

Elementary Study Word List Grades 4-6

20



Coordinated by
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RULES

1. This spelling championship is open to **two students** from **each county** in California in grades 4-6 who have been certified as county champions by their county Superintendent or designee.
2. This is an oral competition. A scratch pad and pencil are available on the table for the spellers to write the word, but the speller must then spell the word out loud for competition. Paper and pencil are not allowed except as provided on the table.
3. A study word list was compiled to aid students in preparing for the competition. However, actual words used throughout the competition will not be limited to this list or any other list. Rather, words may be chosen from any source deemed appropriate by the judges and the Spell Master.
4. In competition, spellers may pronounce words before spelling, after spelling, or not at all. **However, you are encouraged to pronounce the word BEFORE spelling to ensure that you heard the word correctly.** For example, if you are given the word *baseball* and you spell *baseballs*, your spelling will be considered incorrect. Or, if you are given *absence* and you spell *absent*, your spelling will be considered incorrect.
5. Once you begin to spell a word, you will not have a chance to change letters once pronounced. A speller may repeat the word orally, provided letters and their sequence are not changed. The speller must indicate words with apostrophes, capitals, other punctuation marks, and any accent marks either over the letter or at the end of the word.
6. At any time, a speller may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined, or used in a sentence. The Spell Master shall grant the request(s) until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller.
7. Judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling the word within a reasonable time period.
8. If no definition of a homonym is given, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he or she must spell the word defined.
9. There is an element of chance in this competition. Spellers will be eliminated in the order in which they misspell words. That is, when a speller fails to spell a word correctly, they must drop out of the competition. The Spell Master will announce the correct spelling of the word and a greeter will escort the student back to their family. Another word shall be given to the next speller in line. The last speller standing will be the winner.
10. When only two spellers remain, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when a speller misspells a word, the other speller will be given the opportunity to spell the same word.
 - If the second speller spells that word and the next word correctly, the second speller will be declared the champion.
 - If one of the last two spellers misses a word and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word, both will continue in the contest with a new word.
 - If both spellers misspell the same word, both will continue in the contest and a new word will be given.
11. The decision of the judges and Spell Master will be final in all questions. Any problem relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judges immediately (before the beginning of the next round). No protest will be entertained after the contest has ended.
12. In the event of a protest or dispute, decisions will be based on *Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged* (copyright 2002), the official contest dictionary. No other source will be allowed.
13. Once the competition begins, spellers must remain in the competition area. Spellers, if you need to use the restroom, please notify one of the greeters so you can be excused.
14. To minimize disruptions during this competition, we ask audience members to turn off cell phones and pagers.

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.

rascalion

a rascal; a ne'er do-well

I was advised to stay away from the rascalion.

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 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.

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.

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**.

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.

2007 Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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 currier

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.

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 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 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**.

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 weired

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.

bankrupt

a person legally declared unable to pay debts

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

pannikin

a small pan or cup

He drank heartily from the **pannikin**.

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.

entrepreneur

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

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

ninetieth

the ordinal number 90th

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

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.

sheriff

a county law enforcement officer

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

secret

kept from public knowledge

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

grease or Greece

animal fat

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

devoid

completely without; empty or destitute

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

knowledge

understanding or skill gained by experience or learning

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

obsequious

meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant

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

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.

curtain

window drapery

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

fountain

a water spray; a spring

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

odor

a smell

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

posture

the position or carriage of the body; bearing

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

gnarled

distorted, cross-grained

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

chauffeur or shofar or shophar

driver of a private automobile for someone else

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

sauterne

a kind of sweet white wine from France

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

census or senses

an official enumeration of the population

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

acoustics

the qualities of a room that enhance or deaden sound

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

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.

irresistible

impossible to resist or oppose

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

quietly

still; without noise

We drove **quietly** past the hospital.

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.

judicial

of or relating to the courts or judges

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

phenomenal

extraordinary, remarkable

It was phenomenal how fast the flu virus spread.

apiarist

one who keeps bee hives

When he retired, he became an enthusiastic apiarist.

homonym

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

The teacher asked for a homonym for the word.

lament

an outward expression of sorrow

A long lament was heard in the garden.

delicatessen

a shop where sandwich items, meats and cheeses are sold

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

hinge

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

The hinge needed oiling.

patriarch

the father and ruler of a family

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

tortoise

a land turtle

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

kaleidoscope

a changing pattern or scene

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

secede

to withdraw from an organization

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

parliamentary

being in accordance with the rules

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

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.

2007 Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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.

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.

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.

Wednesday

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

Tuesday

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

unanimous

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

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.

impairment

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

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.

orthodontist

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

spectacular

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

volume

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

centrifugal

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

proliferation

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

abbreviate

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

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 like 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.

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.