

## Framingham Education Foundation 2011 Spelling Bee Word List

**aardwolf** is a hyena-like animal of southern and eastern africa.

**abaciscus** is a small abacus.

**abatjour** is a device, as a skylight, for diverting light into buildings.

**abattoir** is a slaughterhouse.

**abecedarian** is a person who is learning the letters of the alphabet.

**abridgment** is a shortened form of a book.

**abscission** is sudden termination.

**absorbefacient** means causing absorption.

**acaulescent** means either stemless or without a visible stem.

**acceptable** is pleasing to the receiver; satisfactory; or meeting only minimum requirements.

**accommodate** is to do a kindness or a favor to; oblige

**accoucheur** is a person who assists during childbirth.

**acerbate** is to make sour or bitter.

**acquiesce** means to comply or submit.

**aerogramme** is a pre-stamped, lightweight paper that folds into its own envelope.

**affenpinscher** is a breed of dog with wiry hair.

**aficionado** is a devotee of something.

**afrikaans** is an official language of south africa.

**ageusia** is the loss of the sense of taste.

**albescent** means to become whitish.

**alette** (ahleet) is a small wing of a building.

**algorithm** is a set of rules for solving a problem.

**alignment** is arrangement in a straight line.

**allocution** is a formal speech.

**alstroemeria** any of a genus (Alstroemeria) of tropical South American herbs of the lily family that are often cultivated for their clusters of showy variegated flowers

**amateur** is a person who engages in a study, sport, or other activity for pleasure rather than for financial benefit

**amethyst** is a purple quartz, used as a gem.

**amphitheater** is an oval or round building with an open central area.

**ampullaceous** means bottle-shaped.

**anathematize** means to denounce or to curse.

**ancillary** is a subordinate or subsidiary.

**ankh** is an egyptian cross used as a symbol of enduring life.

**anopheles** is a malaria-causing mosquito.

**antipyretic** is checking or preventing fever

**apocalypse** is widespread destruction or disaster.

**appaloosa** is a hardy breed of riding horse.

**applique** is ornamentation applied to a material.

**appoggiatura** is a note of embellishment preceding another note and taking a portion of its time

**aqueous** is of or pertaining to water, watery.

**archetype** (arkitype) is the original model.

**armoire** is a large wardrobe or movable cupboard.

**arrhythmia** is any interruption in the heartbeat.

**aurochs** is a black european wild ox, extinct since 1627.

**autocephalous** is a bishop subordinate to no superior authority.

**autochthonous** is indigenous or formed in the region where found

**avenge** is to exact satisfaction for.

**azimuth** is the angle of horizontal deviation of a bearing from a standard direction.

**babiche** is a thong used in making snowshoes.

**babushka** is a woman's scarf.

**baccalaureate** is a religious service held before commencement

**bacciferous** means bearing or producing berries.

**badinage** is light, playful banter.

**bagatelle** is something of little value.

**bagheera** is a velvet used to make evening wear and wraps.

**baize** is a felt used on tops of billiard tables.

**baksheesh** is a tip or gratuity \_ used in the middle east.

**balalaika** is a russian musical instrument.

**banquette** is a long bench with an upholstered seat.

**baroque** pertains to architecture and art from 17th century italy.

**barracuda** is a long, predaceous fish.

**bassarisk** is a carnivorous mammal.  
**bayou** is a marshy arm of a river, usually sluggish or stagnant.  
**bdellium** is a resin obtained from plants (dellium).  
**beleaguer** is to surround with troubles.  
**belligerence** is a hostile attitude.  
**bellwether** is someone who assumes leadership.  
**beneficence** is the doing of good.  
**beret** is a soft, visorless cap.  
**beriberi** is a disease caused by a vitamin b1 deficiency.  
**beryllium** is a hard, light metallic element.  
**bight** is the middle part of a rope.  
**blithe** is joyous, glad or cheerful.  
**bludgeon** is a short, heavy club with one heavier end.  
**boatswain** is a warrant officer on a warship.  
**boudoir** is a woman's private sitting room.  
**bouffant** means puffed out, as in a teased hairdo.  
**bourgeois** is to be a member of the middle class.  
**boutique** is a small shop within a larger store.  
**boutonniere** is a flower worn by a man in his lapel.  
**boysenberry** is a blackberry-like fruit.  
**brooch** is a clasp or ornament.  
**bucolic** is of or pertaining to shepherds.  
**bumbershoot** is a name for an umbrella.  
**buoy** is a float used to mark a water channel.  
**cabaret** is a restaurant providing food, drink and music.  
**cacophony** is a harsh discordance of sound.  
**caique** is a single-masted sailing vessel (mediterranean).  
**caliph** is a spiritual leader of islam.  
**calisthenics** are gymnastic exercises.  
**callous** is hard or indifferent.  
**camouflage** is hiding oneself from one's enemy.  
**cannoneer** is an artilleryman.  
**cantankerous** is disagreeable to deal with.  
**cantle** is the hind part of a saddle.  
**cardiopulmonary** pertaining to the heart and lungs.  
**carnivorous** means flesh-eating.

**carrefour** (carrefour) is a crossroads, a road junction.  
**cartouche** a surface for receiving a painted decoration.  
**casque** is an open conical helmet with a nose guard (medieval).  
**catarrh** an inflammation of a mucous membrane.  
**catastrophe** is a sudden and widespread disaster.  
**caterwaul** is to utter long wailing cries, as a cat.  
**cauterize** is to burn for curative purposes.  
**cayuse** is an indian pony.  
**celerity** is swiftness, speed.  
**cemetery** is an area set apart for or containing graves, tombs, or funeral urns  
**censer** a container in which incense is burned.  
**ceraceous** is waxlike or waxy.  
**chancre** is the initial lesion of infectious diseases.  
**changeable** is liable to change or to be changed.  
**chaparral** is a dense growth of shrubs or trees (southwest).  
**chattel** is a movable item of personal property.  
**chlorofluorocarbon** is a substance blamed for the hole in the ozone layer.  
**chrestomathy** is a volume of selected passages or stories of an author  
**cirrhosis** is a disease of the liver.  
**claque** a group of people hired to applaud an act or performer.  
**colonnade** a series of regularly spaced columns.  
**commemorate** is to serve as a reminder of.  
**committal** is an act or instance of committing.  
**connoisseur** is a person competent to pass critical judgment.  
**contemn** means to treat with disdain or scorn.  
**continuum** is a continuous extent, series or whole.  
**convalescence** is the gradual recovery to health after illness.  
**convivial** means friendly or agreeable.  
**copacetic** means fine, completely satisfactory.  
**cornucopia** is the horn of plenty in mythology.  
**corporeity** is materiality.  
**corruptible** is that which can be corrupted.

**crepuscule** means twilight or, sometimes more generally, a state of half-light

**croissant** is a rich, buttery crescent-shaped roll.

**cuirass** (kwirass) is defensive armor for the torso.

**culottes** are women's trousers, usually knee or calf-length.

**curmudgeon** is a bad-tempered, cantankerous person.

**cymotrichous** is having wavy hair

**cynic** is a person who believes in selfishness as prime motivation.

**dachshund** is a long, german dog.

**daguerreotype** is an obsolete photographic process.

**dahlia** is a flower.

**daiquiri** is a cocktail of rum, lemon or lime juice, and sugar, often with the addition of fruit and ice and mixed in an electric blender

**decaffeinate** is to extract caffeine from.

**deign** to think fit or to condescend.

**deliverance** is an act or instance of delivering.

**demagoguery** are methods or practices of a demagogue.

**demesne** is possession of land as one's own.

**demitasse** is a small cup for serving strong black coffee.

**denouement** is the final resolution of the intricacies of a plot.

**desiccate** is to dry thoroughly.

**dhow** is a sailing vessel used by arabs.

**diaphanous** means very sheer and light.

**diaphragm** is a part of the human body.

**dichotomy** is division into two parts.

**dietitian** is a person who is an expert on nutrition.

**dilettante** is a person who takes up an occupation as an amusement.

**dinghy** is a small boat designed as a lifeboat.

**diphthong** is an unsegmented gliding speech sound

**dispossess** is to put a person out of a possession, esp. property.

**docile** is easily handled or manageable.

**dormouse** is a small rodent resembling a small squirrel.

**doubloon** is a former gold coin of spain.

**dumbbell** is an apparatus consisting of two wooden or metal balls connected by a short bar serving as a handle, used as a weight for exercising or a stupid person.

**dysentery** is an infectious disease.

**dystocia** slow or difficult labor or delivery

**echo** is a repetition of sound produced by reflection of sound waves.

**eclair** is a finger-shaped cream puff.

**ecru** is a very light brown.

**eczema** is an inflammatory condition of the skin.

**edelweiss** is a small plant growing in the alps.

**effervescent** is bubbling, vivacious or gay.

**egregious** is extraordinary in some bad way.

**eloquence** is using language with fluency and aptness.

**elucidate** is to produce by long and intensive efforts

**embarrassment** is something that embarrasses.

**emphysema** is an irreversible disease of the lungs.

**encumbrance** is something burdensome.

**ephemeral** is lasting a very short time.

**epiphany** is a christian festival.

**equestrienne** is a woman who rides horses.

**ersatz** means serving as a substitute.

**eschatology** a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind

**escutcheon** is a shield on which a coat of arms is depicted.

**euchre** is a game of cards.

**eudaemonic** is pertaining to or conducive to happiness

**euonym** is an appropriate name for a person, place or thing

**eviscerate** is to disembowel.

**exhilarate** is to enliven; invigorate; stimulate

**existence** is the state or fact of existing

**exquisite** is of special beauty or charm.

**exsiccate** is to remove the moisture from.

**extemporaneous** is done without special preparation.

**facetious** means not to be taken seriously.

**facsimile** is an exact copy.

**fallacious** means logically unsound.  
**fascinate** is to attract and hold attentively.  
**fascination** is the act of bandaging.  
**fauna** are the animals of a region considered as a whole.  
**fiefdom** is the estate of a feudal lord.  
**finagle** is to cheat or swindle someone.  
**fizgig** is a firework that makes a hissing sound.  
**flaccid** means soft and limp.  
**flocculent** is like a clump of wool.  
**fluxion** is an act of flowing.  
**foliage** is the leaves of a plant.  
**forage** is food for cattle or horses.  
**formaldehyde** is a colorless, toxic gas.  
**forsythia** is a shrub of the olive family.  
**frankincense** is an aromatic gum resin used as incense.  
**fraught** means full of or accompanied by.  
**fricassee** is meat browned, stewed and served in its own sauce.  
**frieze** is a decorative band on an outside wall.  
**fuchsia** is a bright, purplish-red color.  
**fulsome** means offensive to good taste.  
**funambulism** is tightrope walking or a show of special mental  
**fusillade** is a simultaneous discharge of firearms.  
**gabardine** is a firm, tightly woven fabric.  
**garrote** is a method of capital punishment.  
**gauche** means lacking in social grace.  
**gauge** is to measure, to appraise, estimate, or judge.  
**germane** means relevant.

**gerrymander** is dividing election districts to suit one group or party.  
**gesundheit** is used to wish good health after a sneeze.  
**gewgaw** is a trinket or bauble.  
**ghillie** is a low-cut, tongueless shoe.  
**glabella** is the flat area of bone between the eyebrows  
**glaucous** means becoming a light bluish-green.  
**glockenspiel** is a musical instrument.  
**glyph** is a pictograph or hieroglyph.

**gnash** is to grind or strike the teeth together.  
**gneiss** is a metamorphic rock.  
**gnome** is a small being that guards the interior treasures of earth.  
**gnosis** is knowledge of spiritual matters.  
**godet** is a triangular piece of fabric inserted to give fullness.  
**golliwogg** is a grotesque person.  
**granary** is a storehouse for grain.  
**grippe** is the former name for influenza.  
**guillemot** is a seabird of northern waters.  
**guillotine** a device for execution.  
**gyve** is a shackle for the leg.  
**habiliments** is clothing.  
**hackamore** is a simple, looped bridle for a horse.  
**halcyon** means calm or peaceful.  
**hallelujah** means praise ye the lord.  
**halophyte** is a plant that thrives in saline soil.  
**handbreadth** is a unit of linear measure.  
**handwrought** is formed or shaped by hand, esp. metal objects.  
**harass** is to disturb persistently  
**harebrained** means giddy or reckless.  
**harpsichord** is a keyboard instrument, precursor of the piano.  
**hartebeest** is a large african antelope.  
**haughty** is disdainfully proud.  
**hegemony** is leadership or predominant influence by one nation.  
**heir** is a person who inherits.  
**hematozoon** is a parasitic protozoan that lives in the blood.  
**hemorrhage** is a profuse discharge of blood.  
**herbage** (erbij) nonwoody vegetation.  
**heterogeneous** is different in kind, unlike.  
**hierarchy** is a system of things ranked above each other.  
**hieroglyphic** is the pictograph type of script used by egypt.  
**hirsute** is hairy or shaggy.  
**histrionic** is of or pertaining to actors or acting.  
**hoard** is a supply that is carefully guarded or hidden.  
**hoatzin** is a blue-faced bird of the amazon forests.  
**holocaust** is a great or complete destruction.

**homogenize** is to form by blending unlike elements.

**homonym** is a word the same in spelling and sound, but different in meaning.

**hootenanny** is a social gathering featuring folk singing.

**horde** is a large group, a multitude.

**horripilation** is also known as goose flesh or goose bumps.

**howdah** is a seat placed on the back of an elephant.

**hoysden** is another name for a tomboy.

**humoresque** is a musical composition of humorous character.

**hydrangea** is a plant with showy flower clusters.

**hydraulic** is employing water or other liquids in motion.

**hydrofluoric** is of or derived from hydrofluoric acid.

**hydrolysis** is chemical decomposition by reacting with water.

**hyena** is a doglike carnivore of africa.

**hyperpyrexia** is an abnormally high fever.

**hypnotize** is to put into the hypnotic state.

**hypotenuse** is the side of a right triangle opposite the right angle.

**hypothesis** is a proposition set forth to explain some occurrence.

**hysterical** is of or pertaining to hysteria.

**ichneumon** (iknoomen) is also called the african mongoose.

**ichthyophagist** is a person who subsists on fish.

**idyll** is a composition, usually describing pastoral scenes or any appealing incident, or the like.

**iguana** is a large lizard native to central and south america.

**impeccable** is faultless or flawless.

**imperceptible** is very slight, gradual or subtle.

**impetuous** is characterized by sudden or rash action.

**impossible** means not possible or unable to be done.

**imprecise** means not precise or exact.

**impromptu** means done without previous preparation.

**incidence** means the rate of change or occurrence.

**incise** (insize) means to cut into.

**indicator** is a person or thing that indicates.

**indubitable** is something that can't be doubted.

**inexorable** is unyielding or unalterable.

**infallible** is absolutely trustworthy or sure.

**inferior** is lower in station, rank or degree.

**ingurgitate** is to swallow greedily.

**iniquitous** is wicked, sinful.

**innuendo** is an indirect intimation about a person or thing, usually of a derogatory nature.

**inoculate** means to implant (a disease agent or antigen) in a person, animal, or plant to produce a disease for study or to stimulate disease resistance.

**inscrutable** is incapable of being investigated or analyzed.

**insomnolence** is sleeplessness.

**insurgence** is an act of rebellion.

**interfere** is to meddle in the affairs of others.

**intermezzo** is a short musical entertainment, between the acts of a drama or opera.

**interregnum** is the time between the close of reign and the beginning of the next.

**intransigent** is refusing to agree or compromise.

**inveigh** is to protest strongly or attack vehemently with words.

**inveigle** is to entice by flattery or artful talk.

**invoice** is an itemized bill for goods or services.

**irascible** is easily provoked to anger.

**iridescent** is displaying a play of bright colors, like a rainbow.

**isle** is a small island.

**isthmus** is a narrow strip of land with water on both sides, connecting two larger strips of land.

**jackal** is a wild dog of asia and africa.

**jacuzzi** is a trade name for a whirlpool bath and related products.

**jalousie** is a window made of glass slats.

**jambalaya** is a dish of creole origin.

**jocose** is given to joking or jesting.

**joist** is a beam used to support ceilings or floors or the like.

**juxtaposition** is the act of placing close together.

**kaiser** is a german or austrian emperor.

**kaleidoscope** is a continually shifting pattern or scene.

**kepi** is a french military cap.

**ketch** is a two-masted sailing vessel.

**kinkajou** is an arboreal animal of central and south america.

**klaxon** is a loud, electric horn.

**klieg** is a powerful type of arc light once used in the movies.

**knave** is an unprincipled or dishonest person.

**knell** is the sound made by a bell rung slowly, at a death.

**knoll** is a small, rounded hill.

**kowtow** is to show servile deference.

**labyrinth** is an intricate combination of paths in which it is difficult to find the exit.

**lacerate** is to tear roughly; mangle.

**lachrymal** is of or pertaining to tears.

**laconic** is using few words, being concise.

**laggard** is a lingerer; loiterer.

**lagoon** is an area of shallow water separated from the sea by sandy dunes.

**languid** is lacking in vigor or vitality.

**laryngitis** is the inflammation of the larynx.

**larynx** is the structure in which the vocal cords are located.

**lavender** is a pale bluish purple.

**layette** is an outfit of clothing or bedding for a newborn baby.

**legerdemain** is sleight of hand or trickery.

**legionnaire** is a member of any legion.

**licit** is legal or lawful.

**liege** is a feudal lord entitled to allegiance or service.

**limn** is to represent in drawing or painting.

**locus** is a place or a locality.

**loquacious** is talking or tending to talk too freely.

**luau** is a feast of hawaiian food.

**lucent** means shining.

**luscious** is highly pleasing to the taste or smell.

**lymphatic** is pertaining to, containing or conveying lymph.

**lynx** is a wildcat of canada and the northern u.s.

**lyre** is a musical instrument of ancient greece, harp-like.

**macaque** is a monkey, characterized by cheek pouches and short tail.

**mace** is a club-like, armor-breaking weapon, used in the middle ages.

**maelstrom** is a large, powerful, or violent whirlpool.

**magnanimous** is generous in forgiving insult or injury.

**magnify** is to increase the apparent size of, as does a lens.

**malfeasance** is wrongdoing by a public official.

**manatee** is an aquatic mammal of coastal waters, with 2 front flippers and a broad, spoon-shaped tail.

**maneuver** is a planned movement of troops or warships, etc.

**mantle** is a loose, sleeveless cloak or cape.

**maraud** is to make a raid for booty.

**marionette** is a puppet manipulated from above by strings.

**marquee** is a projection above a theater entrance, usually containing the name of the feature at the theater.

**marten** is an animal of northern forests.

**masquerade** is a party of people wearing masks and other disguises.

**mastiff** is a large, powerful, short-haired dog.

**matriarch** is the female head of a tribal or family line.

**mature** is complete in natural growth or development.

**maul** is a heavy hammer.

**melee** is a confused, hand-to-hand fight among several people.

**memento** is a keepsake or souvenir.

**menace** is something that threatens to cause harm or evil.

**mendacious** is telling lies, especially habitually.

**mercenary** is working or acting merely for money or reward.

**meringue** is a topping for pies, pastry, etc.

**mesmerize** is to hypnotize.

**mesquite** is a spiny tree found in western north america.

**metamorphose** is to change the form or nature of, to transform.

**meticulous** is taking extreme care about tiny details.

**mettle** is courage or fortitude.

**mezzanine** is the lowest balcony in a theater.

**millenium** is a period of 1,000 years.

**milquetoast** is a very timid, unassertive person

**miniature** is a representation or image of something on a reduced scale.

**minuend** is a number from which the subtrahend is to be subtracted  
**minuscule** means very small.

**mirage** is something illusory, without substance or reality.

**mocha** is a choice variety of coffee.

**momentous** is of great or far-reaching importance.

**monastery** is a house occupied by usually monks.

**monocle** is an eyeglass for one eye.

**monocoque** is a type of aircraft in which the shell carries most of the stresses.

**morass** is a tract or low, soft, wet ground.

**morgue** is a place in which bodies are kept.

**morose** is gloomy or sullenly ill-humored.

**morphine** is a narcotic used as a pain-killer or sedative.

**mosque** is a muslim temple or place of public worship.

**mote** is a small particle, as in dust.

**motif** is a recurring subject, theme or idea.

**mottle** is a diversifying spot or blotch of color.

**mousse** is a sweetened dessert with whipped cream as a base.

**mozzarella** is a mild, white, semi-soft italian cheese.

**muenster** is a white cheese made from whole milk.

**mufti** are civilian clothes.

**multiplicand** is a number to be multiplied by another.

**municipal** is of or pertaining to a town or city or its government.

**munificent** means one who is very generous.

**myrrh** is an aromatic resinous exudation from certain plants.

**mysterious** is full of or involving mystery.

**mystique** is an aura of mystery or mystical power surrounding a particular occupation or pursuit.

**myxomas** is a soft tumor made up of gelatinous connective tissue like that of the umbilical cord

**naphtha** (naftha) is a colorless, volatile petroleum distillate.

**narcissism** is excessive self-love; vanity.

**nascent** is beginning to exist or develop.

**naughty** means disobedient or mischievous.  
**nebulous** is hazy, vague or indistinct.  
**neigh** is to utter the cry of a horse; to whinny.  
**nemesis** is something a person can't conquer.  
**neuter** is gender that is neither masculine nor feminine.  
**nexus** is a means of connection; a tie; a link.  
**niche** is an ornamental recess in a wall.  
**nickel** is a coin of the u.s., 20 of which make a dollar.  
**nickelodeon** is an early motion-picture theater.  
**nigh** means near in space, time or relation.  
**nihilism** is total rejection of established laws and institutions.  
**nomenclature** are names or terms comprising a set or system.  
**nonce** is the present, or immediate, occasion or purpose.  
**nonchalant** is coolly unconcerned, unexcited.  
**nouveau** is newly or recently created, developed, or come to prominence.  
**noxious** is harmful or injurious to health.  
**nuance** is a subtle difference in meaning.  
**nucleus** is the core.  
**nuisance** is an obnoxious or annoying person.  
**nuptial** is of or pertaining to marriage or the ceremony.  
**nylons** are stockings worn by women.  
**obeisance** is a bow or a curtsy.  
**objurgate** is to denounce vehemently; to upbraid sharply.  
**obloquy** is abusive language aimed at a person.  
**obnoxious** is highly objectionable or offensive.  
**obsequious** showing servile deference; fawning on someone.  
**obsolescent** means passing out of use, as a word.  
**obstreperous** means unruly.  
**occasionally** means at times; from time to time; now and then.  
**occlude** is to close, shut, or stop up.  
**occurrence** is the action, fact or instance of happening.  
**ocelot** is a spotted, leopard-like cat, ranging from texas to south america.  
**ogre** is a monster in fairy tales.  
**oleaginous** means having the nature or qualities of oil.

**omniscience** is infinite knowledge.

**onerous** is burdensome or troublesome.

**onyx** is black.

**opalesce** is to exhibit a play of colors like that of the opal.

**ophthalmology** is the branch of medicine dealing with anatomy, functions and diseases of the eye.

**ordnance** is cannon or artillery.

**orphan** is a child who has lost both parents through death.

**oscillate** is to swing or move to and fro, as a pendulum.

**ostracism** is exclusion from social acceptance.

**overwrought** is extremely excited or agitated.

**oxygen** is the element constituting about one-fifth of the atmosphere.

**oxymoron** is a seemingly contradictory figure of speech, like cruel kindness.

**pachyderm** is an elephant.

**pacifist** is a person who is opposed to war or to violence of any kind.

**paean** is a song of praise, joy or triumph.

**palette** is a board with a thumb hole, used by painters to mix colors.

**palomino** is a horse with a golden coat, and a white mane and tail.

**pamphlet** is a short essay, generally controversial, on some subject of contemporary interest.

**panacea** is a remedy for all disease or ills.

**panache** is a grand or flamboyant manner.

**panegyric** is a lofty oration in praise of a person or thing.

**panoply** is a wide-ranging and impressive array or display.

**pantisocracy** is a utopian community in which all rule equally

**pantomime** is the art of conveying things through gestures, without speech.

**papacy** is the office, dignity or jurisdiction of the pope.

**papyrus** is a tall, aquatic plant, native to the Nile valley.

**parable** is a short story designed to illustrate some truth.

**paralysis** is a loss of movement in a body part, caused by disease or injury.

**paraphernalia** is apparatus necessary for a particular activity.  
**parishioner** is one of the inhabitants of a parish.  
**parlance** is a way or manner of speaking.  
**parody** is a humorous imitation of a serious piece of literature.  
**parquet** is a floor composed of strips or blocks of wood forming a pattern.  
**parry** is to ward off a thrust, as in fencing.  
**parsec** is a unit of distance equal to 3.26 light-years.  
**partition** is a division into portions or shares.  
**parure** a matched set of ornament (as in jewelry)  
**pasture** is grass used to feed livestock.  
**patella** is the kneecap.  
**patriarch** is the male head of a family or tribal line.  
**patrician** is a person of noble rank; an aristocrat.  
**paunchy** is having a large and protruding belly.  
**pause** is a temporary stop or rest.  
**pavilion** is a building used for shelter, concerts, or exhibits.  
**peace** is a country's condition when not involved in war.  
**peak** is the pointed top of a mountain.  
**peccadillo** is a very minor or slight sin or offense.  
**peccary** is a piglike hoofed animal of north and south america.  
**peignoir** is a woman's dressing gown.  
**penchant** is a strong inclination or liking for something.  
**pendulous** is hanging down loosely.  
**penguin** is a flightless bird of the southern hemisphere.  
**penicillin** is an antibiotic of low toxicity.  
**penitentiary** is a prison maintained for serious offenders.  
**penultimate** the next to the last.  
**penury** is extreme poverty.  
**perennial** is lasting for a long time; enduring.  
**perfidy** is a deliberate breach of trust; treachery.  
**perihelion** is the point at which a planet is closest to the sun.  
**periphery** is the external boundary of any area.  
**perjury** is lying under oath.  
**perniciou** means ruinous; injurious; hurtful.  
**perquisite** is a gratuity or tip.

**perseverance** is doggedness, steadfastness.  
**perspicuous** is clearly expressed or presented.  
**persuade** is to prevail on a person to do something.  
**peruse** is to read through with care.  
**pesticide** is a chemical preparation to destroy pests.  
**pestle** is a tool to grind substances in a mortar.  
**petition** is a formally drawn request.  
**phalanx** is a body of troops in close array.  
**pharmaceutical** pertains to pharmacy or pharmacists.  
**phenomenon** is a fact or occurrence observed or observable.  
**philosopher** is one who offers views on profound subjects.  
**phlegmatic** is not easily excited to action.  
**phoenix** is a mythical bird able to rise from its own ashes.  
**physics** is the science that deals with matter, energy, motion and force.  
**picturesque** is visually charming or quaint.  
 **pinafore** is a child's apron.  
**pinnacle** is a lofty peak.  
 **pique** is to affect with sharp irritation.  
**piranha** is a small south american fish that eat fish, animals and sometimes attack humans.  
**pirogue** is an american boat, a dugout.  
**pirouette** is a whirling about on one foot or on the points of the toes, as in ballet dancing.  
**pixie** is a fairy or sprite, especially a mischievous one.  
**placard** is a paperboard sign or notice.  
**placebo** is a pill with no medicine but used to soothe a patient.  
**plagiarize** is to take ideas and works of another and pass it off as one's own.  
**plaid** is any fabric woven of differently colored yarns in a cross-barred pattern.  
**platypus** is a small, egg-laying animal of australia.  
**plebeian** is belonging or pertaining to the common people.  
**plebiscite** is a direct vote of the voters of a state in regard to some important public question.  
**plight** is a condition or situation especially an unfavorable one.

**plumber** is a person who installs and repairs piping, fixtures, etc.

**pneumonia** is inflammation of the lungs with congestion.

**pococurante** is a careless or indifferent person

**poignant** is keenly distressing to the feelings.

**poinsettia** is sometimes called the christmas flower.

**politicize** is to bring a political flavor to.

**polychrome** is being of many or various colors.

**populous** means heavily populated.

**porridge** is a food made of cereal, boiled to a thick consistency in water or milk.

**posit** is to place, put or set.

**posse** is a force armed with legal authority.

**posthumous** is arising, occurring, or continuing after one's death.

**potpourri** is any mixture of unrelated objects, subjects, etc.

**practitioner** is a person engaged in the practice of a profession or occupation.

**prairie** is a tract of grassland; a meadow.

**precise** is definitely or strictly stated.

**precocious** is prematurely developed.

**precursor** is a person or thing that precedes.

**prerogative** is an exclusive right or privilege.

**prescience** is knowledge of things before they exist or happen.

**prestigious** is having a high reputation.

**prey** is an animal hunted or seized for food.

**principle** is an accepted or professed rule of action or conduct.

**pronunciation** is an accepted standard of the sound and stress patterns of a syllable or word.

**propitious** means favorable.

**prospicience** is the act of looking forward or knowing in advance

**psalm** is a sacred song or hymn.

**psilosis** means a falling out of the hair.

**psoriasis** is a common skin disease.

**psychology** is the science of the mind or of mental states and processes.

**ptosis** is a drooping of the upper eyelid.

**pulchritude** is physical beauty; comeliness.

**purge** is to cleanse or to purify.  
**pyrrhic** is consisting of two short or unaccented syllables.  
**quadriceps** is a large muscle in front of the thigh.  
**quadrille** is a square dance for four couples.  
**quaff** is to drink a beverage.  
**quandary** is a state of uncertainty.  
**quarantine** is a strict isolation.  
**quay** is a landing place along a body of water.  
**querulous** means full of complaints.  
**questionnaire** is a list of questions submitted for replies.  
**queue** is a braid of hair or a line of people.  
**quiche** is a dish with cheeses and other vegetables.  
**quinella** is a type of bet on horse races.  
**quirt** is a riding whip.  
**quoin** is the external solid angle of a wall.  
**quotidian** means daily.  
**rabble** is a disorderly crowd; mob.  
**raffle** is a form of a lottery.  
**rambunctious** is difficult to control or handle.  
**rancid** is having an unpleasant smell or taste.  
**rapier** is a small sword, used for thrusting.  
**rappel** is the way to move down a surface in mountaineering.  
**rarefy** is to make rare or rarer.  
**raspberry** is the fruit of a shrub.  
**ratchet** is a tool.  
**rationale** is the fundamental reason serving to account for something.  
**raucous** is harsh or strident.  
**ravenous** means extremely hungry.  
**recede** means to go or move away.  
**recluse** is a person who lives apart or in seclusion.  
**reconnaissance** is the act of reconnoitering.  
**rectify** is to make or set right.  
**recurrence** is an act of something happening again.  
**redoubtable** is that that is to be feared; formidable.  
**reggae** is a style of jamaican popular music.

**regurgitate** is to surge or rush back.  
**rehearse** is to practice.  
**reign** is the period during which a sovereign sits on a throne.  
**rein** is the leather strap used to control a horse.  
**relevant** means connected with the matter in hand; pertinent  
**remembrance** is a memory.  
**reminiscence** is the process of recalling experiences.  
**reparable** is capable of being repaired.  
**repartee** is a quick, witty reply.  
**repugn** is to oppose or refute.  
**requisition** is the act of requiring or demanding.  
**rescind** is to annul or repeal.  
**respondent** is a person who responds or makes replies.  
**resume** is a summing up, a summary.  
**resurrection** is the act of rising from the dead.  
**reticent** is someone disposed to be silent or not to speak freely.  
**veille** is a signal to alert military personnel to arise.  
**revise** is to amend or alter.  
**rhapsodic** is ecstatic or extravagantly enthusiastic.  
**rhetoric** is bombast or the undue use of exaggeration or display.  
**rheumatism** is a disorder of the extremities or back, characterized by stiffness.  
**rhinoceros** is a large African animal.  
**rhubarb** is a plant of the buckwheat family.  
**ricochet** is the motion of an object after deflecting from another object.  
**right** is in accordance with what is good or just.  
**rigor** is strictness, severity or hardness.  
**riposte** is a quick, sharp return in speech or action.  
**rococo** is a style of architecture and decoration.  
**rogue** is a dishonest person, a scoundrel.  
**roil** is to disturb or disquiet.  
**roseate** is tinged with rose; rosy.  
**rotor** is a rotating part of a machine.  
**rouge** is any of various red cosmetics for cheek and lips.  
**rough** is having a coarse or uneven surface.

**roulette** is a game of chance.

**rouse** is to bring out of a state of sleep.

**rubella** is a disease also called german measles.

**ruse** is a trick.

**sable** is an old world weasel-like animal.

**saboteur** is a person who commits sabotage.

**saccharin** is a sweetener.

**sachet** is a small bag containing perfuming powder or the like.

**sacrilegious** is pertaining to the violation of anything sacred.

**sacroiliac** is the joint where the sacrum and ilium meet.

**sacrosanct** is extremely sacred or inviolable.

**saffron** is a crocus having showy, purple flowers or the spice derived from.

**saguaro** is a tall, horizontally branched cactus.

**salaam** is a salutation meaning peace, especially in islamic

**salutatorian** is the person ranking second in the graduating class.

**sanctimonious** is making a hypocritical show of religious devotion.

**sanguinary** means full of bloodshed, bloody.

**sapphire** is a gem with a blue color.

**sarcasm** is harsh or bitter derision or irony.

**sarsaparilla** is a soft drink made from the extract of a root.

**satellite** is a body that revolves around a planet, a moon.

**satiate** is to supply something to excess.

**satyr** is a mythological character, half human and half goat or horse.

**sauerkraut** is cabbage allowed to ferment until sour.

**sauna** is a bath that uses dry heat to induce perspiration.

**scandalous** is disgraceful or shocking behavior.

**scarab** is a beetle regarded as sacred by the ancient egyptians.

**scenario** is the outline of a plot of a dramatic work.

**scepter** is a rod held as an emblem of regal or imperial power.

**schiffli** is a large, loomlike machine for working patterns in lace.

**schism** is division or disunion.

**schizophrenia** is a severe mental disorder.

**schlock** means cheap or trashy.

**schнауzer** is a german breed of medium-sized dogs.

**schuss** is a straight downhill run at high speed, skiing.

**sciatic** is pertaining to the back of the hip.  
**scimitar** is a curved, single-edged sword.  
**scintillate** is to emit sparks.  
**scorpioid** is resembling a scorpion.  
**scour** is to remove dirt by hard scrubbing.  
**scourge** is a cause of affliction or calamity.  
**scrimshaw** is a carved article, especially of whale ivory.  
**scrivener** is a scribe.  
**scrod** is a young atlantic codfish or haddock.  
**scruple** is a moral standard that acts as a restraining force.  
**sculptor** is a person who practices the art of sculpture.  
**scutage** a tax levied on a vassal or a knight in lieu of military  
**scythe** is an implement used to cut grass or grain by hand.  
**seance** is a meeting in which people try to communicate with  
**sebaceous** means fatty.  
**secede** is to withdraw formally from an alliance.  
**seclude** is to withdraw into solitude.  
**sedulous** means persevering.  
**segue** (segway) means to continue at once with the next musical composition.  
**seine** is a fishing net.  
**seismicity** is the frequency of earthquakes in a given area.  
**semaphore** is an apparatus for conveying visual signals.  
**seneschal** is an officer having full charge of domestic arrangements.  
**sensuous** means pertaining to or affecting the senses.  
**sentient** means conscious.  
**separate** means to keep apart or divide.  
**septuagenarian** is between 70 and 80 years of age.  
**sepulcher** is a tomb, grave or burial place.  
**sequacious** means following with smooth or logical regularity.  
**sequester** is to remove or withdraw into solitude or retirement.  
**sequoia** is a large tree, aka redwood.  
**serendipity** means good fortune or luck.  
**serge** is a twilled fabric used for clothing.  
**sergeant** is a noncommissioned officer above the rank of corporal.  
**serial** is anything published in short installments at regular

**serrate** is notched on the edge like a saw.

**serrefine** is a small forceps for clamping a blood vessel

**setaceous** is bristlelike.

**severance** is the act of severing or the state of being severed.

**sew** is to join or attach by stitches.

**sexton** is a church official charged with taking care of the edifice and its contents.

**shackle** is something used to secure the wrist, leg, etc.

**sheaf** is a bundle of wheat, rye, etc.

**sheathe** is to put a sword into a sheath.

**sheen** is luster, brightness, radiance.

**shivaree** is a mock serenade with kettles, pans, horns and noisemakers for a newly married couple

**shoal** is a place where a body of water is shallow.

**shrew** is a woman of violent temper and speech.

**shroud** is a cloth or sheet in which a corpse is wrapped for burial.

**sibyl** is a female prophet or witch.

**sierra** is a chain of hills or mountains, the peaks of which suggest the teeth of a saw.

**sieve** is an instrument with a meshed bottom, used to separate materials.

**silhouette** is a two-dimensional representation of the outline of an object.

**simile** is a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared, as in she is like a rose.

**simultaneous** is occurring or operating at the same time.

**singe** is to burn slightly, to scorch.

**siphon** is a tube bent into legs of unequal length, for getting liquid from one container to another.

**skein** is a length of yarn wound on a reel for use in manufacturing

**skeptic** is a person who questions the validity of something.

**skew** is to turn aside or swerve.

**skink** is a lizard common in both the old and new worlds.

**slaughter** is the killing of cattle, etc., for food.

**sleazy** means contemptibly low or disreputable.

**sleigh** is a vehicle on runners, especially used over snow or ice.

**sleight** is skill or dexterity.

**sleuth** is a detective.

**sloe** is the small, sour fruit of the blackthorn.

**slough** (sloo) is an area of soft, muddy ground.

**sluice** is an artificial channel for conducting water.

**sojourn** is a temporary stay.

**solder** is an alloy fused and applied to the joint between metal objects to unite them.

**solecism** is a nonstandard or ungrammatical usage.

**solemn** is grave or sober or mirthless.

**soliloquy** is a discourse by a person who is talking to himself.

**somatopleure** is a complex fold of tissue in the embryo of a craniate vertebrate consisting of an outer layer of mesoderm together with the ectoderm that sheathes it and giving rise to the amnion and chorion

**sorcerer** is a person who practices black magic.

**sorghum** is a cereal grass.

**sovereign** is a monarch or a king.

**spasm** is a sudden involuntary muscular contraction.

**speciesism** is discrimination in favor of one species over another.

**specious** is apparently good or right though lacking real merit.

**specter** is a ghost, phantom or apparition.

**sphinx** is a figure of a creature having the head of a man or animal and the body of a lion.

**spinnet** is a small upright piano.

**spoliator** is someone who robs, ruins or plunders

**sponsor** is a person who vouches for or is responsible for a person.

**squabble** is to engage in a petty quarrel.

**squalor** is filth or misery.

**squamulose** is covered with tiny scales

**squeak** is a short, sharp, shrill cry.

**squeegee** is an implement edged with rubber to remove water from windows or floors.

**squint** is to look with the eyes partly closed.

**staid** means of settled character, not flighty.

**stanchion** is an upright bar as in a window or stall.

**stiletto** is a short dagger with a thick blade.

**stimulus** is something that incites to action or exertion.

**strafe** is to attack by airplanes with machine-gun fire.

**strait** is a narrow passage of water between 2 larger bodies of water.

**straitjacket** is a garment made of strong material and designed to bind the arms.

**stroganoff** is a dish of meet sauteed with onions and cooked in a sauce of sour cream.

**strontium** is a strong, metallic element.

**sturgeon** is a large fish, valued as a source of caviar.

**suave** is smoothly agreeable or polite.

**subcutaneous** means lying under the skin, as tissue.

**submersible** is that which is capable of being submerged.

**subpoena** is the usual writ for the summoning of witnesses.

**subtle** is thin, tenuous or delicate in meaning.

**succedaneum** is a substitute

**succinct** means expressed in few words, concise, terse.

**sufficiency** is adequacy.

**suffrutescent** is partially or slightly woody.

**suite** is a number of things forming a set.

**supersede** is to replace in power, or acceptance.

**supposition** is something that is supposed; assumption.

**surety** is security against loss or damage.

**surfeit** means excess; an excessive amount.

**surrey** is a light carriage for four persons.

**surrogate** is a person appointed to act for another; a deputy.

**surveillance** is a watch kept over a person or group.

**suzerain** is a state exercising political control over a dependent state.

**swerve** is to turn aside abruptly.

**sycamore** is a north american tree.

**sycophancy** is self-seeking or servile flattery.

**symposium** is a meeting to discuss some subject.

**syncopate** is to place accents on beats in music normally not accented.

**synod** is an assembly of church delegates.

**synonym** is a word having nearly the same meaning as another.

**syntax** is the study of the rules for the formation of grammatical sentences in a language.

**tabasco** is a trademark name for a condiment sauce.

**tabernacle** is a place or house of worship.

**tableau** is a picture of a scene.

**tabular** means arranged into a table.

**tachometer** is a machine to measure velocity or speed.

**tachymeter** is an instrument to rapidly determine distances.

**taciturn** means inclined to silence.

**tacky** is not tasteful or fashionable.

**tact** is a sense of what to say without raising offense.

**tactician** is a person who is adept at planning tactics.

**taffeta** is a medium- or light-weight fabric.

**taffy** is a chewy candy.

**tail** is the hindmost part of an animal.

**taint** is a trace of something bad or harmful.

**tallow** is the fatty tissue of animals.

**tally** is an account or reckoning.

**talon** is the claw of a bird of prey.

**tamarind** is the pod of a large tropical tree.

**tambourine** is a small drum consisting of a circular frame with skin stretched over it and several pairs of metal jingles attached.

**tamburitza** is a mandolinlike instrument of southern slavic regions.

**tanager** is a songbird found in north america.

**tandem** is one following or behind the other.

**tangible** is capable of being touched.

**tankard** is a large drinking cup.

**tantalize** means to torment with.

**tapestry** is a fabric used for wall hangings or furniture coverings.

**tapir** is a three-toed animal resembling a pig in central and south america.

**tarantula** is a large, hairy spider.

**tariff** is a list showing duties imposed on imports or exports.

**tarot** is a card used for fortunetelling.

**tarry** is to remain or stay awhile.

**tassel** is an ornament consisting of a bunch of threads hanging from a round knob, used on clothing or jewelry.

**taught** is the past participle of teach.

**taunt** means to mock.

**taupe** (tohp) is a brownish gray.

**taut** means tightly drawn.

**taw** is a fancy marble used as a shooter.

**tawdry** means showy or cheap.

**tawny** is a shade of brown tinged with yellow.

**taxable** means capable of being taxed.

**tea** is something to drink.

**teak** is a large east indian tree.

**technique** is the manner in which the technical skills of a particular art or field of endeavor are used.

**tedious** means long and tiresome.

**tee** is a golfer's aid.

**teeter** means to move unsteadily.

**telegraph** is an apparatus to send messages to a distant place.

**telepathy** is communication between minds.

**telephone** is an apparatus to send sound to distances.

**temblor** is a tremor; earthquake.

**tempestuous** means tumultuous or turbulent.

**tempt** means to entice or allure to do something often considered wrong.

**tenacious** means holding fast.

**tenement** is a rundown, often overcrowded apartment house.

**tenet** is a principle, doctrine or dogma.

**tenor** is the meaning that runs through something written or spoken.

**tense** is stretched tight; high-strung or nervous.

**tequila** is a strong liquor from Mexico.

**termagant** is a violent or brawling woman.

**tern** is an aquatic bird.

**terrain** is a tract of land.

**terrarium** is a container for land animals.

**terse** is neatly or effectively concise; brief and pithy.

**tertiary** is of the third order.

**testatrix** is a woman who makes a will.

**tetanus** is a disease, commonly called lockjaw.

**tetrabrach** is a word of four short syllables.

**thalassic** is of or pertaining to seas or oceans.

**thatch** is a material used to cover roofs.

**thence** means from that place.

**theocracy** is a form of government in which a deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler.

**therapeutics** is the branch of medicine concerned with the remedial treatment of disease.

**thermometer** is a device for measuring temperature.

**thesaurus** is a dictionary of synonyms and antonyms.

**thesis** is a proposition put forth to be considered.

**thigh** is between the hip and the knee.

**thimble** is a small cap, worn over the fingertip to protect it when pushing a needle through a cloth in sewing.

**third** is next after the second.

**thistle** is a prickly plant.

**thoracic** is of or pertaining to the thorax.

**thorough** is executed without negligence or omissions.

**thought** is the product of mental activity.

**thrall** is one who is in bondage; slave.

**threshold** is the sill of a doorway.

**thumb** is the short, thick inner digit of the human hand.

**tiara** is a jeweled coronet worn by women.

**timbre** is the characteristic quality of a sound.

**tinct** is to tinge or tint, as with color.

**tinsel** is a glittering, metallic substance, usually in strips.

**titanic** meaning gigantic.

**titillate** is to excite agreeably.

**titlist** is a titleholder, champion.

**tizzy** is a nervous or agitated state.

**tobacco** is the plant used in making cigarettes.

**tofu** is a bland, cheeselike food, high in protein content.

**tome** is a large, heavy book.

**tongue** is the movable organ in the mouth of humans.

**tonsillectomy** is the operation removing one or both tonsils.

**topaz** is a mineral used as a gem.

**toque** is a brimless and close-fitting hat for women.

**torque** is something that produces rotation.

**tortoise** is a turtle, especially a land turtle.

**tortuous** means full of twists or turns.

**toucan** is a large-billed, brightly colored bird.

**toupee** is a man's wig.

**tourniquet** is a device for arresting bleeding.

**tout** is to solicit business.

**toxicity** is the degree of being poisonous.

**traceable** is capable of being traced.

**trachea** is the windpipe.

**traduce** means to slander or defame.

**traipse** is to walk or go aimlessly or idly.

**trait** is a distinguishing characteristic or quality.

**tranquil** is calm or peaceful.

**transcend** is to rise above or go beyond.

**transient** means not lasting or enduring.

**translucent** is letting pass through, but not clearly.

**trapeze** is an apparatus consisting of a horizontal bar attached to two suspending ropes.

**trauma** is a body wound or shock produced by sudden physical injury.

**travois** is a transporting device pulled by an animal.

**treacle** is contrived sentimentality.

**trestle** is a type of frame, used in railroad spans.

**trichotomy** means divided into three parts.

**triskaidekaphobia** is a fear of the number 13.

**trivial** means of little significance or importance.

**troglydyte** is a prehistoric cave dweller.

**troika** is a team of 3 horses driven abreast.

**trough** is a receptacle, usually for drinking from.

**troupe** is a group of actors or performers, esp. travelers.

**trousseau** is clothing, linen, especially for a bride.

**truancy** is the act of being truant or late.

**truncheon** is a club carried by a police officer.

**tryst** is an appointment to meet at a certain time and place.

**tumescence** means swelling.

Twilight or, sometimes more generally, a state of half-light

**tyrannize** is to exercise absolute control or power.

**ulcer** is a sore on the skin.

**umlaut** is a mark used over a vowel.

**uncollectible** means it can't be collected.

**unconscionable** means unscrupulous or not guided by conscience.

**unkempt** is disheveled or messy.

**unrequited** is not returned or reciprocated.

**unwonted** is not customary or usual or rare.

**vaccinal** pertaining to vaccine or vaccination.

**vacillate** means to waver in opinion.

**vague** is not clearly expressed or identified.

**variscite** is a secondary mineral.

**vaudeville** is a theatrical entertainment.

**vehemence** meaning ardor or fervor.

**veneer** is a thin layer of wood.

**vengeance** means violent revenge or getting back.

**ventriloquism** means throwing the voice.

**vermicelli** is a form of pasta.

**vertebrae** are bones composing the spinal column.

**vexillology** means the study of flags.

**victuals** are food supplies.

**villein** was an almost free person in the middle ages.

**virescent** means turning green.

**viscera** are the organs in the abdominal cavity.

**viscid** means sticky.

**viscount** is a nobleman just below an earl or count.

**vivisepture** the act or instance of burying someone alive

**vociferous** is crying out noisily.

**vogue** means something in fashion.

**vyng** is competing or contending.

**waive** is to give up or to forgo.

**waterborne** is floating or moving on water.

**whack** is to strike with a sharp blow or blows.

**wheelwright** is a person whose trade is to make wheels.

**wherever** is in, at or to whatever place.

**whet** is to sharpen by grinding or friction.

**whippoorwill** is a nocturnal north american bird.

**widgeon** is a common, freshwater duck.

**wildebeest** is a gnu.

**wince** is to draw back or tense the body.

**wok** is a pan used in cooking chinese food.

**wrack** is wreck or wreckage.

**wreak** to inflict or execute as punishment or vengeance.

**wren** is a small, active songbird.

**xylose** is a colorless crystalline sugar.

**xyster** is a surgical instrument for scraping bones.

**ytrium** is a rare metallic element.

**yurt** is a tentlike dwelling of the mongols.

**zedonk** is the offspring of a donkey and a zebra

**zeppelin** is a rigid airship or dirigible.

**zinciferous** means yielding or containing zinc.

**zoanthropy** (zoo) is a mental disorder in which one believes oneself to be an animal.

**zoological** is of or pertaining to zoology.

**zoopraxiscope** is an early motion projector.

**zucchetto** is a skullcap worn by roman catholic ecclesiastics.

**zucchini** is a variety of summer squash.