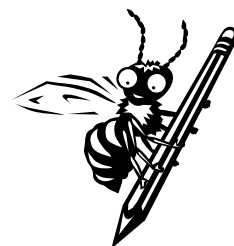


# Stanislaus County Elementary Spelling Championship

Word List



(same book for past three years  
- no revisions were made)



**abbreviate** - uh-BREE-vee-ayt

*shorten*

**In formal papers, it is not proper to abbreviate words.**

---

**abdominal** - ab-däm-n'l

*lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, or for the abdomen*

**The abdominal bandage seemed too tight.**

---

**abhor** - ab HOR

*to shrink from in fear; detest*

**I abhor baiting my fishhook with worms.**

---

**absurd** - AB-surd

*so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous*

**It was absurd to say the baby could reach the counter.**

---

**accessory** - ak SES uh ree

*useful but not essential thing*

**That necklace is a nice accessory to your outfit.**

---

**accommodate** - a-kä-ma-DATE

*to make fit, suitable, or congruous*

**The school can now accommodate handicapped students.**

---

**acoustics** - uh KOOHS tiks

*the qualities of a room that enhance or deaden sound*

**The concert hall is known for its fine acoustics.**

---

**active** - AK tiv

*lively, busy, agile*

**Last night I baby-sat for a very active two-year old.**

---

**acumen** - a-ku-men

*acuteness of mind; keenness in intellectual or practical matters*

**He was a businessman of acknowledged acumen.**

---

**addendum** - a-den-dum

*thing added or to be added*

**The name of the second speaker is an addendum to the program.**

---

**addressee** - a-dre-sE OR u-dre-sE

*person to whom mail, etc., is addressed*

**His name is that of the addressee on the envelope.**

**admire** - ad-mire

*to gaze on with delight*

**I admire your choice of neckties.**

---

**adolescence** - "a-del-'e-sen(t)s

*the state between childhood and adulthood; a time of growing up*

**Good habits formed in adolescence are assets in later life.**

---

**adolescent** - ad-o-les-sent

*period of life between puberty and adulthood*

**An adolescent frequently has trouble communicating with parents.**

---

**advise** - ad VIZE

*to give counsel*

**I would advise you to study hard for this test.**

---

**against** - uh GENST

*in opposition to*

**The Student Council voted against school uniforms.**

---

**algid** - al-jid

*cold, chilly*

**When the door was opened an algid wind came howling in.**

---

**allegiance** - uh LEE juhn(t)s

*the obligation of fidelity in general*

**The soldier's allegiance to their country was unquestioned.**

---

**allegory** - al-e-go-ri

*a figurative story or narrative*

**Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" is a celebrated example of the allegory.**

---

**almond** - ah-mond

*the edible, nutlike kernel of the small, dry, peach like fruit of a tree*

**Modesto is known as an almond-growing region.**

---

**amaze** - uh MAZE

*to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder*

**The musician's talent will amaze the audience.**

---

**ambush** - AM-bush

*an arrangement of persons in hiding to make a surprise attack*

**The sheriff did not suspect ambush.**

**amphibious** - am FIB ee uhs

*capable of operating on land or water*

**D-day was marked by an amphibious assault.**

---

**anniversary** - an uh VUR suhr ee

*the yearly commemoration of a special event*

**Our school will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary next year.**

---

**antecedence** - AN tu-s E d'ns

*priority; precedence; going before*

**The teacher stressed the antecedence of study to success.**

---

**antidote** - ANT i dote

*something that relieves, prevents, or counteracts*

**Education is often said to be an antidote to crime.**

---

**antimacassar** - an ti muh KAS ur

*a covering to prevent the soiling of the backs of chairs or sofas*

**To create the Victorian setting, we will need a lace antimacassar for each of the chairs.**

---

**apiarist** - a-pi-a-rist

*one who keeps bee hives*

**When he retired, he became an enthusiastic apiarist.**

---

**apparatus** - ap pah RAT us

*equipment used to do a particular kind of work*

**The balance beam is an apparatus in gymnastics.**

---

**appoint** - uh POYNT

*to name or select officially for an office, position*

**The president will appoint all the committee chairs.**

---

**architecture** - 'är-ka-"tek-chur

*the style of building that designers produce*

**Colonial style architecture was popular in Southern plantation homes.**

---

**argue** - AR gyoooh

*to dispute or quarrel*

**My friend and I often argue over trivial details.**

---

**arouse** - a-rous

*to excite to action*

**arrogance** - AR-e-gen(t)s

**The night watchman hastened to arouse the sleeping guests.**

*self-importance; overbearing pride; haughty*

**His arrogance was difficult to put up with.**

---

**aspirin** - AS puh-r in

*a white crystalline drug used as a pain and fever remedy*

**The doctor prescribed aspirin and bed rest for my cold.**

---

**assistance** - a-SIS-tun(t)s

*support*

**We will need your assistance to put our campaign over the top.**

---

**awkward** - AW kwuhrd

*not graceful, clumsy*

**My walk was very awkward right after my cast was removed.**

---

**ballot** - BAL-ut

*a ticket or paper by which a vote is registered; act or method of voting*

**The class president was elected by a written ballot.**

---

**bankrupt** - BANGK rupt

*a person legally declared unable to pay debts*

**The store's owner was bankrupt and had to go out of business.**

---

**banner** - ban-er

*a flag*

**The boy scouts held their banner high throughout the parade.**

---

**barrel** - bar-el

*a container with rounded sides and flat top and bottom*

**The last barrel of water was loaded on to the truck.**

---

**basin** - BAY suhn

*a washbowl or sink*

**Rinse your contact lenses over a basin with the drain closed.**

---

**battalion** - ba-'tal-yun

*a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle*

**He had command of a battalion during World War II.**

---

**behavior** - bee HAYV yuhr

*manner of one's conduct*

**The young child's reward for good behavior was a trip to the zoo.**

---

**beleaguer** - bih-LEE-gur

*to blockade by surrounding with an array*

**The military operation was planned to beleaguer the enemy.**

---

**believe** - be-lev'

*to have faith or confidence*

**I believe this will be an interesting contest.**

---

**bellwether** - bel-weth-er

*a male sheep (usually wearing a bell) which leads the flock*

**The bellwether led the sheep into the slaughterhouse.**

---

**benefit** - BEN uh fit

*promotion of welfare or prosperity*

**This project will benefit all humankind.**

---

**benevolent** - buh-NEH-vuh-lunt

*doing or inclined to do good; kindly; charitable*

**He was known as a benevolent despot.**

---

**biscuit** - BIS kut

*a small quick bread*

**Here's some honey for your biscuit.**

---

**blasphemy** - BLAS fuh mee

*any irreverent act or utterance*

**It was blasphemy to speak ill of our teachers.**

---

**blithe** - blithe

*jovial; glad; cheerful; lightheartedly gay*

**The theatergoers were in a blithe spirit.**

---

**boisterous** - 'boi-st(a)-rus

*rowdy*

**The security officer had to quiet the boisterous group.**

---

**botany** - 'bah-ten-E

*the science of plants*

**The branch of biology dealing with plant life is called botany.**

---

**bougainvillea** - boo gan VEE(l) ya

*evergreen vine with vibrant colored flowers*

**The walls of the hotel terrace in Mexico were covered with gorgeous bougainvillea vines.**

**boulevard** - 'bu-la-"vård

*a broad often landscaped thoroughfare*

**Sometimes driving on a boulevard is faster than taking the freeway.**

---

**bullion** - bool-yun

*gold or silver*

**A large shipment of gold bullion was delivered to the mint.**

---

**buoyancy** - 'boi-un(t)-sE

*the tendency of a body to float in a fluid*

**Filling the raft with more air will increase its buoyancy.**

---

**bureaucracy** - byooh RAWK ruh see

*a body of (hired) government officials*

**The federal government is criticized for the size of its bureaucracy.**

---

**camouflage** - KAM uh flahj

*the disguise applied to military equipment*

**The uniforms are now tan to camouflage them in the desert.**

---

**campaign** - kam PANE

*a systematic course of aggressive activities*

**At the meeting, they introduced the advertising campaign for the coming season.**

---

**capriciousness** - ka-pri-sh's-ness

*a change without apparent reason; erratic behavior*

**His capriciousness was evident as soon as he appeared at dinner.**

---

**caption** - KAP shun

*a heading or title, as of a newspaper article*

**The caption at the top of the story attracted my attention.**

---

**career** - kuh RIR

*one's progress through life or in a particular vocation*

**I would like to have a career in teaching.**

---

**carnivorous** - kar NIV uh ruhs

*meat-eating*

**The lion is a carnivorous animal.**

---

**carousel** - kar uh SEL

*a merry-go-round*

**I love riding the carousel at the park.**

**carry** - kair-E

*take from one place to another*

**I helped the teacher carry all his books.**

---

**cashier** - ka-'shir

*an officer in a bank or company responsible for receipts and disbursements*

**The cashier collected the receipts and recorded them for the bank.**

---

**casserole** - KAS uh role

*earthenware or glass baking dish, or food cooked in one*

**Please bring a vegetable casserole to the potluck.**

---

**catastrophe** - kuh TAS truh fee

*the culminating event of a drama, tragedy*

**The Northridge Earthquake was a catastrophe.**

---

**center** - sen-ter

*the middle*

**A small island was in the center of the lake.**

---

**central** - SEN truhl

*in, at, or near the center*

**Let us get back to the central issue we are here to discuss.**

---

**centrifugal** - sen-'tri-fyu-gal

*radiating or departing from the center*

**The road was banked to counteract the centrifugal force.**

---

**cessation** - se-SA-shen

*ceasing or stopping, either forever or for a period of time*

**Shutting the heavy door caused a cessation of all the noise.**

---

**chauffeur** - SHOH-fer

*driver of a private automobile for someone else*

**The chauffeur drove her to school each day.**

---

**chief** - CHEEF

*a ruler, leader, head*

**The crew chief will give you your assignments.**

---

**chorus** - KOR uhs

*music repeated between verses*

**The choir will sing the verses, and all will join in on the chorus.**

**chrysanthemum** - kri SAN tuh mum

*popular plant grown for its long-lasting flowers*

**A chrysanthemum bouquet was the centerpiece for our Thanksgiving table.**

---

**cinnamon** - SIN uh muhn

*a highly aromatic spice*

**We are serving cinnamon rolls for breakfast.**

---

**coalesce** - kO-uh-les

*to grow together; to unite or merge into a single body*

**The splint would help the broken bones to continue to coalesce.**

---

**coincidence** - ko in se dens

*the happening of events at the same time by chance*

**It is quite a coincidence that Steve and his father have their birthdays on the same day.**

---

**colleague** - KOL eeg

*a fellow worker*

**I would like to introduce my colleague who designed this project.**

---

**college** - KOL ij

*a school after high school*

**Many high school students also take college courses.**

---

**collegian** - ka-'IE-j(E-) en

*a member of a college; college student*

**Dad bought the collegian a new set of luggage.**

---

**column** - KOL uhm

*a vertical arrangement of items*

**Place the cursor at the top of this column.**

---

**comfort** - kum-fort

*to impart strength and hope*

**Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**

---

**compatible** - kum-PAT-uh-bul

*capable of existing together in harmony*

**In a group, it helps if the members are compatible.**

---

**compel** - kum-PEL

*to enforce or constrain, as to do something*

<b>complexion</b> - kuhm PLEK shun	<b>New laws compel judges to issue the maximum sentence.</b> <i>the skin color of the face</i> <b>People with a fair complexion need to be very careful in the sun.</b>
<b>concerto</b> - kuhn CHAIR toh	<i>a piece for one or more soloists and orchestra</i> <b>She played the piano concerto beautifully.</b>
<b>confidential</b> - kan-fa-'den(t)-shul	<i>told in confidence; secret</i> <b>Do not you dare tell anyone I said this; it is confidential between you and me.</b>
<b>conscientious</b> - KAHN shee en chuhs	<i>scrupulous; careful</i> <b>I try to be conscientious about getting my homework done.</b>
<b>constitutional</b> - CON-sti-tu-shn'l	<i>of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential</i> <b>Everyone in the United States has constitutional rights.</b>
<b>convenient</b> - kuhn VEEN yuhnt	<i>conducive to comfort or ease</i> <b>It would be more convenient if you would stop by around 6:00.</b>
<b>convert</b> - kuhn vurt	<i>to change from one form to another</i> <b>Use this key to convert uppercase letters to lowercase ones.</b>
<b>correct</b> - ke-REKT	<i>to change from wrong to right; to point out or mark the errors of</i> <b>School teachers often take papers home to correct.</b>
<b>correspondence</b> - kor uh SPAHN dun(t)s	<i>a communication by letters</i> <b>Please file this correspondence alphabetically.</b>
<b>corrupt</b> - COR-rupt	<i>spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound</i> <b>The corrupt official accepted a bribe.</b>
<b>counterfeit</b> - KOWNT-er-fit	<i>to imitate or copy, especially with intent to deceive</i> <b>This is the way to check if this bill is counterfeit.</b>

**courier** - KUR ee uhr

*a messenger*

**The bicycle courier sped through the city's streets.**

---

**courteous** - KUR tee uhs

*marked by respect for and consideration of others*

**If one is courteous, one will reap many benefits.**

---

**crescent** - KRES uhnt

*the shape of a new moon or one in its last quarter*

**These little crescent shaped rolls are delicious.**

---

**crimson** - 'krim-zón

*deep red color*

**The sky, at sunset became beautifully crimson.**

---

**crisis** - KREYE sis

*decisive or crucial time or stage of an event*

**We knew we had to deal with the crisis quickly and efficiently.**

---

**curtain** - kur-tin

*window drapery*

**The window curtain matched the bedspread in the room.**

---

**daughter** - DAWT uhr

*a female offspring*

**We are very proud of all that our daughter has accomplished.**

---

**deafen** - DEF uhn

*overwhelm with noise*

**The volume of the loudspeaker will deafen the audience.**

---

**decent** - 'dE-sent

*proper and fitting; not immodest*

**Father provided for a decent, comfortable standard of living.**

---

**deciduous** - di SIG e wes

*shedding leaves annually*

**The fall colors on the deciduous trees are beautiful.**

---

**defendant** - di FEN dunt

*a person who is sued or accused in court*

**The jury ruled the defendant is not guilty.**

**delicacy** - de-li-k'-sE

*pleasing in taste, odor, texture; fragile beauty of graceful slightness*

**Caviar is considered a delicacy by many.**

---

**delicatessen** - deh-lih-kuh-TEH-sun

*a shop where sandwich items, meats and cheeses are sold*

**Let us stop by the delicatessen to pick up things for our picnic.**

---

**depressant** - di PRES uhnt

*a drug that reduces bodily functional activity*

**The doctor administered a depressant to calm the manic patient's behavior.**

---

**depth** - DEPTH

*distance from the top*

**The pool goes down to a depth of ten feet.**

---

**description** - di-SCRIP-shen

*the art, process or technique of picturing in words; sort or variety*

**Her description of the cathedral made us feel as if we had been there.**

---

**destroy** - di STROY

*to tear down*

**The demolition crew will destroy the whole building.**

---

**devoid** - du-'void

*completely without; empty or destitute*

**Crippled badly from the accident, he was devoid of any way to resume his former occupation.**

---

**dichotomy** - deye KOT uh mee

*division into two (contrasting) halves, pairs or set*

**Reconciling the dichotomy between public and private interests is a difficult job.**

---

**dictionary** - DIK shun air ee

*wordbook, lexicon*

**If you cannot spell the beginning of a word, it is hard to look it up in the dictionary.**

---

**dilemma** - di LEM uh

*predicament; a situation in which one must choose*

<b>dinosaur</b> - DEYE nuh sor	<p><b>It was a real dilemma deciding which college to attend.</b>  <i>any of a group of extinct reptiles</i>  <b>A plastic replica of a huge dinosaur is on display at the science museum.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>disassemble</b> - dis uh SEM buhl	<p><i>to take apart</i>  <b>We will have to disassemble the room immediately following the competition.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>discipline</b> - DIS uh pluhn	<p><i>training that develops self-control or character</i>  <b>The vice principal is in charge of discipline at many schools.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>discord</b> - DIS-kord	<p><i>lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones</i>  <b>The sense of discord in the committee made us nervous.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>distress</b> - di-'stres	<p><i>to cause sorrow or misery; pain, suffering</i>  <b>Arthritic pain causes distress in her stiff knee when she walks.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>disturbance</b> - dis TUR buhn(t)s	<p><i>a tumult or commotion by which the public peace is upset</i>  <b>There was quite a disturbance outside my bedroom window last night.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>dollar</b> - DOL-uhr	<p><i>a coin or piece of paper money in the value of 100 cents</i>  <b>The dollar bill has a picture of George Washington on it.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>dormant</b> - DOR ment	<p><i>sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive</i>  <b>Some plants and animals are dormant during the cold weather.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>dosage</b> - dO-sij	<p><i>the system to be followed in taking doses, as of medicine</i>  <b>He forgot to take his dosage of cough medicine.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>drawl</b> - drol	<p><i>to speak in a slow, lengthened tone</i>  <b>Pardon my southern drawl.</b></p>

**dreadful** - dred-ful

*inspiring dread; terrible or awesome*

**The volcano eruption was dreadful.**

---

**dying** - dy-ing

*losing life*

**Following the heavy frost, the annual flowers started dying.**

---

**dynamite** - DEYE nuh mite

*a explosive*

**They had to dynamite the building in order to knock it down.**

---

**dysfunction** - dis FUNGK shun

*deterioration of the natural action of (anything)*

**The dysfunction of the criminal's family formed the crux of the defense.**

---

**eclipse** - i-'klips

*the partial or total obscuring of the sun when the moon comes between it and the earth; or of the moon when the earth's shadow is cast upon it*

**We studied the lunar eclipse in class.**

---

**ecstatic** - ek STAT ik

*overwhelming joy or delight*

**The team was ecstatic over their unexpected win.**

---

**effusion** - e-fu-shun

*a pouring fourth; a gushing or unrestrained utterance*

**An effusion of praise marked the speech.**

---

**embarrass** - im BAIR uhs

*to cause to feel self-conscious, ill at ease*

**The students did not want to embarrass themselves in front of their friends.**

---

**embroidery** - im BROY duhr ee

*a decoration made by needlework on cloth*

**The embroidery on this sampler is a nineteenth century design.**

---

**emollient** - e-mol-i-ent

*something that has a softening or soothing effect*

**An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream's emollient powers.**

**employ** - im PLOY

*to engage services or labor for pay*

**The new business is seeking to employ fifty qualified workers.**

---

**engrave** - in-'grAv

*to cut or etch into a metal plate or other surface*

**We will want to engrave the coach's name on the trophy.**

---

**enough** - i-NUF

*sufficient*

**Do you have enough clothes for your trip?**

---

**ensemble** - ahn SAHM buhl

*a group of musicians playing together*

**A string ensemble will play at the concert hall tonight.**

---

**entrepreneur** - ahn truh pruh NUHR

*a person who takes the risk of starting and running a business*

**The young entrepreneur started a roommate matching business.**

---

**environment** - in VEYE ruhn muhnt

*all the influences surrounding and affecting an organism*

**The National Parks preserve the natural environment.**

---

**equal** - EE kwahl

*of the same quantity or size*

**These two objects have equal value.**

---

**equivalent** - quiv-a-lent

*equal in quantity, value, force, meaning*

**Although their education had been equivalent, one twin did much better in mathematics than the other.**

---

**erroneous** - e-'rO-nE-us

*mistaken; wrong*

**The police report for the accident was erroneous.**

---

**error** - AIR uhr

*mistake*

**Be careful that you do not make an error in spelling this word.**

---

**ethnic** - 'eth-nik

*designating any or of any of the basic groups or divisions of mankind*

**His ethnic background was Italian.**

**euphemism** - 'yü-fa-'mi-zum

*use of a word considered less distasteful even though less direct*  
**Instead of referring to the body as a corpse, they used the euphemism, remains'.**

---

**excellent** - EK suh lent

*superior in worth of value*

**They served an excellent dish of spaghetti and meatballs.**

---

**excuse** - eks-kus

*an explanation; that which is offered as a reason*

**What is your excuse for being late?**

---

**exhaustion** - ig-'zos-chun

*deprivation of strength or energy*

**The marathon runners' exhaustion was apparent as they entered the stadium.**

---

**existence** - ig ZIS tun(t)s

*the state or fact of being*

**They were debating the existence of life on Mars.**

---

**expertise** - ek pur TEEZ

*possessing outstanding skill*

**The soccer player showed expertise in controlling the ball.**

---

**extemporaneous** - ik STEM puh ray nee uhs

*speaking without notes*

**The highlight was an entertaining speaker who delivered an extemporaneous talk about spelling bees of the past.**

---

**extraordinary** - ik STROR duh nair ee

*exceeding the ordinary degree*

**The spelling champion demonstrated extraordinary composure under the intense pressure.**

---

**extravagance** - ik strav e gens

*the wasteful spending of money*

**The new diamond bracelet was an extravagance for the young waitress.**

---

**facetious** - fa-'sE-shus

*joking, especially at an inappropriate time*

<b>facsimile</b> - fak SIM uh lee	<b>I did not mean to hurt you with my facetious remarks.</b> <i>an exact copy, especially one transmitted electronically</i> <b>I am sending you a facsimile of this report.</b>
<b>Fahrenheit</b> - FAIR uhn hite	<i>a temperature scale</i> <b>Normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.</b>
<b>faithful</b> - FAYTH ful	<i>having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility</i> <b>My dog is a very faithful companion.</b>
<b>familiar</b> - fa-'mil-yur	<i>well acquainted</i> <b>I am very familiar with the rigors of studying for a spelling competition.</b>
<b>famine</b> - fa-men	<i>any acute shortage</i> <b>The people were suffering from the famine.</b>
<b>fancy</b> - fan-si	<i>gaudy; not plain</i> <b>The dress was very fancy.</b>
<b>fashion</b> - fa-shun	<i>to make in a certain way; give a certain form to; shape; mold</i> <b>The potter will fashion the clay to resemble a lion.</b>
<b>fasten</b> - FAS uhn	<i>to become fixed or joined</i> <b>Let me help you fasten those buckles.</b>
<b>fastidious</b> - fass-TIH-dee-uss	<i>not easy to please; very critical or discriminating</i> <b>With fastidious attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again.</b>
<b>faucet</b> - FAW-sit	<i>a fixture for drawing a liquid from a pipe</i> <b>A dripping faucet wastes a lot of water.</b>
<b>feather</b> - FETH ur	<i>the lightweight body covering of birds</i>

<b>fervent</b> - 'fer-vent	<b>Use the feather duster to clean these figurines.</b> <i>having or showing great warmth of feeling</i> <b>The children showed a fervent devotion to their pet.</b>
<b>fervor</b> - FUR vuhr	<i>intensity of feeling; ardent zeal</i> <b>Upon seeing the Declaration of Independence, we experienced a surge of patriotic fervor.</b>
<b>fiction</b> - FIK shun	<i>anything made up or imagined, as a statement, story, etc.</i> <b>The librarian directed us to the fiction section.</b>
<b>fictitious</b> - fik-TISH-es	<i>imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended</i> <b>Some novelists use a fictitious name under which they write.</b>
<b>flexible</b> - FLEK-suh-bul	<i>capable of being bent, turned or twisted without breaking</i> <b>It would be easier if you used flexible pipe for this part of the job.</b>
<b>fluid</b> - flü-id	<i>that which can flow; not solid</i> <b>Water is an important fluid for survival.</b>
<b>foreign</b> - FOR in	<i>connected with another country</i> <b>Their formal style of dress was very foreign to us.</b>
<b>forest</b> - for-est	<i>dense growth of trees</i> <b>The family of bears lived in the forest.</b>
<b>forty</b> - FOR tee	<i>cardinal number between 39 and 41</i> <b>These shoes cost forty dollars.</b>
<b>foulard</b> - foo-lard	<i>a thick, soft material of silk</i> <b>Her dress was of flaming red foulard.</b>
<b>fountain</b> - 'faunt-ten	<i>a water spray; a spring</i>

<b>fraud</b> - FRAWD	<b>We all threw a coin in the fountain and made a wish.</b> <i>deceit</i> <b>Cellular phone fraud is costing millions to legitimate users.</b>
<b>fulminating</b> - ful-mi-nat-ing	<i>thundering forth; exploding</i> <b>It was a fulminating rally for the political candidate.</b>
<b>furrier</b> - fur-i-er	<i>a dresser of or dealer in furs</i> <b>The furrier appraised the mink coat at three thousand dollars.</b>
<b>gasconade</b> - gas-kon-ayd	<i>a boast or boasting; bravado</i> <b>The braggart was insufferable with his ridiculous gasconade.</b>
<b>giggle</b> - GIG uhl	<i>to laugh with rapid, often high-pitched sounds</i> <b>We all started to giggle when the teacher told a funny joke.</b>
<b>giraffe</b> - juh RAF	<i>large cud-chewing animal with a very long neck and legs</i> <b>During our trip to the zoo we enjoyed watching the giraffe chew on the leaves.</b>
<b>glossy</b> - glä-sE	<i>having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish</i> <b>The glossy cat was sleeping in the window.</b>
<b>gnarled</b> - NARLD	<i>distorted, cross-grained</i> <b>We enjoyed playing under the old gnarled tree in the park.</b>
<b>gobble</b> - GOB uhl	<i>to eat quickly and greedily</i> <b>The chickens usually gobble all the grain.</b>
<b>gorgeous</b> - GOR-juss	<i>very beautiful</i> <b>You look gorgeous in that evening gown.</b>
<b>government</b> - GUV-ern-munt	<i>the established political administration</i> <b>Washington D.C. is the seat of our federal government.</b>

**grammar** - GRAM uhr

*the use of language according to proper rules*

**Your essay will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation and spelling.**

---

**gratuitous** - gruh-TOO-uh-tuss

*given or received without charge or payment; free*

**I reject offers of so-called gratuitous merchandise, as some kind of later payment is often expected.**

---

**gregarious** - grih-GAIR-ee-uss

*tending to live associate or congregate with others of the same kind, sociable*

**Baboons are gregarious animals, seldom found in isolation.**

---

**guillotine** - GHII-luh-teen

*the instrument of capital punishment in France which beheads the victim*

**As they marched the prisoner to the guillotine, the crowds begged for mercy.**

---

**gymnasium** - jim NAY zee uhm

*a building used for physical education activities*

**If the bond passes, we will get a new gymnasium at our school.**

---

**hachures** - ha-shurz OR hash-urz

*short lines used in drawing; shading to denote different surfaces*

**The hachures on the map told where the elevation was highest.**

---

**hammer** - HAM uhr

*a tool used for pounding nails*

**Please bring a hammer to the work party tomorrow.**

---

**harbor** - här-ber

*a place of refuge, safety, retreat*

**Ships lay in the broad sunny harbor at the foot of the street.**

---

**harmful** - HARM fuhl

*able to cause hurt or damage*

**The cold weather is harmful to these tropical plants.**

**harvest** - här-vest

*time of year when matured fruit, grain, vegetables, etc., are reaped; season's yield; gathering of a crop*

**We usually harvest our pumpkins and squash for Halloween.**

---

**hidden** - HID n

*concealed; secret*

**If I put these clothes under the bed, they will be hidden from view.**

---

**hieroglyphs** - HEYE ruh glifs

*picture writing, especially ancient*

**Egyptian tombs frequently contain hieroglyphs depicting animals.**

---

**hinge** - HINJ

*a joint or device on which a door, gate, lid, etc., swings*

**The hinge needed oiling.**

---

**homogenize** - hO-'mä-ja-'nlz

*make more uniform by breaking down and blending*

**Before they began to homogenize milk, our quarts left by the milkman used to freeze, and the cream would be pushed out of the bottle.**

---

**homonym** - HOM-u-nim

*a word having the same pronunciation as another but a different meaning*

**The teacher asked for a homonym for the word.**

---

**honest** - ON ist

*frank and open*

**The storeowner had an honest face.**

---

**humble** - hum-bl

*low in condition, rank, or position; lowly; unpretentious*

**The humble home was neat and tidy.**

---

**hypochondriac** - heye puh KAHN dree ak

*a person who suffers from imaginary physical ailments*

**Knowing the patient was a hypochondriac; the doctor prescribed a placebo.**

---

**immigrant** - IM uh gruhnt

*person who comes into a country to become a permanent resident*

**Every European immigrant was required to pass through**

**Ellis Island.**

*to make worse, less, weaker*

**Dense fog is an impairment to safe driving.**

---

**impairment** - im-pâr'-MENT

*not plain or distinct to the eye of mind; not easily seen*

**The scar on her face had healed so well it was almost imperceptible.**

---

**imperceptible** - im-per-sep-ti'bl

*the policy and practice of seeking to dominate the economic or political affairs of underdeveloped areas or weaker countries*

**A policy of imperialism hinders the growth of underdeveloped countries.**

---

**imperialism** - im PIR-ee-e-liz-em

*to carry out; put into effect*

**This will require your signature to implement all the provisions of the contract.**

---

**implement** - IM pluh muhnt

*to leave pressure on so as to leave a mark*

**We will impress the leaf on the paper to make a design.**

---

**impress** - im-'pres

*to introduce into office with ceremonies*

**Every four years we inaugurate our President.**

---

**inaugurate** - in AW g(y)uh rate

*owing something*

**I will forever be indebted to you for your kindness.**

---

**indebted** - in DET uhd

*a vague notion or idea*

**I have an inkling that I will get what I want for my birthday.**

---

**inkling** - INGK ling

*to have an animating effect upon; influence or impel*

**The concert did inspire him to be a musician.**

---

**inspire** - in-SPY-er

*a moment of time*

**The lightning flashed and in the next instant, there was**

**instant** - in-stant

<b>insurance</b> - in SHUR uh(n)t(s)	<b>thunder.</b> <i>a system of financial protection</i> <b>I will have to pay my own auto insurance after I get my driver's license.</b>
<b>intelligence</b> - in-'te-la-jun(t)s	<i>ability to exercise the higher mental functions</i> <b>The debate centered on whether intelligence was accurately measured by IQ tests.</b>
<b>intermittent</b> - in tur MIT uhnt	<i>starting, stopping and starting again</i> <b>The weather forecast is for intermittent showers.</b>
<b>interrupt</b> - in tuh RUPT	<i>to break the continuity or course of</i> <b>Do not interrupt me while I am talking.</b>
<b>intersection</b> - int ur SEK shun	<i>the place or point where two or more things cross</i> <b>The office is at the intersection of Main and Broadway.</b>
<b>intravenous</b> - in truh VEE nuhs	<i>within or into a vein</i> <b>The patient was receiving fluids through an intravenous tube.</b>
<b>irresistible</b> - ir i ZIS tuh buhl	<i>impossible to resist or oppose</i> <b>The food sitting out on the table was an irresistible temptation for the dog.</b>
<b>jostle</b> - JOS uhl	<i>to bump or push, as in a crowd</i> <b>I hope I do not jostle too many passengers when I take these bags on the plane.</b>
<b>journal</b> - JUR nuhl	<i>a brief account of daily events</i> <b>We kept a journal of our trip.</b>
<b>judicial</b> - jooh DISH uhl	<i>of or relating to the courts or judges</i> <b>The defendant was awaiting a judicial decision regarding</b>

**the acceptability of the evidence.**

*a changing pattern or scene*

**The sun through the fall trees presented a kaleidoscope of color.**

---

**kaleidoscope** - kuh LEYED uh skope

*an Eskimo canoe, or one similar*

**The ocean was too rough to take the kayak out today.**

---

**kayak** - KI-'ak

*a metal container for boiling or cooking things*

**I will boil some water in the kettle for your tea.**

---

**kettle** - 'ke-tul

*a light yellowish brown*

**The soldiers wore their khaki uniforms during the summer.**

---

**khaki** - KAK-ee

*bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted materials for starting a fire*

**The campers gathered kindling for the fire.**

---

**kindling** - kin(d)-li(ng)

*understanding or skill gained by experience or learning*

**Visiting National Parks has increased our knowledge about geologic formations.**

---

**knowledge** - NAHL ij

*identifying card or paper*

**We could no longer read the label on the jar.**

---

**label** - LAY buhl

*a building or room fitted up for conducting scientific experiments*

**The scientist spent long hours in the laboratory perfecting the vaccine.**

---

**laboratory** - LAB ruh tor ee

*lacking life, spirit, or zest*

**The lackadaisical students are not likely to get good grades.**

---

**lackadaisical** - "la-ka-'dA-zi-kul

*to dip out with*

**The cook will ladle the soup for each customer.**

---

**ladle** - LAYD I

**lament** - le-MENT

*an outward expression of sorrow*

**A long lament was heard in the garden.**

---

**language** - LANG gwij

*spoken communication*

**Russian is a difficult language for most foreigners to master.**

---

**lantern** - lan-tern

*transparent case for holding a light and protecting it from wind and weather*

**The light from the lantern helped us find our way along the rocky path.**

---

**league** - LEEG

*an association of persons united for common interests*

**There is talk of forming a new baseball league.**

---

**lecture** - LEK (t)chur

*an informative talk given for the purpose of teaching*

**Today's history lecture was very interesting.**

---

**legato** - le-ga-to

*in music, smooth and connected with no break*

**The instructor cautioned the piece should be played legato and not staccato.**

---

**leisure** - LEE-zher

*freedom from work or duties*

**Many retirees find it difficult having so much leisure time.**

---

**lemon** - lem-un

*a small yellow fruit with a bitter taste*

**The old lady always put lemon in her tea.**

---

**leopard** - LEP uhrd

*a large strong cat of southern Asia and Africa; panther*

**The leopard grabbed its prey with its strong paws.**

---

**lettuce** - LET is

*any of a genus of plants grown for its edible green leaves*

**The meal will begin with a salad of lettuce and other vegetables.**

**license** - LEYE suhn(t)s

*formal or legal permission to do something specified*

**In California, you are eligible to apply for a driver's license when you are sixteen.**

---

**linen** - lin-en

*thread, yarns or cloth made from flax*

**The tablecloth was made of fine linen.**

---

**linguistics** - ling-gwis-tiks

*science of language; study of the structure of languages*

**Linguistics is usually divided into descriptive, historical, comparative and geographical.**

---

**listless** - list-less

*having no interest in what is going on about one, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc.;*

**The listless dog lay on the floor by the fire.**

---

**literature** - LIT ur uh chur

*writings in prose or verse having permanent value*

**My collection of children's literature includes many of the classics.**

---

**litter** - 'li-ter

*scattered rubbish; disorder or untidiness*

**The litter of paper on the sidewalk was deplorable.**

---

**lonely** - LOHN lee

*alone; solitary*

**I was very lonely when I first moved to town.**

---

**loquacious** - loh KWAY shus

*given to excess talking*

**The teacher became very frustrated with the loquacious nature of the students in the class.**

---

**machinery** - mu-shE-nu-rE

*the working parts of a machine or instrument*

**The workers had the day off because the machinery broke down at the plant.**

**magnet** - MAG nit

*a piece of iron or steel that attracts metal*

**We use a colorful magnet to hold notes on our refrigerator.**

---

**maintenance** - MAYN tuh nun(t)s

*the act of keeping in an existing state*

**Proper maintenance of your car will make it last longer.**

---

**maneuver** - muh NOOH vuhr

*a clever often evasive move or action*

**We had to maneuver our way through the downtown traffic.**

---

**margarine** - MARJ uh ruhn

*food product made from usually vegetable oils and skim milk*

**Would you like margarine or butter for your toast?**

---

**marmalade** - MAR muh lade

*a clear jelly containing pieces of fruit and fruit rind*

**Orange marmalade tastes delicious on English muffins.**

---

**marriage** - MAIR ij

*the state of matrimony; wedlock*

**The couple celebrated 50 years of marriage.**

---

**masquerade** - mas kuh RADE

*a party at which people wear masks and costumes*

**What are you going to wear for the masquerade ball?**

---

**massive** - MAS-iv

*large or imposing or impressive; of considerable magnitude*

**The new bank was massive.**

---

**mathematician** - math (uh)muh TISH uhn

*a specialist in the science of numbers*

**A mathematician at the university derived this new number theory.**

---

**mausoleum** - mah suh LEE uhm

*a large stately tomb*

**The mausoleum is on the right as you go into the cemetery.**

---

**meaning** - meen-ing

*sense; that which is intended*

**It was difficult to understand the meaning of the sentence.**

**medley** - med LEE

*a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works*  
**The chorus performed a medley of show tunes.**

---

**memorabilia** - mem uh ruh BIL ee uh

*things worth remembering*  
**Elvis Presley memorabilia is valuable to many collectors.**

---

**mental** - MEN tuhl

*of or for the mind or intellect*  
**I have a mental picture of what I want it to look like.**

---

**metamorphosis** - meh-tuh-MOR-fuh-siss

*change of form, shape, structure, or substance*  
**As part of her science class, Karen was able to witness the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly.**

---

**metaphor** - MET uh for

*a literary likeness showing implied comparison*  
**An example of a metaphor is “the ship plows the sea.”**

---

**method** - METH uhd

*a way of doing anything*  
**What method did you use to arrive at this answer?**

---

**middle** - MID I

*in between*  
**When we drive to my grandparent’s house my sister and I take turns sitting in the middle.**

---

**mileage** - ml-lij

*aggregate distance in miles or total number of miles traveled.*  
**The salesman bought a new car each year because he had such high mileage on his current one.**

---

**mindful** - MIND ful

*having in mind; aware heedful, or careful*  
**The children were mindful of the danger of playing in the street.**

---

**miniature** - MIN ee uh chur

*something much smaller than the usual size*  
**That is an impressive collection of miniature cars.**

---

**miscellaneous** - mis uh LAY nee uhs

*consisting of many things of different sorts*

**Most people have a junk drawer for all the miscellaneous things they cannot easily categorize.**

---

**mischievous** - MIS chuh vuhs

*conduct that is often playful but causes harm or annoyance*

**My mischievous puppy chewed the corner of my social studies book.**

---

**misspell** - mis SPEL

*to spell incorrectly*

**During the spelling competition, we were not allowed to misspell a single word.**

---

**moccasin** - MAHK uh suhn

*soft leather shoes with the sole and sides of one piece*

**The podiatrist told me to wear a moccasin to protect my foot after the surgery.**

---

**mocha** - MOH kuh

*a mixture of coffee and chocolate*

**Mocha is the flavor of the month at the ice cream parlor.**

---

**mortgage** - MOR gjj

*a transfer of rights to a piece of property*

**Generally, the mortgage is a homeowner's major expense.**

---

**mystique** - mis TEEK

*a set of beliefs and attitudes developing around an object*

**Non-runners cannot appreciate the true mystique of jogging.**

---

**napkin** - kap-kin

*a small cloth used to wipe the mouth and hands when dining*

**Line the basket with a linen napkin.**

---

**narcissistic** - nar sis SIS tik

*possessed by self-love*

**The narcissistic attitudes of the "Me Generation" are appalling.**

---

**narrate** - nar-rate

*to tell in writing or speech*

**The teacher began to narrate the story.**

**nauseous** - NAW shus

*affected with tending to cause stomach distress*

**I felt nauseous after eating too much ice cream.**

---

**neglect** - nih-GLEKT

*to give little attention or respect to*

**We must not neglect our homework.**

---

**neighborhood** - NAY buhr hood

*the region near where one resides*

**Our neighborhood holds a Block Party every Labor Day.**

---

**ninetieth** - NINT ee uhth

*the ordinal number 90th*

**Your spelling scores are above the ninetieth percentile.**

---

**ninth** - NIN(t)th

*the ordinal number 9th*

**In many school districts, ninth grade is the first year of high school.**

---

**nuisance** - NYOO suhnts

*that which annoys, vexes or harms*

**Sometimes it can be a real nuisance to have to take care of younger siblings.**

---

**obsequious** - eb-see-kwee-es

*meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant*

**General Smith's obsequious staff is good for nothing but fawning and groveling on command.**

---

**obsolescent** - ahb suh LES uhnt

*going out of use; becoming outmoded*

**Phonograph records are becoming obsolescent.**

---

**occasion** - a-kA-zhan

*a favorable opportunity or circumstance*

**A sixteenth birthday is an appropriate occasion for a party.**

---

**occur** - uh KUR

*to take place; happen*

**The celebration will occur next week.**

**odor** - OH dur

*a smell*

**The odor of sulfur filled the lab.**

---

**offense** - OFF-ense

*the condition of being offended, esp. of feeling hurt, resentful, or angry*

**His friend took offense from the joke.**

---

**office** - AW fis

*a place of business*

**I usually shop here for office supplies.**

---

**ophthalmologist** - äp-thel-mäl-e-gest

*a physician specializing in diseases of the eye*

**The ophthalmologist had to dilate the patient's eyes.**

---

**opponent** - a-pO-nent

*person against one; adversary*

**The candidate's opponent waged a clean campaign.**

---

**opportunity** - ahp uhr TOOH nuh tee

*a fit or convenient time; favorable occasion*

**The spelling bee will be an opportunity for you to practice your skills and make new friends.**

---

**orchestra** - OR ki struh

*a group of musicians who perform together*

**Our school orchestra won top honors at the music festival.**

---

**orchid** - OR kid

*the flower of a tropical plant with three petals, the lowest of which is enlarged*

**When we stepped off the plane in Hawaii, we were each given an orchid lei.**

---

**orthodontist** - or thuh DAHN tist

*a doctor who corrects the position of the teeth*

**The orthodontist said I would need to wear braces for two years.**

---

**orthodox** - OR thuh dahks

*traditional; conservative in belief*

**My teacher encourages both orthodox and novel approaches to learning.**

**ostrich** - äs-trich OR OS-trij

*a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East*

**The white ostrich feather adorned her new hat.**

---

**outrageous** - out RAY juhs

*extremely offensive, insulting or shameful*

**The parents were dismayed by their child's outrageous behavior.**

---

**overwhelming** - oh vuhr HWEL ming

*crushed by reason of force, weight or numbers*

**The prosecution presented overwhelming evidence against the accused.**

---

**package** - PAK ij

*a small wrapped bundle*

**I hope there will be a package in the mail for me today.**

---

**pamphlet** - PAM(P) flit

*a short publication with no cover*

**Please send me the pamphlet you advertised about starting a rock collection.**

---

**panic** - PAN ik

*sudden, unreasonable fear*

**They did not panic when the fire broke out.**

---

**pannikin** - pan-i-kin

*a small pan or cup*

**He drank heartily from the pannikin.**

---

**pantomime** - PAN-tuh-myme

*a performance in which a story is told using expressive body or facial movements*

**In the game of Charades, players pantomime the words or phrases.**

---

**parachute** - PAIR uh shoot

*a device used for making a safe descent from an airplane*

**The fighter pilot feared that the parachute might not deploy properly.**

---

**parent** - pair-ent

*a mother or father*

<b>parliamentary</b> - par luh MEN tree	<p><b>His parent signed the permission slip.</b>  <i>being in accordance with the rules</i></p> <p><b>When conducting a meeting it is helpful to be familiar with parliamentary procedure.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>parochial</b> - puh ROH kee uhl	<p><i>narrow; provincial</i></p> <p><b>That newscast presented a very parochial view of the problem.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>partner</b> - PART nuhr	<p><i>a person who takes part in some activity in common with another</i></p> <p><b>My partner keeps the books, and I do the purchasing.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>pasteurize</b> - PAS chuh rize	<p><i>partial sterilization of a fluid by exposure to heat</i></p> <p><b>The dairy will pasteurize milk before bottling.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>patriarch</b> - PAY tree ark	<p><i>the father and ruler of a family</i></p> <p><b>The family patriarch always sits at the head of the table.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>pattern</b> - PAT uhrn	<p><i>a regular, mainly unvarying way of acting or doing</i></p> <p><b>I always follow the same pattern when getting ready for school.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>peasant</b> - PEZ uhnt	<p><i>one of a group of lower class workers</i></p> <p><b>Because they were of the peasant class, they could not attend school.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>peninsula</b> - pa-'nin(t)-s(u-)la	<p><i>a long projection of land into water</i></p> <p><b>We drove around the peninsula until we found the best beach.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>penitentiary</b> - pen uh TEN shur ee	<p><i>a prison</i></p> <p><b>The old penitentiary held many clues to the hard life of a convict.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>pennant</b> - pen-ant	<p><i>a long, tapering flag</i></p> <p><b>Which team do you think will win the pennant this year?</b></p> <hr/>
<b>people</b> - PEE puhl	<p><i>human beings</i></p>

**A large group of people gathered to watch the festivities.**

**perceptible** - pur-SEP-tuh-bul

*capable of being noticed or observed*

**The difference between the two brands of hot dogs is hardly perceptible.**

---

**perennial** - puh REN ee uhl

*lasting or active throughout the whole year*

**To cut down on my yard work I planted mostly perennial shrubs.**

---

**perfect** - PUR fikt

*complete in all respects; flawless*

**The blazing sunset made a perfect ending to the day.**

---

**permeable** - PER-mee-uh-bul

*having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through*

**The skin is a semi-permeable membrane.**

---

**perpetuity** - pe(r) pe tüed ee

*the state or quality of being perpetual*

**Perpetuity is implied in the fundamental law of all national governments.**

---

**perseverance** - per se vir ens

*continued or steadfast effort in spite of difficulties*

**After many years of perseverance the Wright Brothers finally made their airplane fly.**

---

**persistent** - pur SIS tuhnt

*continuing, existing or acting for longer than the usual time*

**This has been persistent cold spell.**

---

**persuade** - pur SWADE

*to convince*

**I hope my arguments will persuade you to study harder.**

---

**perturb** - per-TERB

*to cause to be alarmed, agitated, or upset; disturb or trouble greatly*

**The loudspeaker may perturb the musician in the adjoining rooms.**

---

**pestle** - pe-sel OR pes-tel

*a club-shaped grinding tool*

Many indigenous people used a pestle to grind food in a mortar.

**phenomenal** - fi NAHM un uhl

*extraordinary, remarkable*

**It was phenomenal how fast the flu virus spread.**

---

**physique** - fi ZEEK

*the build of a person's body*

**The body builder's physique mainly is due to good conditioning.**

---

**picturesque** - pik-chuh-RESK

*resembling or suitable for a painted picture*

**The picturesque valley draws many visitors.**

---

**pigeon** - PIJ uhn

*any of numerous birds with a stout body and smooth plumage*

**The fattest pigeon in the park grabbed the most food.**

---

**pigment** - pig-ment

*coloring matter, usually insoluble powder, mixed with oil or water, etc.*

**Pigment in some plants is increased when they grow in full sun.**

---

**plagiarize** - PLAY juh rise

*to steal and pass off as one's own the works of another*

**Students who plagiarize articles generally get caught.**

---

**plague** - PLAYG

*a disastrous evil, especially a large number of destructive pests*

**A plague of locusts destroyed this year's crops.**

---

**plaid** - PLAD

*a pattern of unevenly spaced repeated stripes crossing at right angles*

**That is a very nice looking plaid skirt.**

---

**plaintive** - PLAYN-tiv

*causing pity*

**The lost kitten gave a plaintive cry.**

---

**platinum** - PLAT uh nuhm

*a heavy precious metallic element*

**This antique ring has a platinum band inlaid with diamonds.**

---

**poinsettia** - poin-'se-tE-a

*usually indoor plant with showy red leaves in winter*

**Our neighbor gave us a poinsettia for the holidays.**

**poltergeist** - POHL tur geyest

*a spirit supposed to manifest itself by noises, knocking, etc.*

**In the play, a poltergeist appears during the seance.**

---

**poncho** - PAHN choh

*a (waterproof) cloak with a slit or hole in the middle for the head*

**Do not forget to take your poncho in case it rains.**

---

**portion** - POR shun

*share; part of*

**They were willing to share a portion of the proceeds from the dance.**

---

**possibility** - päs-e-BIL-et-ee

*quality or condition of being done, known or acquired*

**There is a possibility that our next trip will be to Disneyland.**

---

**posture** - POS chur

*the position or carriage of the body; bearing*

**Good posture is important for good health.**

---

**poultry** - POHL tree

*domestic fowls*

**The preschoolers enjoyed their visit to the poultry farm.**

---

**powder** - POW duhr

*any dry substance in the form of very fine, dust like particles*

**The volcanic ash covered the car with a very fine powder.**

---

**prairie** - PRAIR ee

*a large area of level or rolling grassland*

**Life on the prairie was often difficult for the early settlers.**

---

**precocious** - pri KOH shuhs

*exhibiting mature qualities or abilities*

**That preschooler can already read and is precocious in other ways as well.**

---

**preliminary** - pri LIM uh nair ee

*introductory to the main discourse*

**You will have an opportunity to ask questions during the preliminary round of the competition.**

---

**prepare** - pri PAIR

*to make ready, usually for a specific purpose*

<b>prescribe</b> - pri SKRIBE	<p><b>How are you going to prepare for the spelling competition?</b>  <i>to order or direct the use of something as a remedy</i>  <b>The doctor will probably prescribe a painkiller for your recurring headaches.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>prestigious</b> - preh-STIH-juss	<p><i>having or imparting prestige or distinction</i>  <b>The prestigious writer had a great following.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>pretend</b> - pri-'tend	<p><i>make believe</i>  <b>Sometimes I pretend that I am a pilot.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>prior</b> - PREYE uhr	<p><i>preceding in time; earlier</i>  <b>The ad said that prior experience was necessary.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>prism</b> - PRIZ uhm	<p><i>a transparent solid body which disperses light into a spectrum</i>  <b>When I was cleaning this prism from the chandelier, it broke.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>proceed</b> - pruh SEED	<p><i>to go on or forward, especially after an interruption</i>  <b>We will now proceed with the spelling competition.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>procession</b> - pro-'se-sh'n	<p><i>orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way</i>  <b>The elephants moved in procession—trunk to tail.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>proliferation</b> - pru-lif-urA-shun	<p><i>growing by multiplying new parts</i>  <b>The proliferation of the buds on the rosebud was truly amazing.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>prying</b> - prl-ing	<p><i>improperly curious or inquisitive</i>  <b>Someone was prying into her personal affairs.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>psychologist</b> - seye KAHL uh juhst	<p><i>a professional who studies or treats human behavior and intelligence</i>  <b>The school psychologist will evaluate the students for placement in the special program.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>pyramid</b> - PEER uh mid	<p><i>a polyhedron having a polygon for its base and triangular shaped faces</i></p>

<b>quadratic</b> - kwah DRAT ik	<p>What is that pyramid shaped building on San Francisco's skyline?  <i>an algebraic term involving the square and no higher power of an unknown quantity</i></p> <p><b>Solve this quadratic equation for the value of x.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>quarrel</b> - kwor-el	<p><i>argument, dispute</i></p> <p><b>The bitter quarrel ended their friendship.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>questionnaire</b> - kwes chuh NAIR	<p><i>a form comprising a series of questions, especially for a survey</i></p> <p><b>Please complete this short questionnaire before leaving.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>quietly</b> - kwi-et-li	<p><i>still; without noise</i></p> <p><b>We drove quietly past the hospital.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>raccoon</b> - ra KOOHN	<p><i>a small carnivore of North America, usually nocturnal</i></p> <p><b>A raccoon raided our campsite while we were asleep.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>ransom</b> - RAN suhm	<p><i>consideration paid for the release of a captured person</i></p> <p><b>The kidnapper demanded \$500,000 in ransom for their child.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>rapscallion</b> - rap scal-yun	<p><i>a rascal; a ne'er do-well</i></p> <p><b>I was advised to stay away from the rapscallion.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>rasorial</b> - ra-so-ri-al	<p><i>scratching the ground in search of food as fowl</i></p> <p><b>Turkeys and pheasants are rasorial birds.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>raspberry</b> - RAZ ber ee	<p><i>small round fleshy red or black berry</i></p> <p><b>These raspberry preserves won a blue ribbon at the county fair.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>receive</b> - ri SEEV	<p><i>to accept; to get or permit to enter</i></p> <p><b>Did you receive my Christmas card?</b></p> <hr/>
<b>recess</b> - REE ses	<p><i>to halt temporarily</i></p> <p><b>The court will recess until this afternoon.</b></p>

**recommend** - REK uh mend

*to suggest favorably*

**I recommend this book to you.**

---

**reconciliation** - rek uhn sil EE ay shun

*the act of restoring friendly relations*

**The treaty provided for reconciliation between the two countries.**

---

**reconnaissance** - ri KAHN uh suhn(t)s

*preliminary survey of an area to gain information*

**Many missions of reconnaissance were flown over the enemy's territory.**

---

**recruit** - rih-KROOT

*to secure the services of*

**Did they recruit you for the competitive team?**

---

**recur** - ri KUR

*to happen or occur again*

**An eclipse of the sun will not recur for another ten years.**

---

**redoubt** - re-dout

*a small enclosed fort often temporary, fortifying hills and passes*

**The soldiers took up their positions in the unassailable redoubt.**

---

**refuge** - re-fyüj OR e-fyüzh

*a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat*

**The deer sought a refuge from the hunters.**

---

**rehearsal** - ri HUR suhl

*a practice session preparatory to a public performance*

**This is the final rehearsal before tomorrow's concert.**

---

**rejuvenate** - re jüve NATE

*to make seem fresh or new again*

**A long vacation will rejuvenate him.**

---

**remembrance** - ri MEM bruhn(t)s

*memory, the act of remembering*

**The donation was made in remembrance of the director who passed away recently.**

---

**reminisce** - rem uh NIS

*to think or talk about things from the past*

**At school I can reminisce about the good time I had at the competition.**

---

**remittent** - re-mit-ent

*temporarily stopping or abating*

**The doctor said it was a remittent fever and would return.**

---

**remnant** - REM-nant

*what is left over; remainder; residue*

**The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a remnant.**

---

**rendezvous** - RAHN day vooh

*a planned meeting; a place for a planned meeting*

**We will rendezvous at the Park and Ride, then go on together to the party.**

---

**repartee** - reh-per-TEE

*a clever or witty retort; skill in making clever retorts; such retorts collectively*

**The two humorists engaged in a clever repartee.**

---

**reprehensible** - rep-re-hen-si-b'l

*deserving to be reprehended*

**Assassination is a reprehensible crime.**

---

**reserve** - rE-sûrv

*to hold; or hold over to a later time*

**We will reserve a place for you at the table.**

---

**reservoir** - REZ uhr vwar

*a place where water is stored in quantity*

**During the drought, the reservoir was dangerously low.**

---

**residential** - rez e den shel

*of or having to do with residence*

**The families who lived in that residential area did not want the prison built near them.**

---

**restaurant** - 'res-t(&-)r&nt, -t&-"rânt

*a public eating place*

**Before the prom, we are going to a nice restaurant for dinner.**

**retain** - ri TANE (not ree-tain)

*to stay constant*

**I hope this T-shirt will retain its color after washing.**

---

**retrieve** - ri TREEV

*to get back; regain*

**I hope I can retrieve the lost data.**

---

**revenge** - ri-venj

*to inflict damage, injury, or punishment in return for an injury, insult, etc.*

**The leaders plotted revenge for the bombing.**

---

**rheostat** - re-o-stat

*an electrical resister for regulating current*

**The stage lights were dimmed by means of a rheostat.**

---

**rheumatism** - ROOH muh tiz uhm

*any of various conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles or joints*

**A person's rheumatism is generally worse in cold weather.**

---

**robber** - rob-er

*one who steals or robs*

**The robber was sent to prison.**

---

**romaine** - ROH mane

*a variety of lettuce with a cylindrical head of long, loose leaves*

**This Caesar salad recipe calls for romaine lettuce.**

---

**routine** - rooh TEEN

*a regular or customary course of procedure*

**My morning routine includes feeding the cat.**

---

**ruin** - ROO in

*destroy*

**Be careful that you do not ruin your good shoes by wearing them in the rain.**

---

**sabotage** - SAB uh tahzh

*deliberate damage of equipment, usually by disgruntled employees*

**Security was strengthened amidst concerns that striking workers might sabotage the factory.**

**safety** - SAFE tee

*freedom from danger; security*

**Today's presentation was on the safety issues we should employ in case of a disaster.**

---

**salmon** - SAM uhn

*any of various large fish that live in oceans and swim up streams to lay eggs*

**The fish ladder at the dam allows the salmon to reach their spawning grounds.**

---

**sandal** - SAN duhl

*a shoe consisting of a sole strapped to the foot*

**I had to take my sandal to the shoe repair shop to have the strap fixed.**

---

**satellite** - SAT-uh-lite

*a moon or man-made vehicle which orbits a celestial body*

**The weather satellite aided us in tracking the hurricane.**

---

**sauterne** - so-turn

*a kind of sweet white wine from France*

**He enjoyed a glass of sauterne with his dinner each evening.**

---

**scaffold** - SKA-fOld

*temporary wood or metal framework to support workmen and/or material*

**They worked from the scaffold easily.**

---

**scary** - SKAIR ee

*causing alarm; frightening*

**I did not like that scary movie.**

---

**schedule** - SKEJ oohl

*a detailed and timed plan for any procedure*

**The schedule calls for us to take a break at 10:45.**

---

**scheme** - SKEEM

*a systemic or organized design*

**That is a nice color scheme you have picked out.**

---

**scissors** - SIZ urz

*a cutting implement with handles and a pair of blades*

**Using sewing scissors or cutting paper makes them dull.**

**secede** - si-SEED

*to withdraw from an organization*

**South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union.**

---

**secret** - SEE krit

*kept from public knowledge*

**If I tell you this, will you promise to keep it a secret?**

---

**secretary** - SEK ruh tair ee

*a person who handles correspondence and office tasks*

**My secretary will send you a letter tomorrow.**

---

**seismologist** - seyez MAHL uh juhst

*a scientist who studies earthquakes*

**The seismologist confirmed that the earthquake was centered twenty miles offshore.**

---

**sequel** - SEE kwuhl

*an event that follows or comes afterward*

**The sequel to the show will be aired next week.**

---

**shady** - SHAY dee

*shielded from the sun*

**The bench under the trees was shady and cool.**

---

**shepherd** - SHEP urd

*a person who tends a flock of sheep*

**The shepherd led the flock along the path.**

---

**sheriff** - SHAIR if

*a county law enforcement officer*

**The sheriff responded to a disturbance outside the city limits.**

---

**shield** - SHEELD

*something that protects or defends*

**The guide recommended that we all wear hats to shield ourselves from the sun.**

---

**shoulder** - SHOHL dur

*the part of the body where the arm joins the body*

**The running back suffered a shoulder injury and will be out for the season.**

**shriek** - SHREEK

*to utter a loud shrill sound, or the sound itself*

**Your child will shriek with delight upon receiving this special gift.**

---

**shuttle** - SHUT I

*a vehicle that goes back and forth between scheduled stops*

**You can take the airport shuttle to the hotel.**

---

**signal** - SIG nuhl

*a sign or event fixed or understood as the occasion for prearranged combined action*

**Traffic was backed up because the signal was broken.**

---

**significance** - sig-'ni-fi-ken(t)s

*the real or implied meaning*

**What is the significance of putting a heart on the letter to your sweetheart?**

---

**silhouette** - sill-uh-WET

*an outline of an object, filled in with a solid color*

**When I walked by, I could see my neighbor's silhouette on the window shade.**

---

**skirmish** - SKIR-mish

*a brief encounter between small groups, usually an incident of a battle*

**The skirmish was quickly forgotten after the peace treaty was signed.**

---

**snorkel** - snor-k'l

*to move or swim under water using a snorkel*

**We plan to snorkel when we are in Hawaii.**

---

**software** - SAWFT wair

*programs for directing the operation of a computer*

**This new software helps you trace your family tree.**

---

**solitaire** - SAHL uh tair

*a card game played by one person alone*

**I played solitaire while waiting for my plane connection.**

---

**sortie** - sor-tee

*one mission or attack by a single plane*

---

<b>sourdough</b> - SOU(uh)R doh	<b>The pilot returned unharmed from a dangerous sortie.</b> <i>a leaven of dough in which fermentation is active</i> <b>San Francisco is famous for sourdough french bread.</b>
<b>souvenir</b> - SOOH vuh nir	<i>memento</i> <b>What did you bring home as a souvenir of your travels?</b>
<b>special</b> - spesh-uhl	<i>out of the ordinary; for a particular purpose or occasion</i> <b>The children put on their finest clothes for the special occasion.</b>
<b>spectacular</b> - SPEK tak yuh luhr	<i>characterized by grand scenic display</i> <b>The fireworks display was the most spectacular part of the Independence Day celebration.</b>
<b>spectrum</b> - spek-trem	<i>a continuous range or entire extent</i> <b>The newspaper reported a wide spectrum of opinions.</b>
<b>spinach</b> - SPIN ich	<i>a potherb widely grown for its edible leaves</i> <b>I will have the spinach salad.</b>
<b>spontaneity</b> - spahnt uh NAY uht ee	<i>state of acting freely and naturally</i> <b>The mental health experts advise us to keep an air of spontaneity in our lives.</b>
<b>squabble</b> - SKWAH-bul	<i>to quarrel noisily and to no purpose</i> <b>Children squabble when they are tired.</b>
<b>statistician</b> - stat is TISH uhn	<i>one engaged in compiling and analyzing numerical data</i> <b>The team statistician lets us know our batting averages before every game.</b>
<b>stomach</b> - STUHM uhk	<i>pouch where food is digested after swallowing</i> <b>My stomach always aches when I run after eating.</b>

**stubborn** - stub-ern

*person who refuses to comply; resisting unreasonably; obstinate*  
**Donkeys are said to be stubborn like some people I know.**

---

**submit** - suhb MIT

*to refer to others for decisions*  
**We will submit our plan to the committee.**

---

**substantial** - sub STAN shuhl

*important, essential*  
**There is a substantial difference between the two candidates.**

---

**superintendent** - super-in-ten-dent

*person in charge; supervisor, custodian*  
**The superintendent was found to be honest and trustworthy.**

---

**supple** - SUP uhl

*capable of being bent or folded without creases or breaks; pliant*  
**These boots are made out of very supple leather.**

---

**surgeon** - SUR juhn

*a doctor who specializes in performing operations*  
**The surgeon made a skillful incision.**

---

**surround** - suh ROUND

*to enclose on all sides; encircle*  
**When playing the game, the children would first surround themselves with all the toy cars.**

---

**surveillance** - sur VAY luhn(t)s

*close watch*  
**The police kept a constant surveillance at the suspect's house.**

---

**symmetrical** - si MET ri kuhl

*having balanced proportions*  
**It would look better if the pictures on either side were more symmetrical.**

---

**synonym** - SIN uh nim

*one of two or more words of the same language that have the same meaning*  
**It is helpful to use a thesaurus when you want to find a synonym for a word.**

**technology** - ek-NAH-luh-jee

*applied science*

**The rate of technology seems to increase every day.**

---

**temperament** - 'tem-p(u-)ru-munt

*frame of mind; internal constitution*

**The composer was a man of melancholy temperament.**

---

**tenacious** - te-NAE-shes

*persistent, stubborn*

**He had tenacious courage as he faced the endless pile of papers on his desk.**

---

**terrace** - ter-és

*a small, usually roofed balcony, as outside an apartment*

**Flowerpots lined the terrace outside the apartment.**

---

**terrific** - tuh RIF ik

*extraordinary; astounding*

**We attended the most terrific party last night.**

---

**therapeutic** - ther-e-pyüt-ik

*serving to cure or heal; curative*

**The therapeutic treatment hastened his recovery.**

---

**thermometer** - thuhr MAHM uh tuhr

*an instrument for measuring temperatures*

**A thermometer placed in the sun will not give an accurate reading.**

---

**thesaurus** - thi SOR uhs

*a dictionary of synonyms*

**This word processing program features an excellent thesaurus, making it easy for the user to find appropriate synonyms.**

---

**tortoise** - TOR tuhs

*a land turtle*

**In one of Aesop's fables, the tortoise wins a race against the hare.**

---

**tournament** - TUR nuh muhnt

*a series of contests*

**Our team won first place in the soccer tournament.**

---

**traffic** - TRAF ik

*the movement or number of automobiles along a street*

<b>translucent</b> - tranz LOOH suhnt	<b>There is a lot more traffic on the freeway now.</b> <i>capable of allowing some light to show through, but not transparent</i> <b>We purchased a new translucent window for our bathroom.</b>
<b>treasurer</b> - TRAYZH uh ruhr	<i>a person entrusted with handling the funds of an organization</i> <b>Please turn in all magazine sales money to the treasurer today.</b>
<b>tribute</b> - tri-byüt	<i>something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, to show gratitude</i> <b>Their success was a tribute to his leadership.</b>
<b>tyranny</b> - TIR uh nee	<i>a government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler</i> <b>The people rebelled against the tyranny of their oppressive ruler.</b>
<b>ubiquitous</b> - yoo-BIH-kwuh-tuss	<i>present or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent</i> <b>I knew it was in my mind, but it seemed that everywhere I looked I saw his ubiquitous face.</b>
<b>unanimous</b> - yooh NAN uh muhs	<i>complete agreement</i> <b>The boxer won a unanimous decision over his opponent.</b>
<b>unconstitutional</b> - un kan ste too shen l	<i>not in agreement with or permitted by a constitution, specifically the U.S. Constitution</i> <b>It is unconstitutional to deprive me of my rights, insisted the criminal, as they dragged him away.</b>
<b>unprecedented</b> - un-pre-s'-den-t'd	<i>unheard-of; novel</i> <b>The president took unprecedented steps toward peace.</b>
<b>unruly</b> - un-rool-i	<i>not submissive to rule or restraint</i> <b>The natives are unruly tonight.</b>
<b>upholstery</b> - up HOHL stuhr ee	<i>materials (as fabric, padding, and springs) used to make a soft covering especially for a seat</i>

<b>useful</b> - YOOS fuhl	<p><b>We chose this upholstery for our new sofa.</b>  <i>that can be used to advantage; helpful</i></p> <p><b>The fork is a useful utensil.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>utensil</b> - yooh TEN(t) suhl	<p><i>an instrument or container used in a household</i></p> <p><b>A ladle is the proper utensil to use for serving soup.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>vacant</b> - VAY kuhnt	<p><i>having no occupant</i></p> <p><b>They just started building on the vacant lot next door.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>vaccine</b> - vak-seen	<p><i>a substance injected into the body to prevent disease by causing immunity</i></p> <p><b>The polio vaccine was a tremendous advance in medicine.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>valet</b> - val AY	<p><i>an employee who cares for the clothing of hotel patrons</i></p> <p><b>If you leave your suit on the chair, the valet will see to it that it is pressed.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>vehicle</b> - VEE-uh-kul	<p><i>something used to transport persons or goods</i></p> <p><b>We will need a vehicle that holds six people.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>vengeance</b> - ven-jans	<p><i>revenge</i></p> <p><b>The family sought vengeance for the loss.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>verbatim</b> - vur-BATE-ihm	<p><i>in the same words: word for word</i></p> <p><b>Each student in Russell's class was assigned to memorize a poem and then recite it verbatim to the class.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>vestige</b> - VES tij	<p><i>a visible sign or trace left by something vanished or lost</i></p> <p><b>Only a vestige of the city's previous grandeur remained after the bombing.</b></p> <hr/>
<b>vignette</b> - vin YET	<p><i>a brief, appealing scene, as in a movie</i></p> <p><b>The short vignette at the beginning was the key to the whole story.</b></p>

**villain** - VIH-lin

*an evil person; scoundrel*

**In a melodrama, the audience boos whenever the villain appears.**

---

**visionary** - 'vi-zha-"ner-E

*having or marked by foresight and imagination*

**The visionary described a utopia that could never exist.**

---

**vociferous** - voe SIF e res

*characterized by clamor or vehement outcry*

**The vociferous protest of Liberals could not stop the passage of Proposition 13.**

---

**volume** - VOL yoom

*the quantity, strength, or loudness of sound*

**The volume of the music was deafening.**

---

**vulpine** - VUL-pyne

*of or like a fox; cunning; crafty*

**The racketeer had a vulpine scheme but it backfired.**

---

**warmth** - WORMTH

*state of giving off moderate degree of heat*

**We could feel the warmth of the sun on our faces.**

---

**wharf** - HWORF

*a structure built on the shore to enable ships to receive and discharge cargo and passengers*

**That restaurant on the wharf serves delicious seafood entrees.**

---

**whistle** - HWIS uhl

*a device or manner by which a shrill sound is produced*

**The sound of a steam train whistle is music to a railroad buff's ears.**

---

**width** - WIDTH

*distance from side to side; breadth*

**We have to measure the width of the shelf to make sure it will fit the space.**

---

**wrist** - rist

*the joint of the arm on which the hand turns*

**Fred sprained his wrist and could not play in the game.**

**xenophobia** - zeh-nuh-FOH-bee-uh

*fear or hatred of foreigners*

**Gene wished very much that he could travel more, but because of his xenophobia he didn't dare go to other countries.**

---

**xylophone** - 'zI-la-"fOn

*a musical instrument sounded by striking the series of bars with two wooden hammers*

**A toy xylophone makes a wonderful gift for a child.**

---

**yacht** - YAHT

*any of various small ships used especially for pleasure*

**The annual yacht races will be held on the Bay tomorrow.**

---

**yield** - YEELD

*to give up possession of on claim or demand*

**Be certain to yield to oncoming traffic.**

---

**zealous** - ZEL uhs

*very eager; very enthusiastic*

**The politician's zealous supporters campaigned vigorously.**

---

**zenith** - ZEE-nuth

*the point in the celestial sphere that is exactly overhead*

**When the sun is at its zenith, it shines directly through this hole.**

---

**zucchini** - zooh KEE nee

*a summer squash, dark green in color*

**Stuffed zucchini is one of my favorite dishes.**