

American Library Spelling Bee 2018

Bee Word List (for students taught primarily in a language other than English)

Definitions are provided as a courtesy.

abolish	to completely do away with (something)
aborigine	a member of the original people to live in an area
abracadabra	a magical charm or incantation
abreast	aware of or informed about (new occurrences, facts, etc.)
accuracy	the ability to work or perform without making mistakes
ache	a usually dull persistent pain
acorn	the nut of the oak tree
adhesive	designed to stick to something
affection	a feeling of liking and caring for someone or something
aggravate	to make (an injury, problem, etc.) more serious or severe
aisle	a passage between sections of seats in a church, theater, airplane, etc.
almond	the fruit of a tree of the rose family with flowers, especially its ellipsoidal edible kernel used as a nut
altogether	completely and fully
amateur	a person who does something (such as a sport or hobby) for pleasure and not as a job
anonymity	the quality or state of being unknown to most people
apparent	easy to see or understand
arctic	of or relating to the North Pole or the region around it; very cold
artichoke	a tall plant related to the daisies and having a flower head which is cooked and eaten as a vegetable
astronomy	the scientific study of stars, planets, and other objects in outer space
balance	the ability to move or to remain in a position without losing control or falling
balderdash	nonsense
balloon	a nonporous bag of light material that can be inflated especially with air or gas
baseball	a game played with a bat and ball between two teams of nine players each on a large field having four bases that mark the course a runner must take to score
believe	to accept something as true, genuine, or real
boil	to become so hot that bubbles are formed in a liquid and rise to the top
bounce	to spring back or up after hitting a surface
bridesmaid	a female friend or relative of the bride who participates at her wedding
camera	a device that is used for taking photographs or for making movies, television programs, etc.
cashew	a type of roasted nut that has a curved shape
castle	a large fortified building with thick walls and towers that was built in the past to protect against attack
chive	an herb related to the onion and having leaves used as a seasoning
cinnamon	an aromatic spice made from the bark of an Asian tree and used in cooking and baking
clothes	the things that people wear to cover their bodies and that are usually made from cloth
coax	to influence or persuade (a person or animal) to do something by talking in a gentle and friendly way
colonel	an officer of high rank in the army, air force, or marines
concussion	an injury to the brain that is caused by something hitting the head very hard
cone	a shape that has a pointed top and sides that form a circle at the bottom
consistent	always acting or behaving in the same way
courtesy	polite behavior that shows respect for other people
cranium	skull; specifically the part that encloses the brain
cringe	to shrink in fear or distaste
decent	polite, moral, and honest
decorum	orderliness and good taste in conduct or appearance
defunct	no longer living, existing, or functioning
descent	the act or process of going from a higher to a lower place or level
dimples	a small area on a part of a person's body (such as the cheek or chin) that naturally curves in
disease	an illness that affects a person, animal, or plant
doze	to fall into a light sleep
dubious	unsure feeling about something; causing doubt, uncertainty, or suspicion
effect	a change that results when something is done or happens
efficiency	the ability to do something or produce something without wasting materials, time, or energy
eggplant	an oval vegetable with a usually glossy, purplish skin and white flesh
eloquence	the ability to speak or write well and in an effective way

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equation	a statement of the equality of two mathematical expressions
equidistant	of equal distance; located at the same distance
exercise	physical activity that is done in order to become stronger and healthier
fennel	a plant related to the carrot, grown for its pleasantly smelling seeds and fine needle-shaped leaflets
fir	a tall evergreen tree
fleeting	not lasting; lasting for only a short time
fortitude	mental strength and courage that allows someone to face danger, pain, etc.
freeze	to be very cold; to become a hard substance (such as ice) because of cold
garlic	a plant related to the onion that is grown for its bulbs that have a strong smell and taste which are used to flavor foods
genius	a very smart or talented person
gentle	having or showing a kind and quiet nature; not harsh or violent
ginger	the strongly flavored root of a tropical plant that is used in cooking
grateful	feeling or showing thanks
guilty	responsible for committing a crime or doing something bad or wrong
haberdashery	goods (such as men's clothing and accessories); also a shop selling notions or men's clothing and accessories
harvest	the time of year when crops are gathered from the fields or the activity of gathering crops
hoarse	having a harsh or rough sound or voice
holy	connected to a god or a religion; good in a moral and religious way
hospitality	generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests
huge	very great in size, amount, or degree
hypocrite	a person who pretends to have virtues or qualities that he or she does not have
jeopardy	danger
juniper	an evergreen shrub or tree that has tiny fruits that look like berries
latter	of, relating to, or being the second of two groups or things; also the last of several groups or things referred to
lifeguard	a person whose job is to protect swimmers from drowning
loom	a frame or machine for weaving cloth
lovely	very attractive or beautiful
lullaby	a song used to help a child fall asleep
maggot	an insect that looks like a small worm and that is a young form of a fly
manor	a large country house on a large piece of land
maple	a tree that grows in northern parts of the world and has hard wood often used in making furniture
measles	an acute contagious disease
mercier	a dealer in usually expensive fabrics
meticulous	very careful about doing something in an extremely accurate and exact way
miscellaneous	consisting of diverse things or members
moniker	name or nickname
narrative	a story that is told or written
neither	not one or the other of two people or things
niece	a daughter of your brother or sister
ninety	90; a number equal to nine times 10
nostalgia	pleasure and sadness that is caused by remembering something from the past
nutmeg	a spice made from the hard seed of a tropical tree and used in cooking and baking
oak	a type of tree that grows in northern parts of the world and that produces acorns
occasion	a special event or time; a situation that allows something to happen
onion	a round vegetable that is usually white, yellow, or red and has a strong smell and taste
oxymoron	a combination of contradictory or incongruous words; something (as a concept) that is made up of contradictory or incongruous elements
physician	a medical doctor; especially a medical doctor who is not a surgeon
physicist	a scientist who studies or is a specialist in physics
piranha	a small South American fish that has sharp teeth and that eats the flesh of animals
pistachio	the greenish edible seed of a small Asian tree

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playwright	a person who writes plays
poignant	causing a strong feeling of sadness
poise	easy self-possessed assurance of manner; a particular way of carrying oneself
porridge	a soft food made by boiling meal of grains or legumes in milk or water until thick
pumpkin	a usually large round orange fruit of a vine related to the squash and cucumber that is used for food or decoration
punctuation	the marks (such as periods and commas) in a piece of writing that make its meaning clear and that separate it into sentences, clauses, etc.
quagmire	an area of soft, wet ground
rapscallion	a usually young mischievous person; also a mean or dishonest person
receipt	a piece of paper on which the things that you buy are listed with the total amount paid and the prices for each
recommend	to suggest that someone do (something)
rehearse	to prepare for a public performance of a play, a piece of music, etc., by practicing the performance
rescue	to save (someone or something) from danger or harm
rhythm	a regular repeated pattern of beats, sounds, activity, or movements
saintly	like a saint; very good and kind
salary	a fixed amount of money paid regularly for work done
saline	consisting of or containing salt
sassy	having or showing a rude lack of respect
satire	a way of using humor to show that someone or something is foolish, weak, or bad
scald	to burn with or as if with hot liquid or steam
scale	a device for weighing
scallop	an edible shellfish that is a mollusk with a ribbed shell in two parts
scarves	<i>irregular plural form of scarf:</i> a piece of cloth worn about the shoulders, around the neck, or over the head
scathing	very harsh or severe
scheme	a clever and often dishonest plan to do or get something
segregation	the practice or policy of keeping people of different races, religions, etc., separate from each other
semicolon	the punctuation mark ";" that is used to separate major parts in a sentence and to separate items in a series if the items contain commas
several	more than two but not very many
shepherd	a person who tends sheep
showdown	a meeting, argument, fight, etc., that will finally settle a disagreement between people or groups
simmer	to cook gently in liquid below or just at the boiling point
soar	to increase very quickly in amount or price
socket	a device in a wall into which an electric cord can be plugged
solemn	marked by the observance of established form or ceremony; somber, gloomy
solitaire	a card game that is played by one person
soothsayer	someone who makes predictions about what is going to happen in the future
species	a particular group of things or people that belong together or have some shared quality
squawk	to make a harsh short cry
strait	a narrow channel connecting two bodies of water
suede	soft leather that has been rubbed on one side to make a surface that looks and feels like velvet
sundial	a device that shows the time of day by the position of the shadow cast onto a marked plate by an object with a straight edge
surpass	to be better or greater than (someone or something)
suspense	a feeling or state of nervousness or excitement caused by wondering what will happen
swivel	to turn around
sword	a weapon having a long blade usually with a sharp point and edge
taciturn	tending to be quiet; not speaking frequently
tadpole	a small creature with a rounded body and long tail that lives in water and that becomes an adult frog or toad
tangle	to twist or become twisted together into a mass that is hard to straighten out again

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tease	to laugh at and criticize (someone) in a way that is either friendly and playful, or cruel and unkind
thesaurus	a book in which words that have the same or similar meanings are grouped together
thigh	the part of a leg between the hip and the knee
thyme	a sweet-smelling herb with small leaves that is used in cooking
tomatoes	the usually red, juicy fruits of a plant related to the potato that are eaten raw or cooked as a vegetable
tomorrow	on or for the day after today
tongue	the soft, movable part in the mouth that is used for tasting and eating food
towel	a piece of cloth used for drying things
treason	the crime of trying to overthrow your country's government or of helping your country's enemies during war
tremendous	very large or great
turbine	an engine that has a part with blades that are caused to spin by pressure from water, steam, or air
turret	a small tower on a building
twelfth	being one of twelve equal parts
twine	a strong string of two or more strands twisted together
twinge	a sudden and usually slight pain
tycoon	a very wealthy and powerful business person
umpire	an official in a sport (as baseball) who enforces the rules
uncomfortable	causing a feeling of physical discomfort, embarrassment, or unease
unkempt	not combed; also messy or untidy
unlace	to loosen or pull out the laces of (a shoe, boot, etc.)
untangle	to separate (things that are twisted together); to remove the twists or knots in (something)
unzip	to open (something) by using a zipper
uprising	a usually violent effort by many people to change the government or leader of a country
uproot	to displace from a country or traditional habitat
usage	the act of using something
usher	a person who leads people to their seats in a theater, at a wedding, etc.
utmost	greatest or highest in degree, number, amount, or distance
utterly	completely and totally
vaccination	<i>medical</i> : the act of giving (a person or an animal) a vaccine to prevent infection by a disease
vanilla	a dark substance that is made from the beans of a tropical plant and that is used to flavor food
vapid	not lively or interesting; dull or boring
vapor	fine bits (as of fog or smoke) floating in the air and clouding it
vein	one of the blood vessels that carry the blood back to the heart
vendor	person that sells goods or services
view	a mode or manner of looking at or regarding something
visible	easily seen or understood
voyage	a long journey to a distant or unknown place especially over water or through outer space
waist	the part of the body between the hips and chest
wavy	having the curving shape of a wave or of many waves
weaken	to make (something or someone) weaker, less forceful, less effective
willow	a tree that has long, narrow leaves and strong, thin branches that are used to make baskets
wreck	a vehicle, airplane, ship etc., that has been badly damaged or destroyed
xenon	a chemical element that is a colorless gas and that is used especially in electric lights
yacht	a large boat that is used for racing or pleasure
yeast	a type of fungus that is used in making alcoholic drinks (such as beer and wine) and in baking to help make dough rise
yelp	to make a quick, high cry or bark
yesterday	on or for the day before today
zeal	a strong feeling of interest and enthusiasm that makes someone very eager or determined to do something
zinger	a quick and clever comment that criticizes or insults someone
zoom	to go speedily