locations

fossils

fossils, trilobite

fracture density

fracture spacing, close

fracture spacing, denser than

fractures

fractures, in bedrock

fractures, open

fractures, partly closed by caliche

fractures, without calcite fill

garnet

garnet, prograde

gas

gas fields

generalize the map

generalized

geochemical analyses

geochemical signature

geochemically differentiate (verb)

geochemistry

geologic belt, regional

geologic description

geologic hazard potential

geologic map, complete

geologic map, generalized

geologic province, regional

geologic quadrangles

geologic terrane, regional

geologic zone, regional

geologic-map units

geophysical grid

geothermal gradient

glacial activity

glacial limit, all-time

glacial striae

glacial striae, more than one set

glacial striae, superimposed

glauconite

glauconite-bearing rocks

gneissose rock

gold

gold mines

gold occurrences

grain size, sand

granites

granites, hypersolvus

granitic intrusions

granitic rock

granitic rocks that have more K2O than Na2O

granitoid rocks

granodiorites

granulite-facies

graptolite zone

gravel

gravel pits

gravity analysis

gravity measurements

great enough to

greater than 15 feet thick

greater than 2 m thick

greater than 20 feet thick

greater than 36 inches thick

greater than 4 feet in thickness

greater than 5% by volume

greater than 7% silt

greater that 10 feet thick

greater that 2 km in length

greenschist facies

greenschist facies, at least

greenschist-facies mafic volcanic rocks

groove casts

ground truth

groundmass, fine-grained

groundwater flow, shallow

Group

Group level or equivalent

grouped

guess

gypsum

habitat, desert tortoise

hanging-wall rock units

hard rocks

harzburgites, tectonized

has 25 feet or less of glacial cover

high-level

high-sinuosity

Holocene

Holocene, late

hornblende, magmatic

hornblende, prograde

hornblende-bearing

how many different rock types

hydraulic conductivity

hydrogeochemical characteristics, general

hypabyssal rocks

iceberg scours

ice-flow directions

igneous rock units, extrusive

igneous rock units, intrusive

igneous rocks

igneous rocks, basic

ilmenite-bearing

in the last 12,000 years

in the upper 10 cm

in their upper part

include the

incremented by 10%

index map

indurated

inferred to be

inner-gorges (geomorphology)

interpretive

intersect

intersects

intrude

intruded by

intrusions into

intrusions, granitic

intrusions, plutonic, felsic

intrusive contacts

intrusive rocks

intrusive rocks, felsic

intrusive rocks, mafic

intrusive rocks, subvolcanic

intrusives/extrusives

isotope

isotope systems

Isotope, radiogenic

Isotope, stable

isotopic abundances

isotopic ratios

isotopic ratios, initial

joint sets, orthogonal

joints

Jurassic

Jurassic/Cretaceous

karst areas, probable

kimberlites

Kimmeridgian

Kiokee belts

known (adjective)

known age

**Kyanite** 

laboratory, chemical

laboratory, dry chemistry

laboratory, isotope

laboratory, wet chemistry

lacustrine beds

lacustrine origin

lahars

lake, bed of

lakes

lakes, modern

landforms

landforms, glacial, streamlined

landforms, glacially streamlined

landslide deposits

landslide scarps, approximate

landslide scarps, certain

landslide scarps, concealed

landslides

Laramide

larger than 0.5 ha

latitude

Lava Creek B tephra

lava flows, basalt

layering, cumulus

layering, macrorhythmic

less than 10,000 yrs old

less than 3 m of

less than 50 feet

less than 500lb/square ft

lie within 50 km of

likely to have

limestone

limestone, high-calcium

limestone, moldic

limestones

limestones, lacustrine

lineaments, regional

lineation measurements

lines

lines and polygons, map units mapped as both

lines only, map units are mapped as

liquid

lithogeochemical map

lithologic characteristics, general

lithologic classification, customized

lithologic classification, standard

lithologic map

lobe (glacial)

locate themselves (geology allows users to)

location of

locations

logs

longitude

lower than

made up

mafic

mafic to ultramafic

magmatism, convegent margin

magmatism, divergent margin

magnetic analysis

magnetic anomalies with amplitudes of 100 nT and greater

magnetic survey location, ground based

magnetic susceptibility

magnitude 6 or greater earthquake

map area

map element

map legend

map notes cited

map set

map units

map-unit identification

map-unit identification is little more than a guess

marble

marine

marine, deep

marine, nearshore

marine, shallow

Marquette Range Supergroup

massive

material

material properties

maximum areal limits within which

maximum extent

maximum extent of

mean density, bulk

measured sections

measurements, accuracy of

measurements, precision of

Member

members

Members

Mesoproterozoic

Mesozoic

metacarbonate rock

metadata

metamorphic

metamorphic rocks

Metamorphic Suite

metamorphic terrane

metamorphic terrane, granulite facies

metamorphism, retrogressive

metamorphosed

metasedimentary rocks

meteor impacts, buried

Mid-continent rift

mine tailings

mineral

mineralization, sulfide

mineralogic data

mineralogy

mines

mines, abandoned

mines, active

mining sites, surface, abandoned

Miocene

Mississippian

modal analysis

moisture content, bedrock

molybdenite prospects (from mineral resource database)

molybdenite traces (from mineral resource database)

moraine, terminal

moraines

moraines, end

moraines, recessional, large

more K2O than Na2O

more than 1 m thick

more than 15% clay

more than 5 meters

more than 50% carbonate rock

more than 50% of the map unit

more that 100 feet from the high water mark

movement within the last 100 years, documented

movement, during the Holocene

mudrock

multiple

multiple structural orientations

muscovite, magmatic

muscovite, prograde

mylonitic fabrics

names of all Eocene units

Neogene

nickel in lake sediments

nonmarine

obsidian

occurrences

occurs within 1 km

offset

offset, unknown amount of

oil fields

oil well locations

oil-stained rock

older than

on slopes steeper than 10 degrees

only the youngest

ophiolite

ophiolite assemblage

organic terrane

organic-rich

orientation of

orientation, preferred

origin

orogeny

orthogneisses

outcrop identification

outcrop pattern

outcrops

overlie

overlie angular unconformities

overlie units

overturned

Oxfordian Stage

paleontological analysis

paleontological data

paleontological studies

paleostress indicators

Paleozoic

Paleozoic and older rocks

parent rock type, originating

part of an

particle-size distribution

patterns resemble

peat

peat deposits, organic-rich

Pennsylvanian

percent gravel

performed at the Royal Ontario Museum geochronology lab

permafrost

permafrost, discontinuous

permeabilities over 1 md

permeability

permeable

Permian

perturb

petrologic classification based on modal analysis

Phanerozoic

pillow lavas

pillows

plagiarized

planar point features

playas

Pleistocene

Pleistocene, early

Pleistocene, middle

Pliocene sediments

Pliocene, late

Pliocene, late or younger

plutonic

plutonic felsic rocks

plutonic igneous rocks

plutonic intrusions

plutonic intrusions, felsic

plutonic intrusions, intermediate

plutonic intrusions, mafic

plutonic rocks

plutonic rocks, porphyritic

plutonic, alkalic

plutons

polygons

polygons mapped as (each map unit symbol in turn)

polygons mapped as open water

polygons that contain sample points

polyphase

poor conditions for

porosity

porous

porphyritic

Precambrian

predominantly composed of

primary

primary porosities

Proterozoic

Proterozoic rocks

Proterozoic rocks, early

Proterozoic, early

protoliths, igneous plutonic, felsic

provenances

published after 1985

pull-apart basin

pumice

pyroclastic flow

quarries, abandoned Berea Sandstone

quarries, sand and gravel, active

quartzite

Quaternary

Quaternary alluvium

Quaternary cover

Quaternary fault

radiogenic isotope ratios (initial)

radiometric age data

radiometric ages

radon gas

rake of 45 to 60 degrees

range

ratio is greater than 2:1

ratio, mudrock:grainrock, greater than 2:1

reactivated

reasonably close

recent

recharge areas

reclamation

reclassification of rock units, customized

reclassification of rock units, standard

reclassifying surficial deposits

recreational gold panner

red

references

references cited

references for U-Pb zircon dates by ion microprobe (from national geochronological database)

regional extent

regional geologic belt

regional geologic province

regional geologic terrane

regional geologic zone

relative movement

reliability

reliable

relict

reversely polarized

reversely-magnetized

reversely-magnetized basalt flows

rhyolite

rip-rap sources

river plains

river plains, high-sinuosity

rivers, modern

rock bodies (map units)

rock outcrops

rock type

rock types in a list

rock units

rock units denser than 2.67 g/cc

rockfall potential

rumor

sample localities

samples

sand

sand and gravel

sand sources

sandstone

sandstone, clean

sandstone, coarse

sandstone, conglomeratic

sandstone, pebbly conglomeratic, constitutes more than 50% of the map unit

sandstone-mudrock sequences

sandstones

sandy glacial deposits

sanidine

sanidine 40Ar/39Ar

scale of data validity

scarps, fault

scarps, landslide

scarps, slope-movement

scratch boundaries

Section (PLSS unit)

sedimentary

sedimentary bedding

sedimentary rocks

sedimentary rocks

sediments, marine

sediments, terrestrial

sediments, unconsolidated

seeps, oil

seismicity, alignments of

selenite

separating

sequences deposited in

shale

shale, black

shale, combined with

shale, dips northwestward greater than 25 degrees on slopes steeper than 10 degrees

shales

shaly facies

shear strengths (phi values)

shear zones

shearing (noun)

shear-wave velocity less than 200 meters per second

shoreface units, lower

shorelines, glacial lake

shorelines, marine, raised

shorelines, recent

shrink-swell (adjective)

silicic plutonic rocks

silicic volcanic rocks

siliciclastic

sillimanite

sills

silt

silt >5%

siltstone

similar to a particular rock

sinistral movement

sinkholes

sites

skarn deposits

slope exceeds 20%

slope more steeply than

slope movement

slope movements

slope-failure deposits

slopes less than 3%

slopes steeper than 10 degrees

slump blocks

smectite

soil development, significant lack of

soil, residual

soils

soils, Av horizons

soils, Av horizons, weak

soils, cryptogamic

soils, liquefiable

soils, serpentine

sources for compilation

spatial variation (semi-variance?)

specify groupings

springs

stacked units

stained brownish-red

standard-penetration values

stations

statistical error in the data

steep

steep terrain, areas containing

steeper than 15 degrees

steeply dipping

stock (igneous)

stratigraphic

stratigraphic contact

stratigraphic equivalents

stratigraphic order

stratigraphic relationship of all units

stratigraphic units

stratigraphic units, named

stratigraphically above

stream deposits

strike & dip

strike is between 80 and 110 degrees

structural trends, regional

structures, sedimentary

subdivisions

sulfur attribute values

Supergroup

superimpose all (verb)

superimposed

surface armor

surface materials

surface materials map

surface rocks

surface roughness value

surface, upper

surficial deposits

surficial geologic map

surficial material

surficial materials

surficial sediments

susceptible

susceptible to landslides

suspected age

syenitic rocks

symbols

symbols, geologic

symbols, linear

symbols, lineations, mineral elongation

symbols, lineations, stretching

symbols, planar

symbols, strike/dip

synclines, overturned

synclines, upright

talc

techniques

tectonized harzburgites

tephra

terrace deposits

terraces

terraces, marine

terrane

terrane, Carolina

terrane, metamorphic

terranes

Tertiary

Tertiary, middle

textual descriptions

textural properties (fractal dimension)

textures, cumulate

textures, porphyritic

that contain

the most biotite

thicker than one meter

thickness of

thrust faults

thrust faults, blind

thrust faults, of the Penokean orogen

thrust faults, reactivated

thrust, low-angle

till

till bluffs over 15 feet high

till deposits

till, calcareous

till, clayey lodgement

till, clay-rich

till, lodgement

till, thick

time slice

titanite

TOC (total organic carbon) attribute values in excess of 1%

too small to show as

topographic relief

Township (PLSS)

trace amounts of

transport direction of

trend

trend, NW-SE

Triassic

Triassic age

triggered by

trilobite

truncate or offset (verb)

tsunami deposits

tuffs

tuffs, ashflow, welded

turbidite

turbidites

Tyee Sandstone, dipping west

type section

type section locality

U/Pb age determinations

U/Pb method

ultrabasic rocks

ultramafic

unconformable contacts

unconformities

unconformities, angular

unconformity

unconformity, angular, specified

unconsolidated

unconsolidated deposits

under

underlain by

underlie

undivided Supergroups or Groups

unit

unit boundaries

unit Tvb

unit, separate (adjective)

units

units, basalt

units, basaltic

units, basin fill

units, bedrock

units, Cambrian

units, cyclic

units, granitic

units, grouping of customized

units, grouping of, standard

units, limestone

units, mapped undivided

units, non-metamorphic

units, Quaternary

units, sand and gravel

units, sedimentary

units, stratified

units, surficial geologic

U-Pb zircon ages

uranium, whole-rock

useable scale range of the data

user geographic reference

U-series dates < 130 ka

valleys, buried

values between X and Y Ma

various parts

vegetation

vergence

volcanic breccia

volcanic deposits

volcanic eruptions, recent

volcanic flows, recent

volcanic rocks

volcanic rocks, andesitic

volcanic rocks, basaltic

volcanic rocks, bimodal

volcanic rocks, mafic

volume

wackes, arkosic

water levels

water table

water wells

wavelet (geophysics)

weak

weathered, highly

weathered, moderately

welded

well bedded

well data

well preserved

well sorted

well-developed

wells

wells, active

wells, gas

wells, oil

well-sorted

well-sorted, clean

wetlands

what is the definition of?

what orientations?

what probability?

what scale?

White River Group

white rocks

who mapped?

who?

wider than 2 m

Wisconsin age

with greater than

with immediately younger

within 1.5 m of the surface

within 10 feet of the surface

within 150 feet of the surface

within 2 km of

within 2 km of

within 2 m of the surface

within 2 m of the surface

within 20 degrees of east-west orientation

within 3 m of a stream

within 3 m of the surface

written communication x,y,z information younger younger than younger than 10 Ma younger than 28 Ma zoned