

# **Elementary Study Word List for Grades 4-6**

**Siskiyou County Spelling Bee**



**rehearsal**

*a practice session preparatory to a public performance*  
This is the final **rehearsal** before tomorrow's concert.

**fulminating**

*thundering forth; exploding*  
It was a **fulminating** rally for the political candidate.

**persistent**

*continuing, existing or acting for longer than the usual time*  
This has been **persistent** cold spell.

**Massachusetts**

*one of the six states comprising New England*  
The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock,  
**Massachusetts**.

**struthious**

*of or relating to the ostriches and related birds*  
The law is not so **struthious** as to compel a judge to divorce himself or herself from common sense or to ignore what is perfectly obvious.

**indebted**

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

**blasphemy**

*any irreverent act or utterance*  
It was **blasphemy** to speak ill of our teachers.

**Illinois**

*a north central state of the United States*  
Over twenty inches of snow fell on parts of **Illinois** and Indiana.

**statistician**

*one engaged in compiling and analyzing numerical data*  
The team **statistician** lets us know our batting averages before every game.

**fervor**

*intensity of feeling; ardent zeal*  
Upon seeing the Declaration of Independence, we experienced a surge of patriotic **fervor**.

**hammer**

*a tool used for pounding nails*  
Please bring a **hammer** to the work party tomorrow.

**squabble**

*to quarrel noisily and to no purpose*  
Children **squabble** when they are tired.

**dynamite**

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

**pasteurize**

*partial sterilization of a fluid by exposure to heat*  
The dairy will **pasteurize** milk before bottling.

**bullion or bouillon**

*gold or silver*

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

**litter**

*scattered rubbish; disorder or untidiness*

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

**vengeance**

*revenge*

The family sought **vengeance** for the death of their cousin.

**narrate**

*to tell in writing or speech*

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

**supple**

*capable of being bent or folded without creases or breaks; pliant*

These boots are made out of very **supple** leather.

**pestle**

*a club-shaped grinding tool*

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

**Fahrenheit**

*a temperature scale*

Normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees

**Fahrenheit**.

**adolescence or adolescents**

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

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

**deciduous**

*shedding leaves annually*

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

**impetuous**

*acting hastily*

He wished he had not made the **impetuous** decision.

**rapscallion**

*a rascal; a ne'er do-well*

I was advised to stay away from the **rapscallion**.

**cashier**

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

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

**volition**

*act of choosing or willing*

Do not do it unless you want to do it of your own **volition**.

**raspberry**

*small round fleshy red or black berry*

These **raspberry** preserves won a blue ribbon at the county fair.

**traffic**

*the movement or number of automobiles along a street*

There is a lot more **traffic** on the freeway now.

**tyranny**

*a government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler*

The people rebelled against the **tyranny** of their oppressive ruler.

**superintendent**

*person in charge; supervisor, custodian*

The **superintendent** was found to be honest and trustworthy.

**wreck or reck**

*damage or destroy*

A careless driver will some day **wreck** his car.

**reprehensible**

*deserving to be reprimanded*

Assassination is a **reprehensible** crime.

**apparatus**

*equipment used to do a particular kind of work*

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

**reminisce**

*to think or talk about things from the past*

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

**Connecticut**

*one of the New England states*

Hartford, **Connecticut** is a major insurance center.

**Juneau**

*the capital of Alaska*

The city of **Juneau** Alaska is not accessible by road.

**buyer or byre**

*a purchaser for a store*

The **buyer** selected an entire new line of clothing for the store.

**excuse**

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

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

**Australia**

*a continent (country) southeast of Asia*

Someday I hope to visit **Australia** and see koala bears and kangaroos in the wild.

**concerto**

*a piece for one or more soloists and orchestra*

She played the piano **concerto** beautifully.

**prying**

*improperly curious or inquisitive*

Someone was **prying** into her personal affairs.

**facsimile**

*an exact copy, especially one transmitted electronically*

I am sending you a **facsimile** of this report.

**orchid**

*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.

**bruise or brews**

*to crush or damage by pounding*

Dropping a peach will **bruise** it.

**euphemism**

*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'.

**technology**

*applied science*

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

**refuge**

*a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat*

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

**hieroglyphs**

*picture writing, especially ancient*

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

**impress**

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

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

**familiar**

*well acquainted*

I am very **familiar** with the rigors of studying for a spelling competition.

**giraffe**

*large cud-chewing animal with a very long neck and legs*

During our trip to the zoo we enjoyed watching the **giraffe** chew on the acacia leaves.

**pattern**

*a regular, mainly unvarying way of acting or doing*

I always follow the same **pattern** when getting ready for school.

**perturb**

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

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

**abdominal**

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

The **abdominal** bandage seemed too tight.

**poultry**

*domestic fowl*

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

**coalesce**

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

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

**inspire**

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

The concert did inspire him to be a musician.

**fiction**

*anything made up or imagined, as a statement, story, etc.*

The librarian directed us to the fiction section.

**plaintive**

*causing pity*

The lost kitten gave a plaintive cry.

**scary**

*causing alarm; frightening*

I did not like that scary movie.

**counterfeit**

*to imitate or copy, especially with intent to deceive*

This is the way to check if this bill is counterfeit.

**orthodox**

*traditional; conservative in belief*

My teacher encourages both orthodox and novel approaches to learning.

**villain or villein or villain**

*one who deliberately plots and does serious harm to others*

The police were seeking the villain who conned several senior citizens out of their savings.

**disassemble**

*to take apart*

We will have to disassemble the room immediately following the competition.

**algid**

*cold, chilly*

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

**Hawaii**

*the island state in the Pacific*

The climate of Hawaii attracts many visitors.

**glossy**

*having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish*

The glossy cat was sleeping in the window.

**zucchini**

*a summer squash, dark green in color*

Stuffed zucchini is one of my favorite dishes.

**drawl**

*to speak in a slow, lengthened tone*

Pardon my southern drawl.

**picturesque**

*resembling or suitable for a painted picture*  
The **picturesque** valley draws many visitors.

**ruin**

*destroy*

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

**romaine**

*a variety of lettuce with a cylindrical head of long, loose leaves*  
This Caesar salad recipe calls for **romaine** lettuce.

**cruise or crews**

*to sail over or about*

We are planning a **cruise** through the islands in the Caribbean Sea.

**vehicle**

*something used to transport persons or goods*  
We will need a **vehicle** that holds six people.

**tournament**

*a series of contests*

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

**remnant**

*what is left over; remainder; residue*  
The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a **remnant**.

**facetious**

*joking, especially at an inappropriate time*  
I did not mean to hurt you with my **facetious** remarks.

**career**

*one's progress through life or in a particular vocation*  
I enjoy this as a hobby, but I would not want to make a **career** out of it.

**ransom**

*consideration paid for the release of a captured person*  
The kidnapper demanded \$500,000 in **ransom** for their child.

**sandal**

*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.

**unprecedented**

*unheard-of; novel*

The president took **unprecedented** steps toward peace.

**rejuvenate**

*to make seem fresh or new again*  
A long vacation will **rejuvenate** him.

**insurance**

*a system of financial protection*

I will have to pay my own auto **insurance** after I get my driver's license.

**software**

*programs for directing the operation of a computer*  
This new **software** helps you trace your family tree.

**sentence**

*a decision or judgment, as of a court; esp. the determination by a court of the punishment*  
The **sentence** was in the defendant's favor.

**people**

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

**dysfunction or disfunction**

*deterioration of the natural action of (anything)*  
The **dysfunction** of the criminal's family formed the crux of the defense.

**prepare**

*to make ready, usually for a specific purpose*  
How are you going to **prepare** for the spelling bee?

**mocha**

*a mixture of coffee and chocolate*  
**Mocha** is the flavor of the month at the ice cream parlor.

**interrupt**

*to break the continuity or course of*  
Do not **interrupt** me while I am talking.

**discipline**

*training that develops self-control or character*  
The vice principal is in charge of **discipline** at many schools.

**intelligence**

*ability to exercise the higher mental functions*  
The debate centered on whether **intelligence** was accurately measured by IQ tests.

**camouflage**

*the disguise applied to military equipment*  
The uniforms are now tan to **camouflage** them in the desert.

**accommodate**

*to make fit, suitable, or congruous*  
The school can now **accommodate** handicapped students.

**collegian**

*a member of a college; college student*  
Dad bought the **collegian** a new set of luggage.

**scant**

*inadequate in size or amount; not enough; meager; short ration*  
The recipe called for a **scant** cup of sugar.

**government**

*the established political administration*  
Washington D.C. is the seat of our federal **government**.

**peasant**

*one of a group of lower class workers*

Because they were of the **peasant** class, they could not attend school.

**surgeon**

*a doctor who specializes in performing operations*

The **surgeon** made a skillful incision.

**license**

*formal or legal permission to do something specified*

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

**perseverance**

*continued or steadfast effort in spite of difficulties*

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

**battalion**

*a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; and large group joined in some activity*

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

**dinosaur**

*any of a group of extinct reptiles*

A plastic replica of a huge **dinosaur** is on display at the science museum.

**adolescent**

*period of life between puberty and adulthood*

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

**medley**

*a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works*

The chorus performed a **medley** of show tunes.

**leviathan**

*something large or formidable*

The merger of the two companies has created a **leviathan** that is apt to crush the competition.

**shepherd**

*a person who tends a flock of sheep*

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

**sacerdotal**

*pertaining to a priest or his office*

The **sacerdotal** functions of the pastor were numerous.

**chrysanthemum**

*popular plant grown for its long-lasting flowers*

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

**rheostat**

*an electrical resister for regulating current*

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

**buoyancy**

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

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

**questionnaire or questionnaire**

*a form comprising a series of questions, especially for a survey*

Please complete this short **questionnaire** before leaving.

**casserole**

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

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

**admire**

*to gaze on with delight*

I **admire** your choice of neckties.

**fervent**

*having or showing great warmth of feeling; intensely devoted or earnest; ardent*

The children showed a **fervent** devotion to their pet.

**prairie**

*a large area of level or rolling grassland*

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

**marmalade**

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

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

**destroy**

*to tear down*

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

**overwhelming**

*crushed by reason of force, weight or numbers*

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

**neglect**

*to give little attention or respect to*

We must not **neglect** our homework.

**delicacy**

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

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

**carousel**

*a merry-go-round*

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

**prescribe**

*to order or direct the use of something as a remedy*

The doctor will probably **prescribe** a painkiller for your recurring headaches.

**exhaustion**

*deprivation of strength or energy*

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

**maintenance**

*the act of keeping in an existing state*

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

**parochial**

*narrow; provincial*

That newscast presented a very **parochial** view of the problem.

**secretary**

*a person who handles correspondence and office tasks*

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

**boulevard**

*a broad often landscaped thoroughfare*

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

**harbor**

*a place of refuge, safety, retreat; a protected inlet, branch of the sea, etc., used as shelter and anchorage for ships*

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

**architecture**

*the style of building that designers produce*

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

**remote**

*distant in connection*

There is only a **remote** possibility of rain today.

**narcissistic**

*possessed by self-love*

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

**bulk**

*greatness of size or mass: volume*

It is much cheaper for a family of six to buy in **bulk**.

**neighborhood**

*the region near where one resides*

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

**office**

*a place of business*

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

**botany**

*the science of plants*

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

**recruit**

*to secure the services of*

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

**active**

*lively, busy, agile*

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

**extraordinary**

*exceeding the ordinary degree*

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

**massive**

*large or imposing or impressive; of considerable magnitude*

The new bank was massive.

**psychologist**

*a professional who studies or treats human behavior and intelligence*

The school psychologist will evaluate the students for placement in the special program.

**shield**

*something that protects or defends*

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

**inkling**

*a vague notion or idea*

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

**retrieve**

*to get back; regain*

I hope I can retrieve the lost data.

**recess**

*to halt temporarily*

The court will recess until this afternoon.

**mortgage**

*a transfer of rights to a piece of property*

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

**argue**

*to dispute or quarrel*

My friend and I often argue over trivial details.

**unruly**

*not submissive to rule or restraint*

The natives are unruly tonight.

**faucet**

*a fixture for drawing a liquid from a pipe*

A dripping faucet wastes a lot of water.

**convenient**

*conducive to comfort or ease*

It would be more convenient if you would stop by around 6:00.

**submit**

*to refer to others for decisions*

We will submit our plan to the committee.

**ninth**

*the ordinal number 9th*

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

**ladle**

*to dip out with*

The cook will ladle the soup for each customer.

**straight or strait or Strait**

*having the same direction throughout its length*  
Use a ruler to draw a straight line.

**precocious**

*exhibiting mature qualities or abilities*  
That preschooler can already read and is precocious in other ways as well.

**perfect**

*complete in all respects; flawless*  
The blazing sunset made a perfect ending to the day.

**intermittent**

*starting, stopping and starting again*  
The weather forecast is for intermittent showers.

**gorgeous**

*very beautiful*  
You look gorgeous in that evening gown.

**anniversary**

*the yearly commemoration of a special event*  
Our school will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary next year.

**synonym**

*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.

**panic**

*sudden, unreasonable fear*  
They did not panic when the fire broke out.

**redoubt**

*a small enclosed fort often temporary, fortifying hills and passes*  
The soldiers took up their positions in the unassailable redoubt.

**sabotage**

*deliberate damage of equipment, usually by disgruntled employees*  
Security was strengthened amidst concerns that striking workers might sabotage the factory.

**antidote**

*something that relieves, prevents, or counteracts*  
Education is often said to be an antidote to crime.

**crisis**

*decisive or crucial time or stage of an event*  
We knew we had to deal with the crisis quickly and efficiently.

**fasten**

*to become fixed or joined*  
Let me help you fasten those buckles.

**vestige**

*a visible sign or trace left by something vanished or lost*  
Only a vestige of the city's previous grandeur remained after the bombing.

**thesaurus**

*a dictionary of synonyms*

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

**antecedence**

*priority; precedence; going before*

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

**compatible**

*capable of existing together in harmony*

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

**amaze**

*to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder*

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

**first**

*preceding all other*

I hope I win **first** place in the spelling competition.

**thermometer**

*an instrument for measuring temperatures*

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

**daisy (could be capitalized)**

*a common American field flower*

Your bouquet will last longer if you cut each **daisy** this way.

**mathematician**

*a specialist in the science of numbers*

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

**dilemma**

*predicament; a situation in which one must choose*

It was a real **dilemma** deciding which college to attend.

**signal**

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

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

**perceptible**

*capable of being noticed or observed*

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

**fourfold**

*increased four times*

When the quadruplets were born the couple's needs were **fourfold**.

**mindful**

*having in mind; aware, heedful, or careful*

The children were **mindful** of the danger of playing in the street.

**doctor**

*a person licensed to practice any of the healing arts*

The **doctor** examined the patient.

**addressee**

*person to whom mail, etc., is addressed*  
His name is that of the **addressee** on the envelope.

**deafen**

*overwhelm with noise*  
The volume of the loudspeaker will **deafen** the audience.

**equal**

*of the same quantity or size*  
These two objects have **equal** value.

**foreign**

*connected with another country*  
Their formal style of dress was very **foreign** to us.

**lecture**

*an informative talk given for the purpose of teaching*  
Today's history **lecture** was very interesting.

**literature**

*writings in prose or verse having permanent value*  
My collection of children's **literature** includes many of the classics.

**chorus or koras**

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

**dreadful**

*inspiring dread; terrible or awesome*  
The volcano eruption was **dreadful**.

**crimson**

*deep red color*  
The sky, at sunset became beautifully **crimson**.

**safety**

*freedom from danger; security*  
Today's presentation was on the **safety** issues we should employ in case of a disaster.

**bougainvillea**

*evergreen vine with vibrant colored flowers*  
The walls of the hotel terrace in Mexico were covered with gorgeous **bougainvillea** vines.

**persuade**

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

**caption**

*a heading or title, as of a newspaper article*  
The **caption** at the top of the story attracted my attention.

**plague**

*a disastrous evil, especially a large number of destructive pests*  
A **plague** of locusts destroyed this year's crops.

**peninsula**

*a long projection of land into water*

We drove around the **peninsula** until we found the best beach.

**quadratic**

*an algebraic term involving the square and no higher power of an unknown quantity*

Solve this **quadratic** equation for the value of x.

**temperament**

*frame of mind; internal constitution*

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

**sourdough**

*a leaven of dough in which fermentation is active*

San Francisco is famous for **sourdough** french bread.

**gobble**

*to eat quickly and greedily*

The chickens usually **gobble** all the grain.

**parachute**

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

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

**platinum**

*a heavy precious metallic element*

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

**treasurer**

*a person entrusted with handling the funds of an organization*

Please turn in all magazine sales money to the **treasurer** today.

**occur**

*to take place; happen*

The celebration will **occur** next week.

**skirmish**

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

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

**wharf**

*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.

**courier or carrier**

*a messenger*

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

**blithe**

*joyful; glad; cheerful; lightheartedly gay*

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

**chief**

*a ruler, leader, head*

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

**retain**

*to stay constant*

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

**ecstatic**

*overwhelming joy or delight*

The team was ecstatic over their unexpected win.

**picayune**

*of small value, paltry*

It was hard to remember all the picayune details of that conversation.

**residential**

*of or having to do with residence*

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

**appoint**

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

The president will appoint all the committee chairs.

**lissome**

*characterized by easy flexibility and grace; also athletically slim*

Katherine watched the lissome ballerinas pirouette across the stage and dreamed of becoming a professional ballet dancer herself someday.

**carnivorous**

*meat-eating*

The lion is a carnivorous animal.

**beleaguer**

*to blockade by surrounding with an array*

The military operation was planned to beleaguer the enemy.

**lantern**

*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.

**margarine**

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

Would you like margarine or butter for your toast?

**verbatim**

*in the same words: word for word*

Each student in Russell's class was assigned to memorize a poem and then recite it verbatim to the class.

**portion**

*share; part of*

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

**linguistics**

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

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

**ambush**

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

The sheriff did not suspect ambush.

**leisure**

*freedom from work or duties*

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

**scurry**

*to run hastily; scamper*

The rabbits will **scurry** through the woods.

**harvest**

*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.

**dichotomy**

*division into two (contrasting) halves, pairs or set*  
Reconciling the **dichotomy** between public and private interests is a difficult job.

**gasconade**

*a boat or boasting; bravado*

The braggart was insufferable with his ridiculous **gasconade**.

**arouse**

*to excite to action*

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

**grammar**

*the use of language according to proper rules*

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

**clothes or close**

*covering for the human body*

**Clothes** make the man.

**session or cession**

*a school term or period of study*

The fall **session** of school was about to end.

**disturbance**

*a tumult or commotion by which the public peace is upset*

There was quite a **disturbance** outside my bedroom window last night.

**scissors**

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

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

**khaki**

*a light yellowish brown*

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

**immigrant NOT emigrant**

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

Every European **immigrant** was required to pass through Ellis Island.

**leopard**

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

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

**silhouette**

*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.

**weapon**

*something (as a gun, knife or club) that may be used to fight with*  
The police officer fired the weapon in self-defense.

**legato**

*in music, smooth and connected with no break*  
The instructor cautioned the piece should be played legato and not staccato.

**dosage**

*the system to be followed in taking doses, as of medicine*  
He forgot to take his dosage of cough medicine.

**wrist**

*the joint of the arm on which the hand turns*  
Fred sprained his wrist and could not play in the game.

**metaphor**

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

**pigeon or pidgin**

*any of numerous birds with a stout body and smooth plumage*  
The fattest pigeon in the park grabbed the most food.

**depth**

*distance from the top*  
The pool goes down to a depth of ten feet.

**woman**

*a female human being; adult female; femininity*  
The term 'lady' was once restricted to a woman of the higher social class.

**puppet**

*doll or figure used in plays*  
The children will put on a puppet show.

**plaid**

*a pattern of unevenly spaced repeated stripes crossing at right angles*  
That is a very nice looking plaid skirt.

**enough**

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

**satellite**

*a moon or man-made vehicle which orbits a celestial body*  
The weather satellite aided us in tracking the hurricane.

**foulard**

*a thick, soft material of silk*  
Her dress was of flaming red foulard.

**zenith**

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

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

**surround**

*to enclose on all sides; encircle*

When playing the game, the children would first **surround** themselves with all the toy cars.

**absurd**

*so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous*

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

**courteous**

*marked by respect for and consideration of others*  
If one is **courteous**, one will reap many benefits.

**ignore**

*to disregard deliberately*

The students appeared to **ignore** the teacher's request for quiet.

**whistle**

*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.

**lonely**

*alone; solitary*

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

**bureaucracy**

*a body of (hired) government officials*

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

**allegiance**

*the obligation of fidelity in general*

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

**decent**

*proper and fitting; not immodest; conforming to approved social standards*

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

**journal**

*a brief account of daily events*

We kept a **journal** of our trip.

**discord**

*lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones*

The sense of **discord** in the committee made us nervous.

**weird or weirded**

*strange, bizarre*

That is a **weird** color scheme.

**zealous**

*very eager; very enthusiastic*

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

**skeptic or sceptic**

*person who habitually doubts, questions or suspends judgment on generally accepted matters*  
He was such a **skeptic** that he was known as “Doubting Thomas.”

**gregarious**

*tending to live associate or congregate with others of the same kind, sociable*  
Baboons are **gregarious** animals, seldom found in isolation.

**scrupulous**

*acting in strict regard for what is considered right or proper*  
He took **scrupulous** pains to paint the wall smoothly.

**yield**

*to give up possession of on claim or demand*  
Be certain to **yield** to oncoming traffic.

**famine**

*any acute shortage*  
The people were suffering from the **famine**.

**jostle**

*to bump or push, as in a crowd*  
I hope I do not **jostle** too many passengers when I take these bags on the plane.

**powder**

*any dry substance in the form of very fine, dust like particles*  
The volcanic ash covered the car with a very fine **powder**.

**pantomime**

*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.

**English**

*the language of the people of England, the official language of the British Commonwealth, the U.S., Liberia, etc.*

We study **English** in school.

**yellow**

*one of the three primary colors*  
If you combine blue and **yellow**, you will get green.

**expertise**

*possessing outstanding skill*  
The soccer player showed **expertise** in controlling the ball.

**confidential**

*told in confidence; secret*  
Do not you dare tell anyone I said this; it is **confidential** between you and me.

**sortie**

*one mission or attack by a single plane*  
The pilot returned unharmed from a dangerous **sortie**.

**dying**

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

**conscientious**

*scrupulous; careful*

I try to be **conscientious** about getting my homework done.

**apocryphal**

*not genuine, sham*

Her **apocryphal** story misled no one.

**Albuquerque**

*the largest city in New Mexico*

**Albuquerque** is the site of an annual hot air balloon festival.

**poncho**

*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.

**vacant**

*having no occupant*

They just started building on the **vacant** lot next door.

**daughter**

*a female offspring*

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

**flexible**

*capable of being bent, turned or twisted without breaking*

It would be easier if you used **flexible** pipe for this part of the job.

**gratuitous**

*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.

**basin**

*a washbowl or sink*

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

**implement**

*to carry out; put into effect*

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

**quarrel**

*argument, dispute*

The bitter **quarrel** ended their friendship.

**column**

*a vertical arrangement of items*

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

**engrave**

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

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

**loquacious**

*given to excess talking*

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

**believe**

*to have faith or confidence*

I believe this will be an interesting contest.

**fashion**

*to make in a certain way; give a certain form to;*

*shape; mold*

The potter will fashion the clay to resemble a lion.

**prestigious**

*having or imparting prestige or distinction*

The prestigious writer had a great following.

**February**

*the second month of the year*

Valentine's Day is February 14th.

**tribute**

*something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, etc., to show gratitude*

Their success was a tribute to his leadership.

**coincidence**

*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.

**occasion**

*a favorable opportunity or circumstance*

A sixteenth birthday is an appropriate occasion for a party.

**prism**

*a transparent solid body which disperses light into a spectrum*

When I was cleaning this prism from the chandelier, it broke.

**intravenous**

*within or into a vein*

The patient was receiving fluids through an intravenous tube.

**benevolent**

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

Andre's benevolent nature led him to volunteer at the hospital after school one day each week.

**label**

*identifying card or paper*

We could no longer read the label on the jar.

**faithful**

*having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility*

My dog is a very faithful companion.

**arriviste**

*one that is a new and uncertain arrival (as in social position or artistic endeavor)*

Playing in his first French Open, Ferrero, a 20-year-old Spanish arriviste, reached the semifinals, all the while betraying no sense of awe.

**wisdom**

*learning knowledge; good judgment; wise discourse or teaching*

We cut our wisdom teeth at about age 15.

**width**

*distance from side to side; breadth*

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

**utensil**

*an instrument or container used in a household*

A ladle is the proper **utensil** to use for serving soup.

**cinnamon**

*a highly aromatic spice*

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

**souvenir**

*memento*

What did you bring home as a **souvenir** of your travels?

**freeze or frees or frieze**

*to become ice or severely chilled*

If you go out in this weather, you are likely to **freeze** to death.

**possibility**

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

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

**mischievous**

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

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

**campaign**

*a systematic course of aggressive activities*

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

**depress**

*to press down; push or pull down; lower*

If you **depress** this button, water comes out.

**remittent**

*temporarily stopping or abating*

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

**instant**

*a moment of time*

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

**magnet**

*a piece of iron or steel that attracts metal*

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

**reconciliation**

*the act of restoring friendly relations*

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

**inaugurate**

*to introduce into office with ceremonies*

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

**meaning***sense; that which is intended*It was difficult to understand the **meaning** of the sentence.**shriek***to utter a loud shrill sound, or the sound itself*Your child will **shriek** with delight upon receiving this special gift.**populous or populace***abounding in people*India is one of the most **populous** countries on earth.**depressant***a drug that reduces bodily functional activity*The doctor administered a **depressant** to calm the manic patient's behavior.**kayak***an Eskimo canoe, or one similar*The ocean was too rough to take the **kayak** out today.**colleague***a fellow worker*I would like to introduce my **colleague** who designed this project.**convert***to change from one form to another*Use this key to **convert** uppercase letters to lowercase ones.**Cheyenne***the capitol of Wyoming*The spirit of the old West is captured during the annual **Cheyenne** Frontier Days celebration.**nightmare***a frightening or oppressing dream*I had a scary **nightmare** last night.**lightning or lightening***a flash of light in the sky caused by the discharge of atmospheric electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth*The **lightning** flashed in the sky.**recommend***to suggest favorably*I **recommend** this book to you.**stomach***pouch where food is digested after swallowing*My **stomach** always aches when I run after eating.**wonderful***inspiring wonder; amazing*It was a **wonderful** sight to see the sun set behind the mountain.**snorkel***to move or swim under water using a snorkel*We plan to **snorkel** when we are in Hawaii.

**partner**

*a person who takes part in some activity in common with another*

My **partner** keeps the books, and I do the purchasing.

**pannikin**

*a small pan or cup*

He drank heartily from the **pannikin**.

**entrepreneur**

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

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

**salmon**

*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.

**secret**

*kept from public knowledge*

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

**devoid**

*completely without; empty or destitute*

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

**obsequious**

*meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant*

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

**bankrupt**

*a person legally declared unable to pay debts*

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

**fluid**

*that which can flow; not solid; able to move and change shape without separating when under pressure*

Water is an important **fluid** for survival.

**ninetieth**

*the ordinal number 90th*

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

**sheriff**

*a county law enforcement officer*

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

**grease or Greece**

*animal fat*

Put the leftover bacon **grease** in this can.

**knowledge**

*understanding or skill gained by experience or learning*

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

**unconstitutional**

*not in agreement with or permitted by a constitution, specifically the U.S. Constitution*

It is **unconstitutional** to deprive me of my rights, insisted the criminal, as they dragged him away.

**embarrass**

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

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

**sauterne**

*a kind of sweet white wine from France*

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

**curtain**

*window drapery*

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

**census or senses**

*an official enumeration of the population*

The last **census** showed a population increase.

**fountain**

*a water spray; a spring*

We all threw a coin in the **fountain** and made a wish.

**acoustics**

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

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

**odor**

*a smell*

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

**guillotine**

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

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

**posture**

*the position or carriage of the body; bearing*

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

**irresistible**

*impossible to resist or oppose*

The food sitting out on the table was an **irresistible** temptation for the dog.

**gnarled**

*distorted, cross-grained*

We enjoyed playing under the old **gnarled** tree in the park.

**quietly**

*still; without noise*

We drove **quietly** past the hospital.

**chauffeur or shofar or shophar**

*driver of a private automobile for someone else*

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

**useful**

*that can be used to advantage; helpful*

The fork is a **useful** utensil.

**revenge**

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

The leaders plotted revenge for the bombing.

**league**

*an association of persons united for common interests*

There is talk of forming a new baseball league.

**lackadaisical**

*lacking life, spirit, or zest*

The lackadaisical students are not likely to get good grades.

**memorabilia**

*things worth remembering*

Elvis Presley memorabilia is valuable to many collectors.

**hidden**

*concealed; secret*

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

**furrier**

*a dresser of or dealer in furs*

The furrier appraised the mink coat at three thousand dollars.

**hello**

*an exclamation of greeting*

I saw my friend and shouted, “hello!”

**correspondence**

*a communication by letters*

Please file this correspondence alphabetically.

**permeable**

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

The skin is a semi-permeable membrane.

**bellwether**

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

The bellwether led the sheep into the slaughterhouse.

**absorb**

*to suck up or drink in*

The paper towel will absorb the spilled milk.

**solitaire**

*a card game played by one person alone*

I played solitaire while waiting for my plane connection.

**reservoir**

*a place where water is stored in quantity*

During the drought, the reservoir was dangerously low.

**biscuit**

*a small quick bread*

Here's some honey for your biscuit.

**pigment**

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

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

**hinge**

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

The **hinge** needed oiling.

**judicial**

*of or relating to the courts or judges*

The defendant was awaiting a **judicial** decision regarding the acceptability of the evidence.

**patriarch**

*the father and ruler of a family*

The family **patriarch** always sits at the head of the table.

**phenomenal**

*extraordinary, remarkable*

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

**tortoise**

*a land turtle*

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

**apiarist**

*one who keeps bee hives*

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

**kaleidoscope**

*a changing pattern or scene*

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

**homonym**

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

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

**secede**

*to withdraw from an organization*

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

**lament**

*an outward expression of sorrow*

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

**parliamentary**

*being in accordance with the rules*

When conducting a meeting it is helpful to be familiar with **parliamentary** procedure.

**delicatessen**

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

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

**ubiquitous**

*present or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent*

I knew it was in my mind, but it seemed that everywhere I looked I saw his **ubiquitous** face.

**terrace**

*a small, usually roofed balcony, as outside an apartment*  
Flowerpots lined the **terrace** outside the apartment.

**compel**

*to enforce or constrain, as to do something*  
New laws **compel** judges to issue the maximum sentence.

**advise**

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

**hypochondriac**

*a person who suffers from imaginary physical ailments*  
Knowing the patient was a **hypochondriac**; the doctor prescribed a placebo.

**kettle**

*a metal container for boiling or cooking things*  
I will boil some water in the **kettle** for your tea.

**penitentiary**

*a prison*  
The old **penitentiary** held many clues to the hard life of a convict.

**hachures**

*short lines used in drawing; shading to denote different surfaces*  
The **hachures** on the map told where the elevation was highest.

**almond**

*the fruit of a small tree; especially: the nutlike stone or kernel of this tree*  
The **almond** is a nut that is easy to crack.

**miniature**

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

**ostrich**

*a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East*  
The white **ostrich** feather adorned her new hat.

**restaurant**

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

**visionary**

*having or marked by foresight and imagination*  
The **visionary** described a utopia that could never exist.

**dormant**

*sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive*  
Some plants and animals are **dormant** during the cold weather.

**mental**

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

**repartee**

*a clever or witty retort; skill in making clever retorts; such retorts collectively*  
The two humorists engaged in a clever **repartee**.

**lemon**

*a small yellow fruit with a bitter taste*  
The old lady always put **lemon** in her tea.

**Saturday**

*the seventh day of the week*  
This **Saturday** we can go to the Mall together.

**effusion**

*a pouring forth; a gushing or unrestrained utterance*  
An **effusion** of praise marked the speech.

**environment**

*all the influences surrounding and affecting an organism*  
The National Parks preserve the natural **environment**.

**shoulder**

*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.

**catastrophe**

*the culminating event of a drama, tragedy; disastrous end; any great and sudden calamity or failure*  
The Northridge Earthquake was a **catastrophe**.

**procession**

*orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way*  
The elephants moved in **procession**—trunk to tail.

**plagiarize**

*to steal and pass off as one's own the works of another*  
Students who **plagiarize** articles generally get caught.

**recur**

*to happen or occur again*  
An eclipse of the sun will not **recur** for another ten years.

**sword or soared**

*a weapon having a long usually sharp-pointed and sharp-edged blade*  
The magician's **sword** appeared to pass right through the rabbit.

**correct**

*to change from wrong to right; to point out or mark the errors of*  
Schoolteachers often take papers home to **correct**.

**orchestra**

*a group of musicians who perform together*  
Our school **orchestra** won top honors at the music festival.

**Antarctica**

*the continent surrounding the South Pole*  
The cold climate of **Antarctica** is the perfect habitat for penguins.

**ballot**

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

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

**receive**

*to accept; to get or permit to enter*

Did you **receive** my Christmas card?

**reconnaissance**

*preliminary survey of an area to gain information*  
Many missions of **reconnaissance** were flown over the enemy's territory.

**antimacassar**

*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.

**rheumatism**

*any of various conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles or joints*  
A person's **rheumatism** is generally worse in cold weather.

**plural or pleural**

*of or including more than one; involving or being one of*

The **plural** of this noun is formed according to the principle listed.

**description**

*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.

**homogenize**

*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.

**masquerade**

*a party at which people wear masks and costumes*  
What are you going to wear for the **masquerade** ball?

**pennant**

*a long, tapering flag*

Which team do you think will win the **pennant** this year?

**extravagance**

*the wasteful spending of money*  
The new diamond bracelet was an **extravagance** for the young waitress.

**pyramid**

*a polyhedron having a polygon for its base and triangular shaped faces*  
What is that **pyramid** shaped building on San Francisco's skyline?

**warmth**

*state of giving off moderate degree of heat*  
We could feel the **warmth** of the sun on our faces.

**barrel**

*a container with rounded sides and flat top and bottom*  
The last **barrel** of water was loaded on to the truck.

**vaccine**

*a substance injected into the body to prevent disease by causing immunity*  
The polio **vaccine** was a tremendous advance in medicine.

**spontaneity**

*state of acting freely and naturally*  
The mental health experts advise us to keep an air of **spontaneity** in our lives.

**awkward**

*not graceful, clumsy*  
My walk was very **awkward** right after my cast was removed.

**aspirin**

*a white crystalline drug used as a pain and fever remedy*  
The doctor prescribed **aspirin** and bed rest for my cold.

**scaffold**

*temporary wood or metal framework to support workmen and/or material*  
They worked from the **scaffold** easily.

**laboratory**

*a building or room fitted up for conducting scientific experiments*  
The scientist spent long hours in the **laboratory** perfecting the vaccine.

**opponent**

*person against one; adversary*  
The candidate's **opponent** waged a clean campaign.

**amphibious**

*capable of operating on land or water*  
D-day was marked by an **amphibious** assault.

**significance**

*the real or implied meaning*  
What is the **significance** of putting a heart on the letter to your sweetheart?

**miscellaneous**

*consisting of many things of different sorts*  
Most people have a junk drawer for all the **miscellaneous** things they cannot easily categorize.

**rasorial**

*scratching the ground in search of food as fowl*  
Turkeys and pheasants are **rasorial** birds.

**fictitious**

*imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended*  
Some novelists use a **fictitious** name under which they write.

**intersection**

*the place or point where two or more things cross*  
The office is at the **intersection** of Main and Broadway.

**fancy**

*gaudy; not plain*  
The dress was very **fancy**.

**humble**

*low in condition, rank, or position; lowly; unpretentious*  
The humble home was neat and tidy.

**gymnasium**

*a building used for physical education activities*  
If the bond passes, we will get a new gymnasium at our school.

**eclipse**

*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.

**distress**

*to cause sorrow or misery; pain, suffering*  
Arthritic pain causes distress in her stiff knee when she walks.

**shady**

*shielded from the sun*  
The bench under the trees was shady and cool.

**error**

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

**feather**

*the lightweight body covering of birds*  
Use the feather duster to clean these figurines.

**mileage**

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

**excellent**

*superior in worth of value*  
They served an excellent dish of spaghetti and meatballs.

**ensemble**

*a group of musicians playing together*  
A string ensemble will play at the concert hall tonight.

**imperceptible**

*not perceptible by a sense or by the mind: extremely slight, gradual, or subtle*  
The scar on her face had healed so well it was almost imperceptible.

**perpetuity**

*the state or quality of being perpetual*  
Perpetuity is implied in the fundamental law of all national governments.

**poinsettia**

*usually indoor plant with showy red leaves in winter*  
Our neighbor gave us a poinsettia for the holidays.

**language**

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

**defendant**

*a person who is sued or accused in court*

The jury ruled the defendant is not guilty.

**college**

*a school after high school*

Many high school students also take college courses.

**rendezvous**

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

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

**corrupt**

*spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound*

The corrupt official accepted a bribe.

**stubborn**

*person who refuses to comply; resisting*

*unreasonably; obstinate*

Donkeys are said to be stubborn like some people I know.

**special**

*out of the ordinary; for a particular purpose or occasion*

The children put on their finest clothes for the special occasion.

**acumen**

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

He was a businessman of acknowledged acumen.

**vignette**

*a brief, appealing scene, as in a movie*

The short vignette at the beginning was the key to the whole story.

**upholstery**

*materials (as fabric, padding, and springs) used to make a soft covering especially for a seat*

We chose this upholstery for our new sofa.

**vulpine**

*of or like a fox; cunning; crafty*

The racketeer had a vulpine scheme but it backfired.

**forty**

*cardinal number between 39 and 41*

These shoes cost forty dollars.

**employ**

*to engage services or labor for pay*

The new business is seeking to employ fifty qualified workers.

**seismologist**

*a scientist who studies earthquakes*

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

**opportunity**

*a fit or convenient time; favorable occasion*

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

**addendum**

*thing added or to be added*

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

**accessory**

*useful but not essential thing*

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

**center**

*the middle*

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

**benefit**

*promotion of welfare or prosperity*

This project will **benefit** all humankind.

**raccoon**

*a small carnivore of North America, usually nocturnal*

A **raccoon** raided our campsite while we were asleep.

**proceed**

*to go on or forward, especially after an interruption*

We will now **proceed** with the spelling competition.

**walnut**

*a nut; the tree which produces it; the wood of the tree*

**Walnut** furniture is usually expensive.

**giggle**

*to laugh with rapid, often high-pitched sounds*

We all started to **giggle** when the teacher noticed our practical joke.

**scarf**

*a piece of cloth worn around the neck or used as a cover*

She wore a brightly-colored **scarf**.

**offense**

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

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

**brief**

*condensed; short*

The teacher gave a **brief** description of the assignment.

**tongue or tung**

*the fleshy moveable part inside the mouth*

When the boy tripped and fell, he bit his **tongue**.

**fastidious**

*not easy to please; very critical or discriminating*

With **fastidious** attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again.

**Boise**

*the capital of Idaho*

To the southeast of **Boise** the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area provides a haven for these species.

**nauseous**

*affected with tending to cause stomach distress*  
I felt **nauseous** after eating too much ice cream.

**orthodontist**

*a doctor who corrects the position of the teeth*  
The **orthodontist** said I would need to wear braces for two years.

**Wednesday**

*the fourth day of the week*  
I have soccer practice every **Wednesday** after school.

**spectacular**

*characterized by grand scenic display*  
The fireworks display was the most **spectacular** part of the Independence Day celebration.

**Tuesday**

*the third day of the week*  
My birthday will fall on a **Tuesday** this year.

**volume**

*the quantity, strength, or loudness of sound*  
The **volume** of the music was deafening.

**unanimous**

*complete agreement*  
The boxer won a **unanimous** decision over his opponent.

**centrifugal**

*radiating or departing from the center*  
The road was banked to counteract the **centrifugal** force.

**zoomorphic**

*of, relating to, or being the representation of a deity in the form or with the attributes of an animal*  
Ancient Egyptians worshipped many **zoomorphic** gods and goddesses including Anubis the jackal, Bastet the cat, and Buto the cobra.

**proliferation**

*growing by multiplying new parts*  
The **proliferation** of the buds on the rosebud was truly amazing.

**impairment**

*to make worse, less, weaker*  
Dense fog is an **impairment** to safe driving.

**abbreviate**

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

**valet**

*an employee who cares for the clothing of hotel patrons*  
If you leave your suit on the chair, the **valet** will see to it that it is pressed.

**assistance or assistants**

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

**yacht**

*any of various small ships used especially for pleasure*

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

**jacket**

*a short coat*

This blue **jacket** would look nice with your gray trousers.

**pamphlet**

*a short publication with no cover*

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

**marriage**

*the state of matrimony; wedlock*

That couple's **marriage** seems to be very happy.

**ethnic**

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

His **ethnic** background was Italian.

**poltergeist**

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

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

**against**

*in opposition to*

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

**burglar**

*a person who steals from a home or business*

The **burglar** entered through an unlocked door.

**thunder**

*the loud noise after lighting*

The **thunder** seemed to be coming from the east.

**dictionary**

*wordbook, lexicon*

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

**kindling**

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

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

**terrific**

*extraordinary; astounding*

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

**equivalent**

*equal in quantity, value, force, meaning*

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

**honest**

*frank and open*

The storeowner had an **honest** face.

**custom**

*usual practice of behaving; habit; duties or taxes imposed by a government on imported or exported goods*

Having parties at Halloween was the **custom** of the neighborhood.

**middle**

*in between*

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

**linen**

*thread, yarns or cloth made from flax*

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

**allegory**

*a figurative story or narrative*

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

**fraud**

*deceit*

Cellular phone **fraud** is costing millions to legitimate users.

**complexion**

*the skin color of the face*

People with a fair **complexion** need to be very careful in the sun.

**embroidery**

*a decoration made by needlework on cloth*

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

**vociferous**

*characterized by clamor or vehement outcry*

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

**nuisance**

*that which annoys, vexes or harms*

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

**metamorphosis**

*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.

**parent**

*a mother or father*

His **parent** signed the reportcard.

**package**

*a small wrapped bundle*

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

**maneuver**

*a clever often evasive move or action*

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

**shuttle**

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

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

**symmetrical**

*having balanced proportions*

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

**misspell**

*to spell incorrectly*

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

**napkin**

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

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

**spinach**

*a potherb widely grown for its edible leaves*

I will have the **spinach** salad.

**listless**

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

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

**harmful**

*able to cause hurt or damage*

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

**pretend**

*make believe*

Sometimes I **pretend** that I am a pilot.

**cessation**

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

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

**data**

*things known or assumed; facts or figures for information*

The computer analyst entered **data** during his shift.

**dollar**

*a coin or piece of paper money in the value of 100 cents*

The **dollar** bill has a picture of George Washington on it.

**capriciousness**

*a change without apparent reason; erratic behavior*

Her **capriciousness** was evident as soon as she appeared at dinner.

**carry**

*take from one place to another*

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

**prior**

*preceding in time; earlier*

The ad said that **prior** experience was necessary.

**mystique**

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

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

**those**

*plural of that*

Please hand me **those** books.

**emollient**

*something that has a softening or soothing effect*

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

**forest**

*dense growth of trees*

The family of bears lived in the **forest**.

**moccasin**

*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.

**constitutional**

*of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential*

Everyone in the United States has **constitutional** rights.

**abhor**

*to shrink from in fear; detest*

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

**surveillance**

*close watch*

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

**Afghanistan**

*a republic in Southwest Asia, east of Iran*

Much of the terrain of **Afghanistan** is very rugged with peaks in the Hindu Kush rising to more than 20,000 feet.

**preliminary**

*introductory to the main discourse*

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

**lettuce**

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

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

**imperialism**

*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.

**reserve**

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

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

**central**

*in, at, or near the center*

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

**boisterous**

*rowdy*

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

**translucent**

*capable of allowing some light to show through, but not transparent*

We purchased a new translucent window for our bathroom.

**remembrance**

*memory, the act of remembering*

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

**perennial**

*lasting or active throughout the whole year*

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

**substantial**

*important, essential*

There is a substantial difference between the two candidates.

**physique**

*the build of a person's body*

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

**clairvoyant**

*of or relating to the power of discerning objects not present to the senses*

Ted hoped that Madame Serena really was clairvoyant when she looked at the tea leaves in the bottom of his cup and predicted he'd soon meet the girl of his dreams.

**schedule**

*a detailed and timed plan for any procedure*

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

**crescent**

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

These little crescent shaped rolls are delicious.

**banner**

*a flag*

The boy scouts held their banner high throughout the parade.

**sequel**

*an event that follows or comes afterward*

The sequel to the show will be aired next week.

**comfort**

*to impart strength and hope*

Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

**erroneous**

*mistaken; wrong*

The police report for the accident was erroneous.

**extemporaneous**

*speaking without notes*

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

**existence**

*the state or fact of being*

They were debating the existence of life on Mars.

**arrogance**

*self-importance; overbearing pride; haughty*  
His **arrogance** was difficult to put up with.

**robber**

*one who steals or robs*  
The **robber** was sent to prison.

**ophthalmologist**

*a physician specializing in diseases of the eye*  
The **ophthalmologist** had to dilate the patient's eyes.

**outrageous**

*extremely offensive, insulting or shameful*  
The parents were dismayed by their child's **outrageous** behavior.

**machinery**

*the working parts of a machine or instrument*  
The workers had the day off because the **machinery** broke down at the plant.

**obsolescent**

*going out of use; becoming outmoded*  
Phonograph records are becoming **obsolescent**.

**spectrum**

*a continuous range or entire extent*  
The newspaper reported a wide **spectrum** of opinions.

**pseudonym**

*a fictitious name*  
Samuel Clemens wrote his books under the **pseudonym** Mark Twain.

**routine**

*a regular or customary course of procedure*  
My morning **routine** includes feeding the cat.

**method**

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

**tenacious**

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

**behavior**

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

**therapeutic**

*serving to cure or heal; curative*  
The **therapeutic** treatment hastened his recovery.

**swathe**

*the sweep of a scythe or machine in mowing or the path cut in one course*  
To build the new road, they had to cut a large **swathe** through the trees.

**scheme**

*a systemic or organized design*

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

**Indianapolis**

*the capital of Indiana*

The **Indianapolis** Children's Museum features fun and fascinating hands-on exhibits.

**zeroth**

*being numbered zero in a series*

A fundamental scientific law, known as the **zeroth** law of thermodynamics, says that nothing can ever be cooled down to absolute zero.

**xenophobia**

*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**

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

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

**mausoleum**

*a large stately tomb*

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