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SUGGESTED LOCAL SPELLING BEE RULES

1. Students will draw a number when they register, and this will determine "the order of spelling". Words will be given in the order that they appear in the Kentucky Pronouncer's Guide for the spelling bee.
2. Late arrivals must be registered before round two begins, or they will not be admitted into the spelling bee.
3. Words will be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in the fourth edition of the American Heritage Dictionary.
4. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant will be encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it.
5. The contestant may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it and/or use it in a sentence. Language of origin is also available for some of the words upon request.
6. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
7. The contest shall be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round.
8. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a contestant immediately drops out of the contest, except as provided in Rule 9. The next word is given to the next contestant.
9. This rule addresses the procedures that should be followed at the end of a spelling bee. This may not be the same as the procedure followed at your local school bee.
   A. If none of the contestants remaining in the bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, all shall remain in the competition.
   B. If only one of the contestants remaining in the bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, that contestant shall be declared the winner. Once the winner has been declared, a "spell down" will be conducted among the contestants in that round to determine the other place winners.
10. Any question relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the designated official immediately in writing on the official appeal form. Appeals may be filed by a parent, legal guardian, or teacher of the speller who is seeking reinstatement into the contest. No appeals may be filed to try to eliminate another speller from the competition.
11. The judges are in complete control of the spelling bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions.

Learning to spell can be very difficult, but there are some basic rules that can help you. Just remember, there are exceptions to rules!

Learn the *i* before *e* rhyme:

Put **i** before **e (examples: belief, yield, frieze)**
Except after **c (examples: receive, conceit)**
Or when it sounds like **a (examples: eight, freight, weight)**
As in **neighbor** or **neigh**

If there is a final *e* when adding a suffix or verb ending:

If the suffix or verb ending begins with a vowel, drop the final **e**.

Examples: **change + ing = changing**
festive + ity = festivity

If the suffix or verb ending begins with a consonant, keep the final **e**.

Examples: **measure + ment = measurement**
definite + ly = definitely
use + ful = useful

To add a suffix or verb ending when a word ends in *y*:

If the word has a consonant before the **y**, change the **y** to **i**.

Examples: **mercy + less = merciless**
carry + ed = carried

If the word has a vowel before the **y**, keep the **y**.

Example: **employ + ed = employed**

The letter *q* in a word is followed by a *u*.

Examples: **relinquish**
equation
quality

Double final consonants when adding suffixes:

The final consonant of a word is often doubled when adding **-ed**, **-ing, -er, -est.** Double final **b**, **d**, **g**, **l**, **m**, **n**, **p**, **r** and **t** at the end of words.

Examples:	**sob - sobbing**	**mad - madder**	**big - biggest**
	swim - swimming	**win - winner**	**hop - hopping**
	pot - potted	**transfer - transferred**	

Words of more than one syllable have their consonants doubled only when the final syllable is stressed:

If the word is one syllable or is stressed on the last syllable
and has a single final consonant,
and that single final consonant is preceded by a single vowel
and the suffix begins with a vowel,
then double the final consonant.

Example: **patrol + ing**
The stress is on the last syllable. **- trol**
There is a single final consonant. **- l**
The final consonant has a vowel before it. **- o**
The suffix, **ing**, begins with a vowel.
Therefore, you double the **l** before adding the suffix.
patrolling

Example: **market + ed**
The stress is on the first syllable - **mar** - not the last.
Therefore, you do not double the final consonant.
marketed

The spelling of a word does not change when you add a prefix to it even when the first letter of the word and the last letter of the prefix are the same.

Examples: **mis + step = misstep**
pre + eminent = preeminent
un + necessary = unnecessary

Plural nouns:

Most words simply add **s** for the plural. In words that end in **ss, sh, ch** or **x**, add **es**.
Example: **switch = switches**

In words that have a consonant before a final **y**, change the **y** to **i** before adding **es**.
Example: **summary = summaries**

Most nouns ending in **f** or **fe** add **s**. However, some change the **f** to **v** and add **s** or **es**. **There is no rule to follow here.**
Examples: **belief = beliefs**
half = halves

Some nouns ending in **o** add **s**. However, some add **es**. **There is no rule to follow here.**
Examples: **studio = studios; potato = potatoes; echo = echoes; hero = heroes; cargo = cargoes; piano = pianos; kangaroo = kangaroos**

Sometimes words have silent letters.

Examples: **gn, pn, kn = n**
gnome **pneumonia** **knife**

Examples: **rh, wr = r**
rhyme **wrestle**

Examples: **pt, ght = t**
ptomaine **height**

Examples: **ps, sc = s**
psalm **science**

Example: **wh = h**
whole

Memorizing rules is nice, but there are other good ways to learn spelling.

There are exceptions to most rules, so it's important to learn other strategies too. Try to break words into syllables. Look for prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Practice each short part and then the whole word. Break the word apart, then compare it to other words you know. Find patterns among words to help you learn spelling.

Examples:
un·ac·com·mo·dat·ed
pol·y·gen·e·sis
col·lo·qui·al·ism
chro·ma·tog·ra·phy
***Incidentally* and *coincidentally* have similar spellings.**
***February* and *library* both have a hard-to-hear *r* after the *b*.**

Mnemonics (pronounced with a silent **m** at the beginning) are little memory aids you can use to remember how to spell words. For example, you can remember that *dessert* is richer, so it has the double s. A *desert* is vast and empty, so only ones. You can remember that there are three **e**'s in *cemetery* because cemeteries are "ee"rie. Does it help you to spell *separate* by remembering there is "a rat" in the middle? Try to think of mnemonic devices for words you have trouble remembering how to spell.

Now you are ready to begin studying words for your spelling bee.

IMPORTANT: Start with the words in this book, but **use other sources as well, such as the dictionary,** to find words to learn. Remember, **the words for the county and state spelling bees are taken from the dictionary** and are not limited to those in this booklet.

Grouping words by word origin can help you recognize and memorize certain spelling patterns.

Spanish

adios
anchovy
bongo
burrito
cabana
cafeteria
canasta
castanets
chalupa
chihuahua
chinchilla
cilantro
enchilada
fandango
filibuster
flamenco
flotilla
gazpacho
hacienda
junco
lariat
machismo
mantilla
mariachi
mesa
oregano
peccadillo
punctilio
quesadilla
sarsaparilla
sassafras
sombrero
tornado
tortilla
vigilante

Japanese

futon
geisha
haiku
hibachi
kamikaze
karaoke
karate
kudzu
ninja
origami
ramen
samurai
sayonara
shogun
sushi
tempura
teriyaki
tofu
tsunami
wasabi

Slavic

Bolshevik
commissar
cravat
glasnost
gulag
kielbasa
paprika
parka
polka
robot
sable
samovar
slave
Soviet
sputnik
troika
vampire

Arabic

admiral
albatross
alchemy
alcohol
alcove
alfalfa
algebra
arsenal
artichoke
azure
borax
camphor
carafe
cotton
crimson
elixir
gazelle

giraffe
hazard
henna
iguana
julep
lemon
magazine
marzipan
minaret
mohair
monsoon
mosque
mummy
Muslin
orange
safari
saffron
sequins
sugar
sultan
talc
tamarind
tariff
tarragon
tuna
zero

French Origin

abate
allowance
altruism
amenable
barrage
barricade
beige
boudoir
buccaneer
bureau
bureaucracy
cachet
camouflage
chagrin
chassis
chauvinism
collage
couplet
crayon
croquet
debacle
deluxe
détente
diorama
diplomat
dressage
egalitarian
entourage
escargot
essay
evaluate
expertise
foyer
fuselage
fusillade
garage
gauche
genre
gorgeous
layette
limousine
mascot
matinee
mayonnaise
meringue
motif
musketeer
mystique
neologism
nitrogen
nougat
oxidant
pacifism
parachute
parfait
passport
physique
poach
potpourri
prairie
raconteur
rapport
rehearse
renaissance
repertoire
ricochet
rotisserie
rouge
saboteur
silhouette

sobriquet
solitaire
somersault
stethoscope
suave
suede
surveillance
tableau
tambourine
taupe
tragedienne
tragicomedy
traipse
triage
tutu
vichyssoise
toboggan

Dutch Origin

beleaguer
bowery
brackish
buckwheat
cockatoo
cruller
decoy
easel
freebooter
furlough
harpoon
holster
howitzer
hustle
keelhaul
keeshond
landscape
maelstrom
slurp
trawl
uproar
waffle
walrus
wiseacre
yacht

Latin Origin

abdicate
abolition
abscissa
accent
accentuate
access
accommodate
acquisition
acquisitively
adequate
adjacent
affinity
agile
alien
alleviate
alliteration
ambiguity
ambivalent
ameliorate
amicable
applaud
arboreal
bellicose
belligerent
benefactor
beneficiary
benevolent
bugle
candidate
capitulation
carnivore
cartilage
census
chemical
colloquial
colloquialism
commensurate
condolences
conjecture
consensus
controversy
corporal
crescent
curriculum
December
decimal
dejected
delicate
diminutive
dinosaur
discern

discipline
dissect
efficacy
egregious
erudite
exacerbate
exuberant
facetious
fastidious
fiscal
formidable
fossil
fury
gratitude
gregarious
gubernatorial
gymnasium
habitat
herbivore
hilarity
identical
igneous
ignorant
imperative
impetuous
implement
implemented
inane
incredulous
incriminate
indigenous
indiscriminate
infectious
infinitesimal
ingenious
innate
innocuous
insidious
interject
interrupt
intractable
italicize
judicator
juvenile
laboratory
legitimacy
lubricate
lucid
ludicrous
lunatic
luxuriate
magnanimous
mediocre
memorabilia
mercurial
meticulous
millennium
miscellaneous
murmur
narrate
natatorium
nebulous
necessary
nefarious
negotiable
nuclei
obsequious
obstinate
ominous
omnipotent
ostentatious
patina
peninsula
percolate
percussion
perdition
plausible
postmortem
precipitation
precocious
predicate
prerogative
prodigal
pugilism
ramification
recalcitrant
recant
reciprocal
referendum
retrospective
ridiculous
sculptor
secession
sedentary
significant
simile
simultaneous
solarium
soliloquy

stipulate
subterfuge
susceptible
syllabus
tertiary
tincture
trajectory
truculent
ubiquitous
vernacular
veteran
veterinarian
vulnerable

German

angst
autobahn
blitzkrieg
bratwurst
cobalt
dreidel
edelweiss
eiderdown
einkorn
ersatz
feldspar
gestalt
Gestapo
glockenspiel
hamster
haversack
hinterland
kitsch
lederhosen
liverwurst
Meistersinger
noodle
nosh
poltergeist
pumpernickel
rottweiler
rucksack
sauerbraten
schnauzer
schottische
seltzer
spareribs
streusel
strudel
umlaut
verboten
waltz
wanderlust
weimaraner

Old English

acre
alderman
anvil
aspen
barrow
behest
behoove
belay
blithe
bower
bristle
dearth
dreary
dross
earwig
farthing
fennel
fickle
forlorn
furlong
gospel
gristle
hassock
hawthorn
hearth
heifer
hypocrisy
keen
kith
linseed
lithe
mistletoe
mongrel
nestle
nether
nightingale
nostril
paddock
quell
sallow
salve

slaughter
threshold
tithe

Greek

academy
acme
acronym
adamant
agnostic
allegory
amnesia
analysis
android
antibiotic
apathy
apostrophe
arachnid
asteroid
automaton
biography
biopsy
calypso
ceramics
chronology
cosmetic
cosmos
cryptic
cynical
democracy
diagnosis
diphthong
dogma
dynamic
eclectic
endemic
enthusiasm
ephemeral
epiphany
eulogy
euphemism
eureka
geothermal
geranium
graph
hierarchy
hippopotamus
homogeneous
homonym
hygiene
hyperbole
lethargy
melancholy
metamorphosis
misanthropy
mnemonic
narcissism
odyssey
Olympian
orthodox
ostracize
oxymoron
panic
paradigm
paradox
patriarch
philanthropy
platypus
polygon
pragmatic
protocol
rhinoceros
rhyme
rhythmic
sarcasm
scheme
semantics
sophomore
spherical
strategy
symbiosis
synchronous
tetrahedron
thermodynamics
thesaurus
topical
topography
tragic
trauma
zephyr
anomaly
aristocracy
asterisk
diatribe
ergonomics
etymology
hedonism
isobar

Often Misspelled Words

across
address
again
agreeable
allot
already
answer
apparent
appearance
athlete
believable
bureau
business
college
commitment
concede
conscientious
cousin
debt
definite
different
does
eligible
embarrass
exceed
exhilarate
familiar
February
foreign
forty
grammar
half
independence
interesting
its
knowledge
laboratory
laugh
league
maintenance
minute
misspell
noticeable
occurrence
often
pastime
possess
privilege
probably
ready
receipt
recommend
said
satellite
schedule
secretary
separate
sheriff
sincerely
succeed
sure
trouble
truly
usually
vegetable
villain
visible
Wednesday
weird

Often Misused Homonyms

accept – except
aisle – isle
bare – bear
born – borne
capital – capitol
cash – cache
ceiling – sealing
cellar – seller
censor – censer
senser – sensor
cereal – serial
coarse – course
council – counsel
forth – fourth
herd – heard
hole – whole
horse – hoarse
led – lead (n)
lean – lien
naval – navel
ought – aught
principal – principle

recede – reseed
yore – your
weather – whether
ware – wear – where
right – rite
rote – wrote
sight – site – cite
stationary – stationery
their – there
colonel – kernel
complement – compliment
straight – strait

Words to Learn

Beginner Words

denim
waltz
yardstick
fossil
ballot
grotto
puppet
nickel
prefix
value
alligator
candlelight
thermal
trite
topical
zombie
revised
sequins
mammoth
sheriff
density
reign
atom
annoy
bewildered
geography
fierce
pelvis
bassinet
regatta
squall
mesa
toothbrush
comet
bureau
pastor
sleight
sidekick
polygon
database
conglomeration
arcade
pressure
spreadsheet
uproar
scarecrow
diary
coffee
Wednesday
apricot
wraparound
undergarment
pretzel
bagel
embargo
staff
semicircle
ivory
anvil
turtleneck
bishop
shutter
parka
slave
island
storyboard
walrus
tango
senate
vowel
waffle
tidemark
radius
schedule
catalog
polka
hayloft
woofer
disk
cranberry
silverback

Beginner Words
(continued)

method
temperature
gearshift
Slav
number
carousel
abbey
guitar
noodle
revival
wheelbarrow
tablet
watercolor
denture
percent
magazine
stockholder
oddball
rabbi
pioneer
veteran
ringmaster
storyteller
candidate
seller
settler
feminist
secretary
graph
napkin
poetry
storage
location
vegetable
joint
salsa
hazard
cosmetic
wildfire
tofu
property
problem
vampire
rouge
Arctic
prophet
sight
timeline
watershed
bangle
gong
kitchen
sultan
academy
phrase
hurricane
essay
bobtail
tutu
nosegay
hamster
canary
spatula
nacho
pellets
soapstone
bonanza
harpoon
privilege
hockey
crayon
element
panic
adobe
dragnet
speech
soundboard
futon
tradition
tundra
acre
gallon
quart
ounce
jigsaw
fable
mural
skyscraper
seascape
tornado
tycoon
villain
monsoon
ballerina
waitress
sentence
stagehand

package
receipt
symbol
deference
youngster
calculator
lavender
sharply
tutored
snobbishly
whole
said
belligerence
torment
pastime
smallpox
rabies
tiebreaker
tissue
underage
totem
buckwheat
telescope
ware
league
theory
veto
treadmill
landscape
question
irony
fraction
plains

diamond
toadstool
rookie
wound
telephone
warning
passport
censure
volcano
multiply
mirage
image
brainchild
alien
ozone
vessel
relief
robot
lizard
pewter
plaid
radar
aspen
egret
vein
reptile
tumblebug
vitamin
salmon
lilac
vanilla
woodpecker
petunia

religion
commodity
where
canonical
warrant
upright
surplus
miniature
prompt
corrosive
fickle
positive
unhealthy
creative
panicky
unfortunately
zany
utterly
vacantly
spicy
crumbly
needlepoint
weakly
widescreen
eligible
dreary
sourly
scattering
nostril
kidney
tempted
causal
awful

Beginner Words
(continued)

deafening
remote
despondent
principal
right
melba
timberland
colorful
glamorous
tunefully
taught
sparkling
westbound
severe
vivid
wireless
sure
sapphire
tragic
screeching
equality
woozily
sullenly
worriedly
voicelessly
urgently
usually
eerily
reliably
zestily
toothily
sordidly
saltily
sweetly
watchfully
worshipfully
touchdown
kosher
yonder
umpire
Newton
apathy
unwisely
purring
foreign
boredom
profit
probably
stiffly
sincere
loose
vainly
yearly
puce
weird
auspicious
puny
ordinary
atomic
spinal
trendy
plural
negative
sensory
their
yours
serial
nasal
universal
skeletal
centimeter
season
namesake
champion
burglar
coward
zookeeper
tattletale
toddler
trustee
dejection
earache
wrote
snooker
visible
pottery
ready
taboo
nonfiction
abiding
apparent
cognate
ratio
ashamed
Spartan
raspy
ticklish

separate
truly
tweezers
loam
phantom
pollutant
testament
twist
piloted
sugar
enough
there
omega
union
volume
choreography
fresco
quarterback
television
trillion
vacancy
poverty
assimilation
twilight
shoreline
ocean
shogun
zero
future
caboose
border
gravity
chivalry

buffalo
subject
captain
palace
peach
twelfth
eclipse
hologram
site
triangle
rite
gospel
offspring
massage
ditto
tiniest
commitment
slavery
weather
knowledge
unity
grammar
economy
script
warfare
spelling
maintenance
sparsely
cotton
yore
unamiably
measure
sealing

import
wear
succeed
follow
memorize
signal
shear
spawn
slurp
debate
thrilled
intersect
yield
possess
worship
dubbing
snuggle
thaw
wager
zoom
recede
unfold
gather
reseed
recommend
shelter
demolish
argue
confiscate
assign
telegraph
unfasten
nestle

Beginner Words
(continued)

shadowing
quiver
understate
narrate
poach
wriggle
bellow
sincerely
whether
vastly
fury
remainder
russet
amber
bronze
candid
geologic
calm
beautiful
grieving
immense
jealous
acidly
aloud
amply
avidly
barely
explosively
fatally
grossly
handily
hoarsely
honestly
jerkily
information
bumblebee
basement
artwork
charcoal
gallery
galaxy
industry
inflation
labor
cakewalk
clogging

Intermediate Words

umbilical
unabridged
urbane
urinary
ursine
vaudeville
vector
drought
dynasty
edict
electron
revision
rhombus
sacrilege
salvation
satellite
curio
demographic
scaffolding
filibuster
seltzer
alliteration
sluice
sobriety
drowsiness
spaghetti
spelunker
recreation
extravaganza
quarry
abbreviation
advertisement
glacier
allegro
caldera
capillary
capitalization
nitrogen
notation
numeral
oceanography
ohm
orchestra
vocabulary
wholly
zenith
zygote
vertebrae

emphasized
excommunicate
fabricated
harmonize
heightened
hustle
refraction
resonance
salinity
secant
sidereal
subjunctive
calculus
carbohydrates
virtue
vocalist
volleyball
wardrobe
warehouse
wavelength
synthesized
transmitted
unified
amino
ampere
composition
compound
condensation
cubism
cynicism
demonstration
turmeric
typhoid
ultraviolet
velveteen
unscramble
vacuum
volunteered
weighed
advisory
altitude
gastrointestinal
guava
guerrilla
hectometer
helix
iambic
authoress
avatar
implemented
mediated
orchestrated
processing
recommended
rehabilitated
idiom
simile
stimulant
cranial
scarab
cafeteria
spherical
transparent
barricade
tapestry
tantamount
scalene
benefactor
statue
sphinx
shovelful
prefix
abolition
rupture
fiscal
hilarity
toboggan
algebra
amnesia
snorkel
preamble
measles
stoic
ordinary
sequins
crevice
agile
chronic
foyer
access
betroth
strudel
multiplication
murmur
strategy
haiku
altimeter
altruism
moraine

Intermediate Words
(continued)

muscular
Neapolitan
nominative
pancreas
parallel
transect
secluded
spigot
education
electoral
susceptible
benign
mukluk
quarrel
alfalfa
fugue
couplet
procedure
gauge
gaseous
gondola
conversation
spumoni
lariat
straitjacket
crescent
referee
thenceforth
defiant
naturalization
diplomat
colossal
wretchedly
yearningly
abstinence
dauntlessly
ricochet
illustration
ghetto
longitude
paraffin
tolerance
abdicate
stallion
biopsy
laboratory
licorice
fidgeted
lumberjack
character
lubricate
postmortem
isobar
sombrero
hydraulic
gallant
carnivore
majority
trajectory
tumult
turbulence
verbose
vertices
probability
proportion
radioactivity
superlative
fathom
stucco
parachute
acceleration
aggression
discreetly
pugilism
shalom
saxophone
solarium
fragrant
knapsack
soluble
corporal
allowance
collage
alliance
analysis
scabbard
orchard
miniature
arsenal
cavalry
smocking
cantata
napoleon
graffiti
laceration
inferno
campaign

dynamic
tableau
rhythmic
chemical
scheme
chinchilla
tithe
consensus
symphony
lethargy
controversy
amendment
analogy
conjecture
pursuit
nuisance
quell
recant
executive
chalice
evaluate
prodigal
protocol
distributive
documentary
electrolytes
endocrine
sacrifice
jovial
chocolate
singe
glossary
creative

contraband
fiddlesticks
jalopy
ridiculous
leotard
channel
sarcasm
biography
knavishly
lyrically
quaintly
resplendently
tranquilly
unctuously
vertically
vicariously
agriculture
complementary
governor
guilt
guru
havoc
heredity
heresy
reservoir
resistance
respiration
satire
scientist
sculpture
lucid
decimal
limelight

qualm
binoculars
nectarine
coincidence
pumice
hustle
multicolored
obedience
habitat
adequate
bizarre
cauliflower
trawl
mediocre
slaughter
pillar
tectonics
theorem
totalitarian
victimology
videography
projection

Challenge Words

tempestuous
gesundheit
hyperbole
soufflé
mariachi
julep
contingency
impetus

Challenge Words
(continued)

suede
anachronism
rabbinical
triceratops
stethoscope
salvageable
tranquilizer
transcendental
terrestrial
genre
thesaurus
lycanthrope
pedagogy
aardvark
pertussis
homonym
italicize
witticism
clientele
sudoku
cartilage
juvenile
vichyssoise
miscellaneous
sophistication
platypus
ingenious
vehement
yacht
entrepreneur
limousine
metamorphosis
silhouette
traipse
tragedienne
ramshackle
scherzo
outmaneuver
curmudgeon
dichotomy
jodhpurs
somersault
discipline
meringue
embroidery
patriarch
nickelodeon
luxuriate
mnemonic
microcosm
efficacy
blitzkrieg
prairie
truculent
mayonnaise
sympathize
synchronize
diminutive
alchemy
subconscious
solecism
algorithm
prerogative
criminology
loathe
masquerade
disciple
rotisserie
bicentennial
infectious
narcolepsy
rhinoceros
mistletoe
sedentary
lieutenant
commensurate
chauvinism
agoraphobia
hypothesize
lithe
rapport
statistician
meritocracy
rosacea
synthesizer
philanthropy
testimonial
bibliophile
gubernatorial
ramekin
narcissism
dreidel
suffragette
antihistamine
archipelago
oxymoron
nefarious

soliloquy
marzipan
anecdote
stomachache
pernicious
elixir
odyssey
sanctimonious
innocuous
beneficiary
pistachio
jambalaya
euphemism
primavera
perdition
sobriquet
apostrophe
indelible
sabbatical
rhapsody
memorabilia
reciprocate
ambivalent
facetious
saguaro
somnambulism
tertiary
provolone
potpourri
melancholy
tamarind
adagio
anonymity

arachnid
sienna
belligerent
synopsis
riboflavin
cabriolet
calypso
boatswain
precocious
paparazzo
stalagmite
natatorium
liaison
indiscriminate
gauche
hierarchy
homogeneous
numismatic
thermodynamics
accentuate
segue
hypocrisy
isthmus
stenographer
crocus
vulnerable
significant
stealthy
chandelier
incognito
reconciliation
jaundiced
antibiotic

quarantine
periphery
indigenous
charlatan
smithereens
egregious
spurious
repertoire
embezzlement
surveillance
mechanism
outmaneuver
karaoke
stereotype
tambourine
raconteur
madrigal
hippopotamus
accommodate
judicator
stratosphere
kamikaze
arboreal
lackadaisical
legitimacy
vengeance
ludicrous
mackinaw
luminance
machination
acquisition
peninsula
maraschino

Challenge Words
(continued)

bureaucracy
ostracize
negotiable
impropriety
nonchalant
austere
crescendo
halitosis
quadratic
staccato
nuclei
salve
diphthong
physique
orthodox
pachyderm
omnipotent
succinct
acrimoniously
aesthetically
asymmetrically
atrociously
brusquely
equivocally
zoophobia
muesli
statuesque
vernacular
macabre
cardiovascular
cerise
chartreuse
Ellipsoidal
ersatz
fuchsia
igneous
ulcerous
acerbically
acquiescently
acquisitively
ubiquitous
judicial
capitalism
tetrahedron
veterinarian
carafe
renaissance
synonym
tarantula
zucchini
epithet
quadruple
tsunami
macrobiotics
glockenspiel
tonsillectomy
minaret
triage
trachea
debacle
heifer
sassafras
syllabus
tincture
tabernacle
ramification
recalcitrant
referendum
recidivism
exacerbate
saccharin
rudimentary
nebulous
saboteur
scandalous
camphor
pearlescent
secession
boutique
laryngitis
infinitesimal
tardigrade
fusillade
camouflage
poltergeist
spasmodic
millennium
simultaneous
standoffish
Tasmanian
plagiarize
maelstrom
symbiosis
Mikado
edelweiss
kaleidoscope
tragicomedy

traitorous
misdemeanor
chassis
phenomenon

Commonly Confused Words

allusion – illusion
affect(v) – effect(n)
breath – breathe
choose – chose
conscience – conscious
desert – dessert
emigrate – immigrate
proceed – precede
than – then
quiet – quite
liable – libel
loose – lose
nauseated – nauseous
later – latter

WORDS LISTED BY CATEGORY

For the next several pages, the words have been broken down into categories.

Geometry Words

circumference
complementary
congruent
diameter
endpoint
equilateral
geometry
globular
hypotenuse
intersect
isosceles
parallel
parallelogram
pentagonal
perpendicular
polygon
radius
rhombus
scalene
secant
semicircle
spherical
supplementary
tangent
tetrahedron
transect
triangle
vertices

Verbs

socialize
stipulate
sympathize
synchronize
traipse
wager
zoom
loathe
luxuriate
murmur
nestle
ostracize
overindulge
persuade
poach
pressure
quell
reciprocate
remember
romanticize
segue
singe

slaughter
snuggle
accentuate
accommodate
ameliorate
argue
assign
bellow
betroth
bristle
diminish
dwindle
evaluate
exacerbate
follow
forfeit
gather
hustle
interfere
interrupt

Religion and Beliefs

abbey
abstinence
agnostic
altar
altruism
Amish
apocalypse
apostle
assumption
atonement
avatar
baptism
bar mitzvah
belief
bishop
blasphemy
Brahma
Buddhism
catechism
cathedral
chalice
communion
consecrate
contrition
creationism
crucifix
cynicism
disciple
dogma
dreidel
evangelical
excommunicate
faith
fundamentalism
gentile
gospel
guru
heresy
hymn
ideology
idol
immaculate
inquisition
karma
kosher
limbo
Madonna
mantra
martyr
Mecca
minaret
miracle
miraculous
missionary
monastery
monk
myth
naturalism
omen
omnipotent
orthodox
pacifism
paganism
pastor
penance
piety
prophet
protestant
purgatory
rabbi
rabbinical
redemption
religion
ritual
sacrifice

sacrilege
salvation
sanctify
shalom
synagogue
tabernacle
taboo
Taoism
testament
tithe
totem
tradition
vespers
vestments
vicar
virtue
worship
zealot
ziggurat

Medicine/ Health

ambulance
antigen
antihistamine
bacteria
benign
biopsy
bloodstream
calcium
calorie
carbohydrates
chemotherapy
chronic
circulatory
communicable
disease
earache
elixir
exercise
halitosis
hygiene
immune
infectious
influenza
jaundiced
laceration
laryngitis
lobotomy
macrobiotics
malaria
measles
metabolism
migraine
narcolepsy
nasal
nearsighted
penicillin
pharmacy
physical
physique
pneumonia
prescription
protein
quarantine
rabies
rosacea
salve
smallpox
stomachache
tendonitis
therapeutic
trauma
triage
typhoid
ulcerous
vitamin
whiplash
wound

Human Body

abdominal
appendix
artery
artery
capillary
cardiovascular
cartilage
cellular
chromosome
clavicle
connective
contractibility
cranial
digestive
electrolytes
embryo

endocrine
fluid
gastrointestinal
gland
homeostasis
hormone
internal
joint
kidney
kneecap
knuckle
ligament
marrow
metabolism
microscopic
muscles
muscular
nostril
nutrient
organ
pancreas
pelvis
physiology
platelets
receptors
retina
sebaceous
secretion
sensory
skeletal
spinal
sternum
tissue
tongue
tonsillectomy
trachea
umbilical
urinary
vascular
vein
vein
vertebrae
vessels
vitamin

Geography Words

aphelion
aquifer
archipelago
arroyo
atlas
atoll
axis
biodiversity
caldera
cartographer
climatology
continental
coriolis
demographic
equatorial
estuary
fauna
geography
geologic
geology
globe
hemisphere
island
karst
lithification
loess
megalopolis
Mercator
moraine
occidental
parallel
perihelion
permafrost
quaternary
reservoir
tectonics
tertiary
topography
urbanization
zenith

Food and Cooking Words

appetite
apricot
avocado
bagel
banquet
cafeteria
carafe

cheddar
chocolate
cranberry
gelato
glassware
hibachi
jambalaya
julep
kitchen
licorice
maraschino
marzipan
mayonnaise
melba
meringue
molasses
muesli
nacho
napoleon
nectarine
noodle
pretzel
primavera
provolone
ramekin
recipe
rotisserie
saccharin
seltzer
sieve
soufflé
spaghetti
spatula
spumoni
stollen
strudel
tabbouleh
tangelo
tempura
tofu
tortilla
utensil
vanilla
vegetarian
vermicelli
vichyssoise
waffle
waitress
zucchini

Film and Photography Words

actor
actress
ambient
anamorphic
animation
aperture
assistant
boom
cameo
camera
candid
character
cinematographer
clapperboard
continuity
costumer
crew
daguerreotype
darkroom
dialogue
diffraction
diffuser
digital
director
documentary
dubbing
editing
editor
Electrotachyscope
Ellipsoidal
exposure
gaffer
iris
location
matte
monochrome
montage
negative
nickelodeon
photography
photojournalism
processing
production
projection
projector

script
sequel
shutter
stereoscopy
storyboard
technician
technique
viewfinder
widescreen

Physics Words

acceleration
ampere
amplitude
atom
atomic
centrifugal
concave
convex
density
energy
frequency
friction
fulcrum
gravity
hologram
inertia
lumen
luminance
magnetic
mirage
ohm
pendulum
prism
radioactivity
refraction
resonance
spectrum
thermal
thermodynamics
trajectory
transistor
transparent
ultraviolet
velocity
vibration
wavelength

Plants

aspen
buckwheat
cauliflower
crocus
edelweiss
geranium
guava
hawthorn
lilac
magnolia
mistletoe
monocot
petunia
photosynthesis
pistachio
saguaro
sassafras
shamrock
yucca
zinnia
zucchini

Disaster Words

alert
avalanche
blizzard
cyclone
disease
drought
earthquake
emergency
epidemic
eruption
famine
flood
hurricane
landslide
maelstrom
mudslide
relief
shelter
tornado
tsunami
typhoon
volcano

warning
wildfire

Words with the Prefix Un-

unaccompanied
unaffordable
unappetizing
unassembled
unblemished
uncanny
uncluttered
uncoordinated
undependable
undisturbed
unfold
unhealthy
unmanageable
unoccupied
unorthodox
unresponsive
unruly
unscramble
unsusceptible
untouchable
unworkable

Dance Words

adagio
agile
arabesque
ballerina
cakewalk
clogging
cotillion
disco
fandango
foxtrot
hustle
jitterbug
limbo
lithe
mambo
minuet
polka
reggae
salsa
tango
tutu
twist
waltz

Feeling Words

angst
annoy
apathy
ashamed
austere
awful
belligerent
boredom
chagrin
defiant
dejected
disgust
drowsiness
embarrassed
enmity
ennui
enthusiasm
euphoria
facetious
fury
gratitude
guilt
impatience
inadequacy
jovial
lethargy
melancholy
modesty
panic
regret
shame
standoffish
stoic
suspense
thrilled
torment
vulnerability
vulnerable
wretched
yearning

Chemistry Words

element
catalyst
chemical
compound
covalent
electron
molecule
nitrogen
oxygen
soluble
solution
uranium

Color Words

aquamarine
amber
amethyst
auburn
bronze
turquoise
cerise
chartreuse
cyan
khaki
fuchsia
ivory
lavender
mauve
taupe
ochre
peach
periwinkle
persimmon
puce
russet
salmon
sapphire
vermilion

Business Words

catalog
embargo
import
labor
profit
stockholder
union
boutique
clientele
embezzlement
entrepreneur
advertisement
bookkeeper
boycott
career
clearance
cubicle
insurance
surplus
warehouse
depression
economy
industrialize
industry
inflation
trustee
unemployment

Apparel Words

taffeta
textile
toboggan
jodhpurs
tunic
turtleneck
undergarment
denim
mackinaw
suede
moccasin
mukluk
muslin
plaid
sequins
sombrero

Animals

nightingale
poodle
silverback
stallion
terrier

tortoise
wolverine
arachnid
rottweiler
bumblebee
reptile
unicorn
alligator
buffalo
egret
lizard
woodpecker
aardvark
Heifer
pachyderm
Platypus
rhinoceros
tarantula
chinchilla
iguana
mongrel

Furniture Words

armoire
cabinet
credenza
cupboard
curio
futon
ottoman
settee
tuffet
upholstery
wardrobe

School Words

information
question
academy
assignment
curriculum
education
graduation
query
sophomore
tuition
undergraduate
university

Architecture Words

stucco
threshold
architecture
basement
gargoyle
mausoleum
skyscraper
staircase
wainscoting
balcony
natatorium
belvedere
foyer
miniature
pillar
rotunda
scaffolding
solarium

Biology Words

spawn
arboreal
symbiosis
biology
carnivore
dissect
habitat
metamorphosis
amoeba
arthropod
enzyme
heredity
hibernation
meiosis
microbe
mitosis
mutation
offspring
organelle
organism
osmosis
parasite
protozoa

species
venomous
vertebrate

Games and Sports

archery
canoeing
javelin
karate
mahjong
peloton
pentathlon
pugilism
recreation
referee
skiing
snorkel
solitaire
somersault
spelunker
steeplechase
trawl
unsportsmanlike
volleyball
weightlifter

Art Words

artwork
colorful
crayon
drawing
fresco
image
mural
pottery
seascape
totem
watercolor
sienna
technique
ceramics
collage
easel
graffiti
landscape
origami
patina
portfolio
realism
sculptor
statue
tempera
silhouette
abstract
charcoal
cubism
gallery
rococo
sculpture
shadowing
texture
turpentine

Government

alderman
bureaucracy
commonwealth
congress
democracy
dictatorship
dynasty
executive
government
governor
gubernatorial
legislative
legislature
monarch
politician
republic
senate
sovereignty
theocracy
totalitarian

Astronomy

ablation
accretion
achondrite
albedo
antimatter
apastron
aphelion
apogee
asteroid

aurora
azimuth
binary
catena
celestial
circumpolar
constellation
corona
debris
declination
ecliptic
ephemeris
equilibrium
equinox
extragalactic
extraterrestrial
galaxy
geosynchronous
heliopause
interplanetary
lunation
magnitude
meridian
meteorite
nebula
neutrino
obliquity
occultation
parallax
penumbra
perigee
perihelion
quasar
radiation
retrograde
sidereal
solstice
spectroscopy
tektite

Crime and Law Words

abatement
abductor
abeyance
abidance
abrogate
accessory
accomplice
acquittal
adjudication
admissible
amendment
arraignment
assault
bailiff
bequeath
caveat
censure
certiorari
chattel
constitution
disbarment
edict
escheat
fiduciary
grievance
inadmissible
incarceration
incriminate
indictment
innocent
inspector
interlocutory
judicator
judicial
preamble
ratify
referendum
venire

Music Words

allegro
balalaika
bassoon
calypso
cantata
castanets
crescendo
glockenspiel
harmonica
harmonize
harpsichord
instrumental
karaoke
lyrics
madrigal

maestro
mariachi
minstrel
oratorio
orchestra
pianoforte
polka
rhythmic
rockabilly
saxophone
scherzo
sonata
soprano
sousaphone
staccato
symphony
syncopation
timpani
ukulele
virtuoso
vocalist
xylophone

Kentucky Derby Festival

endurance
gondola
meister
tradition
grand marshal
aviation
pyrotechnics
parachute
gyros
equestrians
maritime
elevation
aeronautics
aileron
dirigible
hydration
concessions
solemnity
commemorative

KENTUCKY DERBY FESTIVAL

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