

American Library Spelling Bee 2018

E-Bee Word List (for students taught primarily in English)

Definitions are provided as a courtesy.

abhor	to feel hatred or loathing for
abide	to accept patiently; to tolerate
access	a way of getting near, at, or to something or someone
account	a record of money that has been paid and money that has been received
acute	very serious or dangerous; requiring serious attention or action
aerial	performed in the air or using an airplane
alley	a narrow street; especially a thoroughfare through the middle of a block giving access to the rear of lots or buildings
amplify	to give more information through detail and analysis; also to increase the strength of something (such as radio signal)
assessment	the act of making a judgment about something
athlete	a person who is trained or skilled in exercises, sports, or games requiring physical strength, agility, or stamina
awhile	for a short time
babble	to talk foolishly or too much
bail	money given to free a prisoner until his or her trial
ballot	a small ball used in secret voting; also a sheet of paper used to cast a secret vote
bandage	a strip of fabric used especially to cover, dress, and bind up wounds
bandit	a criminal who attacks and steals from travelers and who is often a member of a group of criminals
bashful	socially shy or timid
behave	to act in an acceptable way; to act properly
beneath	in or to a lower position; below
besides	other than (someone or something)
betray	to give information about (a person, group, country, etc.) to an enemy
bigot	a person who hates or refuses to accept the members of a particular group
billionaire	a rich person who has at least a billion dollars, pounds, etc.
biscuit	a small, light roll that is eaten as part of a meal; also cookie (British)
blissful	extremely happy; full of joy
brought	<i>past tense and past participle of bring</i> : to come with (something or someone) to a place
calf	the young of the domestic cow; also the young of various large animals (as the elephant or whale)
candor	the quality of being open, sincere, and honest
carcass	a dead body
chirp	the characteristic short sharp sound especially of a small bird or insect
chivalry	courteous knightly conduct
churchgoer	one who habitually attends church
cider	a drink made from apples
clientele	the group of people who are regular customers at a particular business
climb	to go upward with gradual or continuous progress
clutter	a crowded or confused mass or collection of things
coincide	to occupy the same place in space or time
comma	a punctuation mark “,” used especially as a mark of separation within the sentence
compete	to try to get or win something (such as a prize or reward) that someone else is also trying to win
condemn	to pronounce guilty; to declare to be wrong, or unfit for use or consumption
connect	to join (two or more things) together
counter	a level surface usually higher than a table that is used especially for selling, serving food, displaying things, or working on
crawl	to move on your hands and knees
curb	a short border along the edge of a street that is usually made of stone or concrete
curve	a smooth rounded line or surface
cuspid	a pointed end or part where two curves meet
dangle	to hang loosely and usually so as to be able to swing freely
daze	to stupefy especially by a blow; to stun
deity	a god or goddess
diagonally	running in a slanting direction

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didactic	designed or intended to teach people something
dingy	dirty, unclean
disable	to make ineffective or inoperative
disagree	to have a different opinion; to fail to agree
discard	to throw (something) away because it is useless or unwanted
discreet	careful not to attract attention or let out private information
disdain	a feeling of strong dislike or disapproval of someone or something you think does not deserve respect
disgust	a strong feeling of dislike for something that has a very unpleasant appearance, taste, smell, etc.
distinguish	to separate into kinds, classes, or categories
distress	physical or mental pain or suffering
document	an official paper that gives information about something or that is used as proof of something
donor	a person or group that gives something (such as money) in order to help a person or organization
dossier	a group of papers that contain detailed information about someone or something
dowry	money or property that a wife or wife's family gives to her husband when the wife and husband marry in some cultures
drivel	to let saliva dribble from the mouth; also to talk or write in a very foolish or silly way
druid	one of an ancient Celtic priesthood appearing in Irish and Welsh sagas and Christian legends as magicians and wizards
dusk	the time when day changes into night and the sky begins to get darker
elope	to run away secretly to get married
embalm	to treat (a dead body) with special chemicals to keep it from decaying
embark	to begin a journey especially on a ship or airplane
emblem	an object or picture used to suggest a thing that cannot be shown
embraceable	having qualities that make you want to hug someone
engine	a machine that changes energy (such as heat from burning fuel) into mechanical motion
engrave	to cut or carve lines, letters, designs, etc., onto or into a hard surface
enigmatic	full of mystery and difficult to understand
entrails	the internal organs of an animal
envoy	a person who is sent by one government to represent it in dealing with another government
exchange	the act of giving or taking one thing in return for another
faint	lacking strength; also not clear or plain
fasten	to attach (something) or join (two things or two parts of something) especially by using a pin or nail
feather	any one of the light growths that make up the outer covering of the body of a bird
feign	to pretend to feel or be affected by (something)
folly	a foolish act or idea; foolish behavior
frantic	emotionally out of control; marked by fast and nervous, disordered, or anxiety-driven activity
gargantuan	tremendous in size, volume, or degree
garret	a room or unfinished part of a house just under the roof
gauge	to make a judgment about (something); also to measure (something) exactly
gist	the general or basic meaning of something said or written
glance	to look at someone or something very quickly
glisten	to shine with light reflected off a wet surface
gracious	marked by kindness and courtesy
grub	food
guidance	help or advice that tells you what to do
harvest	to gather (a crop); also to gather or collect (something) for use
hasten	to move or act quickly
hatch	a small door or opening (as in an airplane or spaceship)
heave	to lift or pull (something) with effort; also to breathe in a slow or loud way
hence	because of a preceding fact or premise
herring	a fish that lives in the northern Atlantic Ocean and is often eaten as food
holistic	relating to complete systems rather than to individual parts
horseradish	a tall plant whose root is used for making a sauce or relish

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hurtle	to move rapidly or forcefully
imagine	to think of or create (something that is not real) in your mind
immediately	without any delay
immense	marked by greatness especially in size or degree
incredible	too extraordinary and improbable to be believed
inept	lacking skill or ability
innards	the internal organs of a human being or animal
insist	to demand that something happen or that someone do something
install	to set up for use or service
intricacy	the quality or state of being complex or having many parts
killjoy	one who spoils the pleasure of others
knife	a usually sharp blade attached to a handle that is used for cutting or as a weapon
ladle	a large and deep spoon with a long handle that is used for serving a liquid
leash	a long, thin piece of rope, chain, etc., that is used for holding a dog or other animal
lectern	a stand that holds a book, notes, etc., for someone who is reading, speaking, or teaching
leer	to look with an unpleasant, mean, or eager glance
lengthen	to make longer
loathe	to hate (someone or something) very much
loft	an upper room or floor
magistrate	a local official who has some of the powers of a judge
mischievous	showing a playful desire to cause trouble
miser	a person who hates to spend money; a very stingy person
misfire	<i>of an engine or of a gun:</i> to fail to work properly; also to fail to have an intended effect
misfit	something that is the wrong shape or size or is inappropriate; also a person who does not seem to belong in a particular group or situation
muscle	a body tissue that can contract and produce movement
muse	a woman, or a force personified as a woman, who is the source of inspiration for a creative artist
mushroom	to increase or develop very quickly
mustard	a thick and spicy yellow or brownish-yellow sauce that is usually eaten with meat
myriad	extremely numerous
mythical	occurring in or characteristic of myths or folk tales
narcissism	egoism, egocentrism
nausea	the feeling you have in your stomach when you think you are going to vomit
necessarily	of necessity; unavoidably; as a logical result
nefarious	evil or immoral
nimble	able to move quickly, easily, and lightly
nippy	somewhat cold
nomenclature	the act or process or an instance of naming
obsess	to think and talk about someone or something too much
obtain	to gain or get (something) usually by effort
obtuse	not able to understand something obvious
occur	to happen; to appear or exist
office	a building or room in which people work at desks doing business or professional activities
omniscient	knowing everything; having unlimited understanding or knowledge
onerous	burdensome; difficult to do; arduous
option	the opportunity or ability to choose something; something that can be chosen
ounce	a unit of weight equal to $\frac{1}{16}$ pound (about 28 grams)
panache	lots of energy and style
parcel	a section or area of land; also a box or large envelope that is usually sent to a person
parenthesis	one of a pair of curved marks () that are used around a word, phrase, sentence, number, etc.
parish	an area that has its own local church and priest or minister; also the group of people who go to the church in a particular area
pivot	to turn on or around a central point
plagiarism	the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own

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plebiscite	a vote by which the people of a country or region express their opinion for or against an important proposal
plough	a piece of farm equipment that is used to dig into and turn over soil especially to prepare the soil for planting
plunge	to fall or jump suddenly from a high place; also to fall or drop suddenly in amount, value, etc.
polish	to make (something) smooth and shiny by rubbing it
pontificate	to speak or express your opinion about something in a way that shows that you think you are always right
posthumous	following or occurring after death
precocious	having or showing the qualities or abilities of an adult at an unusually early age
primer	a small book for teaching children to read
procure	to get (something) by some action or effort
profound	having or showing great knowledge or understanding
progeny	a person or child who comes from a particular parent or family
proof	an act or process of showing that something is true
prose	the ordinary language people use in speaking or writing
prune	a dried plum
purge	to get rid of
qualm	a feeling of doubt or uncertainty about whether you are doing the right thing
quarry	an open pit usually for obtaining building stone, slate, or limestone
quell	to end or stop (something) usually by using force; also to calm or reduce (something, such as fear)
rabid	extremely violent
rancid	having a strong and unpleasant smell or taste from no longer being fresh
reciprocal	shared, felt, or shown by both sides
recline	to sit back or lie down in a relaxed manner
redeem	to make (something that is bad, unpleasant, etc.) better or more acceptable; also to buy, get, or win back
regal	of, relating to, or suitable for a king or queen
remote	far away from other people, houses, cities, etc.
rescind	to end (a law, contract, agreement, etc.) officially; to say officially that (something) is no longer valid
revere	to have great respect for (someone or something)
reverse	opposite to what is usual or stated
review	an act of carefully looking at or examining the quality or condition of something or someone
rung	a rounded crosspiece between the legs of a chair or crosspieces of a ladder; also a level in a hierarchy
sanguine	confident, optimistic
sergeant	a noncommissioned officer in the army and marine corps
simultaneous	existing or occurring at the same time
sojourn	to stay as a temporary resident
talons	the sharp claws on the feet of some birds
tangy	having a strong, piquant flavor or smell
tarmac	the area covered by pavement at an airport
tertiary	of third rank, importance, or value
throes	painful emotions, sensations, or feelings
toilsome	marked by or full of toil or fatigue; laborious
tuffet	a low seat
unbiased	free from all prejudice and favoritism
unpredictable	in a manner that cannot be expected in advance
venue	the place where an event takes place
visceral	coming from strong emotions and not from logic or reason
waive	to officially say that you will not use or require something that is usually required
wiggle	to move up and down or from side to side with short quick motions