

**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.

Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

traffic

the movement or number of automobiles along a street

There is a lot more traffic on the freeway now.

Connecticut

one of the New England states

Hartford, Connecticut is a major insurance center.

tyranny

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

The people rebelled against the tyranny of their oppressive ruler.

Juneau

the capital of Alaska

The city of Juneau Alaska is not accessible by road.

superintendent

person in charge; supervisor, custodian

The superintendent was found to be honest and trustworthy.

buyer or byre

a purchaser for a store

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

wreck or reck

damage or destroy

A careless driver will some day wreck his car.

excuse

an explanation; that which is offered as a reason

What is your excuse for being late?

reprehensible

deserving to be reprehended

Assassination is a reprehensible crime.

Australia

a continent (country) southeast of Asia

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

apparatus

equipment used to do a particular kind of work

The balance beam is an apparatus in gymnastics.

concerto

a piece for one or more soloists and orchestra

She played the piano concerto beautifully.

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.

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.

Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

coalesce

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

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

villain or villein or villan

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.

inspire

to have an animating effect upon; influence or impel

The concert did inspire him to be a musician.

disassemble

to take apart

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

fiction

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

The librarian directed us to the fiction section.

algid

cold, chilly

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

plaintive

causing pity

The lost kitten gave a plaintive cry.

Hawaii

the island state in the Pacific

The climate of Hawaii attracts many visitors.

scary

causing alarm; frightening

I did not like that scary movie.

glossy

having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish

The glossy cat was sleeping in the window.

counterfeit

to imitate or copy, especially with intent to deceive

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

zucchini

a summer squash, dark green in color

Stuffed zucchini is one of my favorite dishes.

orthodox

traditional; conservative in belief

My teacher encourages both orthodox and novel approaches to learning.

drawl

to speak in a slow, lengthened tone

Pardon my southern drawl.

Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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.

discipline

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

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.

intelligence

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

people

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

camouflage

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

dysfunction or disfunction

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

accommodate

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

prepare

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

collegian

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

mocha

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

scant

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

interrupt

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

government

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

Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

peasant

one of a group of lower class workers

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

medley

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

The chorus performed a medley of show tunes.

surgeon

a doctor who specializes in performing operations

The surgeon made a skillful incision.

leviathan

something large or formidable

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

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.

shepherd

a person who tends a flock of sheep

The shepherd led the flock along the path.

perseverance

continued or steadfast effort in spite of difficulties

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

sacerdotal

pertaining to a priest or his office

The sacerdotal functions of the pastor were numerous.

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.

chrysanthemum

popular plant grown for its long-lasting flowers

A chrysanthemum bouquet was the centerpiece for our Thanksgiving table.

dinosaur

any of a group of extinct reptiles

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

rheostat

an electrical resistor for regulating current

The stage lights were dimmed by means of a rheostat.

adolescent

period of life between puberty and adulthood

An adolescent frequently has trouble communicating with parents.

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 slowness

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.

argue

to dispute or quarrel

My friend and I often argue over trivial details.

psychologist

a professional who studies or treats human behavior and intelligence

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

unruly

not submissive to rule or restraint

The natives are unruly tonight.

shield

something that protects or defends

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

faucet

a fixture for drawing a liquid from a pipe

A dripping faucet wastes a lot of water.

inkling

a vague notion or idea

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

convenient

conducive to comfort or ease

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

retrieve

to get back; regain

I hope I can retrieve the lost data.

submit

to refer to others for decisions

We will submit our plan to the committee.

recess

to halt temporarily

The court will recess until this afternoon.

ninth

the ordinal number 9th

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

mortgage

a transfer of rights to a piece of property

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

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.

panic

sudden, unreasonable fear

They did not panic when the fire broke out.

precocious

exhibiting mature qualities or abilities

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

redoubt

a small enclosed fort often temporary, fortifying hills and passes

The soldiers took up their positions in the unassailable redoubt.

perfect

complete in all respects; flawless

The blazing sunset made a perfect ending to the day.

sabotage

deliberate damage of equipment, usually by disgruntled employees

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

intermittent

starting, stopping and starting again

The weather forecast is for intermittent showers.

antidote

something that relieves, prevents, or counteracts

Education is often said to be an antidote to crime.

gorgeous

very beautiful

You look gorgeous in that evening gown.

crisis

decisive or crucial time or stage of an event

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

anniversary

the yearly commemoration of a special event

Our school will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary next year.

fasten

to become fixed or joined

Let me help you fasten those buckles.

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.

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.

mathematician

a specialist in the science of numbers

A mathematician at the university derived this new number theory.

antecedence

priority; precedence; going before

The teacher stressed the antecedence of study to success.

dilemma

predicament; a situation in which one must choose

It was a real dilemma deciding which college to attend.

compatible

capable of existing together in harmony

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

signal

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

Traffic was backed up because the signal was broken.

amaze

to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder

The musician's talent will amaze the audience.

perceptible

capable of being noticed or observed

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

first

preceding all other

I hope I win first place in the spelling competition.

fourfold

increased four times

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

thermometer

an instrument for measuring temperatures

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

mindful

having in mind; aware heedful, or careful

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

daisy (could be capitalized)

a common American field flower

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

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.

treasurer

a person entrusted with handling the funds of an organization

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

quadratic

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

Solve this quadratic equation for the value of x.

occur

to take place; happen

The celebration will occur next week.

temperament

frame of mind; internal constitution

The composer was a man of melancholy

temperament.

skirmish

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

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

sourdough

a leaven of dough in which fermentation is active

San Francisco is famous for sourdough french bread.

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.

gobble

to eat quickly and greedily

The chickens usually gobble all the grain.

courier or currier

a messenger

The bicycle courier sped through the city's streets.

parachute

a device used for making a safe descent from an airplane

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

blithe

jovial; glad; cheerful; lightheartedly gay

The theatergoers were in a blithe spirit.

platinum

a heavy precious metallic element

This antique ring has a platinum band inlaid with diamonds.

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.

beleaguer

to blockade by surrounding with an array

The military operation was planned to beleaguer the enemy.

ecstatic

overwhelming joy or delight

The team was ecstatic over their unexpected win.

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.

picayune

of small value, paltry

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

margarine

food product made from usually vegetable oils and skim milk

Would you like margarine or butter for your toast?

residential

of or having to do with residence

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

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.

appoint

to name or select officially for an office, position

The president will appoint all the committee chairs.

portion

share; part of

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

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.

linguistics

science of language; study of the structure of languages

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

carnivorous

meat-eating

The lion is a carnivorous animal.

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 boast 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.

Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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 does, 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.

Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

zenith

the point in the celestial sphere that is exactly overhead

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

bureaucracy

a body of (hired) government officials

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

surround

to enclose on all sides; encircle

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

allegiance

the obligation of fidelity in general

The soldier's allegiance to their country was unquestioned.

absurd

so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous

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

decent

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

Father provided for a decent, comfortable standard of loving.

courteous

marked by respect for and consideration of others

If one is courteous, one will reap many benefits.

journal

a brief account of daily events

We kept a journal of our trip.

ignore

to disregard deliberately

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

discord

lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones

The sense of discord in the committee made us nervous.

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.

weird or weird

strange, bizarre

That is a weird color scheme.

lonely

alone; solitary

I was very lonely when I first moved to town.

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 freezes or freeze

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.

correspondence

a communication by letters

Please file this correspondence alphabetically.

league

an association of persons united for common interests

There is talk of forming a new baseball league.

permeable

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

The skin is a semi-permeable membrane.

lackadaisical

lacking life, spirit, or zest

The lackadaisical students are not likely to get good grades.

bellwether

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

The bellwether led the sheep into the slaughterhouse.

memorabilia

things worth remembering

Elvis Presley memorabilia is valuable to many collectors.

absorb

to suck up or drink in

The paper towel will absorb the spilled milk.

hidden

concealed; secret

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

solitaire

a card game played by one person alone

I played solitaire while waiting for my plane connection.

furrier

a dresser of or dealer in furs

The furrier appraised the mink coat at three thousand dollars.

reservoir

a place where water is stored in quantity

During the drought, the reservoir was dangerously low.

hello

an exclamation of greeting

I saw my friend and shouted, "hello!"

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.

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.

compel

to enforce or constrain, as to do something

New laws compel judges to issue the maximum sentence.

miniature

something much smaller than the usual size

That is an impressive collection of miniature cars.

advise

to give counsel

I would advise you to study hard for this test.

ostrich

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

The white ostrich feather adorned her new hat.

hypochondriac

a person who suffers from imaginary physical ailments

Knowing the patient was a hypochondriac, the doctor prescribed a placebo.

restaurant

a public eating place

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

kettle

a metal container for boiling or cooking things

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

visionary

having or marked by foresight and imagination

The visionary described a utopia that could never exist.

penitentiary

a prison

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

dormant

sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive

Some plants and animals are dormant during the cold weather.

hachures

short lines used in drawing; shading to denote different surfaces

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

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.

Saturday

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

environment

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

catastrophe

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

plagiarize

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

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.

orchestra

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

lemon

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

effusion

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

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.

procession

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

recur

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

correct

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

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.

reconnaissance

preliminary survey of an area to gain information

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

rheumatism

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

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

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.

masquerade

a party at which people wear masks and costumes

What are you going to wear for the masquerade ball?

extravagance

the wasteful spending of money

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

warmth

state of giving off moderate degree of heat

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

receive

to accept; to get or permit to enter

Did you receive my Christmas card?

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.

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.

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.

pennant

a long, tapering flag

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

pyramid

a polyhedron having a polygon for its base and triangular shaped faces

What is that pyramid shaped building on San Francisco's skyline?

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.

awkward

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

scaffold

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

opponent

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

significance

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

rasorial

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

intersection

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

spontaneity

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

aspirin

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

laboratory

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

amphibious

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

miscellaneous

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

fictitious

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

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.

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.

gymnasium

a building used for physical education activities

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

excellent

superior in worth of value

They served an excellent dish of spaghetti and meatballs.

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.

ensemble

a group of musicians playing together

A string ensemble will play at the concert hall tonight.

distress

to cause sorrow or misery; pain, suffering

Arthritic pain causes distress in her stiff knee when she walks.

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.

shady

shielded from the sun

The bench under the trees was shady and cool.

perpetuity

the state or quality of being perpetual

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

error

mistake

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

poinsettia

usually indoor plant with showy red leaves in winter

Our neighbor gave us a poinsettia for the holidays.

feather

the lightweight body covering of birds

Use the feather duster to clean these figurines.

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.

vignette

a brief, appealing scene, as in a movie
The short vignette at the beginning was the key to the whole story.

college

a school after high school
Many high school students also take college courses.

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.

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.

vulpine

of or like a fox; cunning; crafty
The racketeer had a vulpine scheme but it backfired.

corrupt

spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound
The corrupt official accepted a bribe.

forty

cardinal number between 39 and 41
These shoes cost forty dollars.

stubborn

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

employ

to engage services or labor for pay
The new business is seeking to employ fifty qualified workers.

special

out of the ordinary; for a particular purpose or occasion
The children put on their finest clothes for the special occasion.

seismologist

a scientist who studies earthquakes
The seismologist confirmed that the earthquake was centered twenty miles offshore.

acumen

acuteness of mind; keenness in intellectual or practical matters; sharpness
He was a businessman of acknowledged acumen.

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 trees 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.

burglar

a person who steals from a home or business

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

jacket

a short coat

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

thunder

the loud noise after lighting

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

pamphlet

a short publication with no cover

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

dictionary

wordbook, lexicon

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

marriage

the state of matrimony; wedlock

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

kindling

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

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

ethnic

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

His **ethnic** background was Italian.

terrific

extraordinary; astounding

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

poltergeist

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

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

equivalent

equal in quantity, value, force, meaning

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

against

in opposition to

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

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.

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.

emollient

something that has a softening or soothing effect

An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream's

emollient powers.

preliminary

introductory to the main discourse

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

forest

dense growth of trees

The family of bears lived in the forest.

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.

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.

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.

constitutional

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

Everyone in the United States has constitutional rights.

reserve

to hold; or hold over to a later time

We will reserve a place for you at the table.

abhor

to shrink from in fear; detest

I abhor baiting my fishhook with worms.

central

in, at, or near the center

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

surveillance

close watch

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

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.

crescent

the shape of a new moon or one in its last quarter
These little crescent shaped rolls are delicious.

remembrance

memory, the act of remembering

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

banner

a flag

The boy scouts held their banner high throughout the parade.

perennial

lasting or active throughout the whole year

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

sequel

an event that follows or comes afterward

The sequel to the show will be aired next week.

substantial

important, essential

There is a substantial difference between the two candidates.

comfort

to impart strength and hope

Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

physique

the build of a person's body

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

erroneous

mistaken; wrong

The police report for the accident was erroneous.

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.

extemporaneous

speaking without notes

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

schedule

a detailed and timed plan for any procedure

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

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.

pseudonym

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

robber

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

routine

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

ophthalmologist

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

method

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

outrageous

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

tenacious

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

machinery

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

behavior

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

obsolescent

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

therapeutic

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

spectrum

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

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.