

## ADVANCED WORDS (AGES 12 – 14)

ilk	(ilck)	n	type or kind “Artists and musicians are of the same ilk.”
abject	(ab´-jekt)	adj	low in spirit or hope, expressed in a humble way “The death of her mother left Susan abject.”
belfry	(bell´-free)	n	a bell tower, a space for bells in a tower “The bats were hiding in the belfry.”
hoax	(hoaks)	n	an act intended to deceive or trick “We thought we had won, but it turned out to be a hoax.”
grimace	(grim-ayss´)	n	facial expression showing pain or disgust or intended to cause amusement “His face wore the most doleful grimace.”
yogurt	(yoh´-gert)	n	a food prepared from milk, thickened by bacterial action “She enjoys strawberry yogurt for breakfast.”
wherewithal	(hware´-with-all)	n	means, money, resources needed for a purpose “She had the wherewithal to do exactly what she wanted.
garbled	(gar´-beld)	v	confused, mixed up “In his excitement, he garbled his words.”
legion	(lee´-jun)	n	an ancient Roman military unit “A Roman legion attacked the town in the first century.”
jaunty	(jon´-tee)	adj	having a buoyant or self confident air “The young man had a jaunty air.”
latent	(lay´-tunt)	adj	present or potential, but not evident or active “The germ was described as being latent.”
drudgery	(druj´-er-ee)	n	unpleasant, dull or hard work “Housework can be drudgery if you let it pile up.”
feckless	(feck´-luss)	adj	inefficient, worthless “When it comes to housework, she is feckless.”
hoard	(hord)	n	a hidden fund or supply stored for future use “He kept a hoard of candy at the back of the cupboard.”
gullible	(gull´-i-bul)	adj	easily deceived, cheated or fooled “He was so gullible, he believed all their stories.”
jasmine	(jas´-min)	n	ornamental shrub “The jasmine is aromatic.”



limpid (lim´pid) adj clear, transparent  
 “He saw his reflection in the limpid water of the pool.”



lampoon (lam-poon´) n a light, good humored satire  
 “The comedian did a lampoon of the President.”



kinetics (kin-e´ticks) n the study of motion in bodies  
 “Our gym teacher is an expert in kinetics.”



noisome (noi´sum) adj offensive to the senses, harmful, noxious  
 “A dirty, noisome creek ran behind their farm.”



perceptive (per-sep´tiv) adj discerning, intuitive  
 “He is perceptive in sensing the moods of others.”



occlude (uh-klood´) v stop, close up or block off, obstruct  
 “Build-up of cholesterol will occlude an artery.”



specious (spee´shuss) adj of good appearance, plausible  
 “He gave a specious argument on why we should ignore the rules.”



vindictive (vin-dick´tiv) adj vengeful, spiteful  
 “The vindictive theatre critic trashed the play.”

wittingly (wit´ing-lee) adv knowingly, deliberately  
 “Forgery is a fraud done wittingly.”

ultimatum (ul´ti-may´tum) n a final demand or condition  
 “He rejected the ultimatum and war was declared.”

igneous (ig´nee-uss) adj formed by solidification of molten rock  
 “Most of the earth’s crust is made up of igneous rock.”

guise (guys) n manner or appearance put on in order to conceal the truth  
 “They exploited him under the guise of friendship.”

decrepit (di-krep´it) adj made weak by old age or hard use, worn out  
 “Decrepit buildings should be torn down to prevent accidents.”

abhor (ab-hor´) v detest, despise  
 “I abhor people who fall asleep and snore in movies.”

distraught (dis-trawt´) adj greatly upset, nearly crazy with grief or worry  
 “I was distraught to learn that he was gravely ill.”

idyllic (eye-dill´ick) adj of or having the nature of an idyll  
 “Our childhood summers were idyllic.”



bosky (bos´-kee) adj covered with trees and shrubs  
 “Vermont’s bosky hills draw many tourists in autumn.”



lithe (lythe) adj smooth and flexible  
 “Gymnasts are lithe athletes.”



impeached (im-peeched´) v cast doubt on, charged with misconduct in office  
 “The governor was impeached for raiding the treasury.”



cogent (ko´-jent) adj forcefully convincing and to the point  
 “Her son gave a cogent argument for borrowing the car.”



incisive (in-sigh´-siv) adj mentally sharp, acute  
 “The mayor presented an incisive speech at the meeting.”



volition (voh-lish-un) n use of one’s own will in choosing or making a decision  
 “She went to the police on her own volition.”



banal (ba-nahl´) adj uninteresting, commonplace  
 “When the game is dull, the announcer’s comments become banal.”



jettison (jet´-i-son) v cast overboard or off  
 “The captain had to jettison part of the cargo.”

austere (aw-steer´) adj severely simple and plain, without ornament or comfort  
 “Life was happy but austere at her grandmother’s house.”

laconic (la-kon´-ick) adj using or marked by the use of few words, terse, concise  
 “He gave a laconic speech to his audience.”


benevolent (be-nev´-e-lent) adj kindly, charitable  
 “The employer is acting in a benevolent manner.”

decimate (dess´-i-mate) v destroy a large part of  
 “Continuing battles began to decimate the city.”

gratuity (gra-tew´-i-tee) n money given in recognition of services rendered, tip  
 “Expect a gratuity only when service is excellent.”


indolent (in´-dol-ent) adj lazy  
 “The indolent person likes to avoid work.”
















exultation (ig´-zul-tay´-shun) n jubilation, triumph  
 “He threw up his arms in exultation after he won the race.”

	gregarious	(gre-gair´-ee-us)	adj	fond of company, sociable “Working alone was hard for a gregarious man like Bert.”
	quizzical	(kwiz´-i-kul)	adj	queer, odd, questioning, puzzled “Her quizzical look told me she didn’t understand.”
	ruminare	(roo´-min-ate)	v	engage in contemplation “May I have time to ruminate on that problem?”
	libel	(lie´-bul)	adj	pertaining to defamation or slander “There are libel laws that protect us against false accusations.”
	subliminal	(sub-lim´-i-nul)	adj	outside ordinary perception, influencing behavior in subconscious ways “Subliminal advertising persuades people to buy products.”
	affable	(a´-fuh-bul)	adj	courteous and agreeable “Jane’s affable grandparents invited us to stay for dinner.”
	legendary	(lej´-en-der´-ee)	adj	famous, often talked about “Paul Bunyan is a legendary figure in American literature.”
	impervious	(im-per´-vee-uss)	adj	not able to be penetrated, not influenced by “Police vests are impervious to most kinds of bullets.”
	laceration	(lass´-ur-aye´-shun)	n	a jagged wound or cut “He had a large laceration on his face.”
	inanimate	(in-an´-uh-mit)	adj	not having the qualities associated with active living organisms “Sometimes I think inanimate objects have a will of their own.”
	abnegate	(ab´-ni-gate)	v	give up a right or privilege, renounce “She decided to abnegate her claim to her mother’s estate.”
	rescind	(ri-sind´)	v	take back, cancel, revoke “The government refused to rescind martial law.”
	necropolis	(neh-krop´-oh-liss)	n	a cemetery, large elaborate cemetery of an ancient city “Archaeologist discovered the necropolis at Thebes.”
	ambidextrous	(am´-bi-decks´-truss)	adj	skilled with either hand “The ambidextrous batter can bat either right or left.”

	sophistry	(sof´-iss-tree)	n	subtle deceptive reasoning or argument "Through his sophistry, he swayed the committee to his side."
	jactation	(jack-tay´-shun)	n	boasting "His jactation made everyone distrust him."
	convivial	(kon-viv´-ee-ul)	adj	sociable and lively "Convivial people contribute to a great party."
	auspicious	(aw-spish´-us)	adj	promising success, favorable "Columbus saw auspicious signs like flocks of birds that told him land was near."
	feisty	(fy´-stee)	adj	full of energy, having or showing a lively aggressiveness "His feisty attitude earned the disapproval of some."
	debacle	(day-bah´-kul)	n	a sudden disastrous collapse, ruin "The Bay of Pigs is considered a military debacle."
	grotesque	(groh-tesk´)	adj	very odd or unnatural, ugly or absurd "His space alien makeup was truly grotesque."
	inure	(in-yoor´)	v	accustom, habituate "You must inure yourself against disappointment."
	kerosene	(ker´-uh-seen)	n	coal oil, liquid used as a fuel in lamps "We use our kerosene lamp when we go camping."
	ludicrous	(loo´-di-kruss)	adj	absurd, ridiculous, laughable "Such ludicrous statements cannot be taken seriously."
	amenable	(a-mee´-nuh-bul)	adj	readily disposed to cooperate "His sons were amenable to help with the paint job."
	collusion	(ko-loo´-zhon)	n	an agreement between people for a deceitful purpose "The police suspected collusion between the man and his wife."
	bulwark	(bool´-werk)	n	a wall of earth built as a defence "The men were ordered to build a bulwark around the town."
	archaic	(ar-kay´-ick)	adj	out of date, no longer in common use "There is now a computer that may make others archaic."
	maudlin	(mawd´-lin)	adj	sentimental in a silly or tearful way "He would often get maudlin and talk about his old friends."

	orotund	(or´-uh-tund)	adj	pompous, imposing, marked by fullness “We want substance, not orotund rhetoric.”
	esoteric	(ess´-o-ter´-ick)	adj	intended only for people with special knowledge “Tax laws are so esoteric, most of us need accountants.”
	conjugal	(kon´-jug-al)	adj	of or relating to marriage “The marriage began in conjugal bliss and ended in divorce.”
	panache	(pan-ash´)	n	dash or flamboyance in style and behavior “Her apartment is decorated with panache.”
	phenomenon	(fin-om´-eh-non)	n	fact or event of scientific or cultural interest “A solar eclipse is a natural phenomenon.”
	acrimonious	(ack´-ri-moh´-nee-us)	adj	bitter “We tried to ignore her acrimonious comments.”
	echelon	(esh´-uh-lon)	n	one in a series of levels or grades “Liz became an executive in the highest echelon of the firm.”
	entomology	(en´-to-mol-o-jee)	n	the scientific study of insects “His childhood interest in bugs led him to study entomology.”
	flamboyant	(flahm-boy´ent)	adj	showy, colorful “Her flamboyant clothes were not appropriate for the office.”
	aspersions	(a-sper´-shonz)	n	attacks on someone’s reputation “He tried to harm me by casting aspersions on my character.”
	herbivorous	(her-biv´-er-uss)	adj	feeding on plants “Cows are herbivorous animals.”
	impeccable	(im-peck´uh-bul)	adj	having no flaws “His taste in clothing is impeccable.”
	ignominy	(ig´-nom-in´-ee)	n	disgrace and humiliation “He was forced to retire in ignominy.”
	aphorism	(af´-uh-riz´-um)	n	a short wise saying, a maxim “Waste not, want not is an aphorism worth remembering.”
	impede	(im-peed´)	v	retard or obstruct the progress of “Nothing could impede his search for the cure.”
	asinine	(ass´-i-nine)	adj	silly, stupid “How asinine of the child to fabricate that bizarre story.”

	palliate	(pal´-ee-ate)	v	alleviate, extenuate, conceal or disguise with excuses “The biography does not palliate Columbus’s serious failings.”
	basilisk	(baz´-il-isk)	adj	relating to a legendary reptile with fatal breath and glance “Anna fixed a basilisk stare at the professor.”
	desultory	(dess´-ul-ter-ee)	adj	not systematic, occurring by chance “Conversation was desultory by the end of the party.”
	homogeneous	(ho´-muh-jee´nee-uss)	adj	having the same composition, structure or character “The population of Japan is homogeneous.”
	xenophile	(zen´-o-file)	n	one who is attracted to strange or foreign people, customs “A xenophile makes the best world traveler.”
	asperity	(as-per´-i-tee)	n	roughness, severity, harshness, sharpness “Her attempt to help the old creature was met with asperity.”
	effrontery	(i-frunt´-er-ee)	n	shameless insolence “He had the effrontery to take my bike without permission.”
	impetuous	(im-pech´-oo-uss)	adj	acting on impulse, acting without forethought “Agreeing too soon would be impetuous.”
	nepotism	(nep´-o-tizz´-um)	n	favoritism toward one’s family members, especially in business “Nepotism prevented Jeff from rising to the top at that company.”
	charlatan	(shar´-la-tan)	n	a person who falsely claims to be an expert “They found out the faith healer was a charlatan.”
	atavistic	(at´-a-viss-tick)	adj	characteristic of an ancestor or an ancestral type “Each summer our atavistic impulses lure us to blacken meat over an outdoor fire.”
	colossus	(ko-loss´-us)	n	gigantic statue, anything marked by great size, scope or power “The automobile factory was an industrial colossus.”
	bailiwick	(bay´-li-wick)	n	one’s special domain “Grammar is not my bailiwick, so ask the teacher.”
	adjudicated	(a-joo´-dick-ay-ted)	v	settled judicially “Until the case was adjudicated, both sides were cautious with the media.”

	paradigm	(pare´-uh-dime)	n	an exceptionally clear or typical example “The Roman empire is the paradigm of a state which failed.”
	cataclysm	(kat´-a-kliz-um)	n	a violent upheaval or disaster “Perhaps, dinosaurs were exterminated by some cataclysm.”
	titillate	(tit´-i-late)	v	please, stimulate, tickle “Her stories were meant to titillate, not instruct.”
	ornithology	(or´-nuh-thol´-uh-jee)	n	the scientific study of birds “His knowledge of ornithology is profound.”
	impious	(im´-pee-uss)	adj	lacking reverence, not pious “You often hear impious comments about authority.”
	labyrinth	(lab´-i-rinth)	n	an intricate structure of interconnecting passages “The royal gardens have a wonderful labyrinth.”
	desiccated	(dess´-i-kay-ted)	adj	dried up, withered, dehydrated “Two desiccated oranges were all that was left in the refrigerator.”
	adumbrates	(ad-um´-brayts)	v	foreshadows or hints at, discloses partially “The author adumbrates his ideas for his future book.”
	omnivorous	(om-niv´-er-uss)	adj	feeding on both plants and animal flesh “Human beings are generally omnivorous.”
	dromedary	(drom´-ed-er-ee)	n	light one-humped camel bred for riding “The dromedary is comfortable to ride in the desert.”
	incipient	(in-sip´-ee-unt)	adj	beginning to exist or appear “Through an incipient error, the missile sped out of control.”
	virulent	(vi´-rew-lent)	adj	extremely strong or violent poison or disease “Rattlesnake venom is a virulent poison.”
	cryptic	(krip´-tick)	adj	concealing its meaning in a puzzling way “His remarks were cryptic, but we soon saw their relevance.”
	hagiography	(hag´-ee-og´-re-fee)	n	study or biography of saints “St. Augustine is a name found in every hagiography.”
	impedimenta	(im-ped´-i-ment´-a)	n	encumbrances, baggage, things that impede “Travelling with a baby means a lot of impedimenta.”

	equanimity	(ek'-wa-nim'-i-tee)	n	evenness of mind or temper "He lost his equanimity when the audience laughed."
	inchoate	(in-koh'-ate)	adj	being only partly in existence or operation, imperfectly formed "Her ideas were disorganized and her essay inchoate."
	etymology	(et'-im-ol'-o-jee)	n	science and study of the origins of words "Knowing a words etymology may help you understand it."
	iconoclast	(eye-kon'-e-klast)	n	one who attacks and seeks to overthrow traditional ideas "Freud was considered an iconoclast in his field."
	hyperbole	(high-purr'-buh-lee)	n	a figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for effect "He spoke in flagrant hyperbole."
	mercurial	(mer-kyoor'-ee-aul)	adj	having rapid and unpredictable changes of mood "Her mercurial nature made it hard for her to settle down."
	hirsute	(her'-soot)	adj	covered with hair, hairy "Through the dark, she saw the hirsute face of a wolf."
	otiose	(oh'-tee-ohs)	adj	producing no useful result, lacking function or effect "This meeting has been an otiose exercise."
	chicanery	(shi-kayn'-er-ee)	n	trickery used to gain an advantage "Blatant chicanery was involved in awarding the contract."
	integument	(in-teg'-yoo-ment)	n	skin, husk, rind or other covering "The alien was covered in scaly integument."
	maelstrom	(mayl'-strom)	n	a violent whirlpool, a confused state "He moved to the bush to avoid the maelstrom of city life."
	commensurate	(ko-men'-ser-at)	adj	equal in measure or extent, corresponding in size "This job pays a salary commensurate with your experience."
	agoraphobia	(ag'-er-a-foh'-bee-uh)	n	fear of crowds or open spaces "The recluse was afflicted with agoraphobia."
	sagacious	(sa-gay'-shuss)	adj	of keen mind, shrewd "She took her troubles to her sagacious old aunt."



exculpatory (ek-skull'puh-tore'ee) adj tending or serving to clear from fault or guilt  
 "That gas station receipt is exculpatory evidence."



peripatetic (per'i-puh-tet'ick) adj walking or moving from place to place  
 "He was too peripatetic to settle down in one place."



salubrious (sa-loo'bree-us) adj favorable to health  
 "The mountain air is salubrious."



obdurate (ob'dewr-at) adj stubborn and unyielding  
 "In arguments he is obdurate, even when wrong."



termagant (ter'ma-gant) n an overbearing or nagging woman  
 "His lovely bride became a termagant after several weeks."



avuncular (a-vunk'yoo-ler) adj of, relating to, or resembling an uncle  
 "He has an avuncular interest in the child and often took him out."



meritorious (mare'i-tore-ee-us) adj having merit, deserving praise  
 "He received a medal for meritorious service."



serendipity (se'ren-dip-i-tee) n the making of pleasant discoveries by accident  
 "Serendipity led him to find that book in the library."

triumvirate (try-um'ver-at) n group or association of three persons  
 "The state was ruled by a triumvirate."

punctilious (punk-till'ee-us) adj exact, careful in manners  
 "His hospitality was gracious and punctilious."










octogenarian (ock'toe-jen-air'ee-un) n a person who is in his or her eighties  
 "My grandmother continued to run marathons when she was an octogenarian."

juxtaposed (juks'ta-pozed') v placed side by side  
 "Office modules can be juxtaposed, but privacy will be lost."

quixotic (kwik-sot'ick) adj foolishly impractical, especially in the pursuit of ideals  
 "His proposals were considered naïve and quixotic."

obfuscate (ob'fuss-kate) v make dark or obscure, make indistinct, confuse  
 "His speech was written to obfuscate, not clarify the issue."

infinitesimal (in'fin-i-tess'uh-mul) adj extremely small, tiny, almost zero  
 "Differences between identical twins are infinitesimal."

	infinitesimal	(in´fin-i-tess´uh-mul)	adj	extremely small, tiny, almost zero “Differences between identical twins are infinitesimal.”
	prescient	(pre´-shee-unt)	adj	having or showing foreknowledge of events “Her dream proved to be prescient of what was to come.”
	propinquity	(pro-pink´-wi-tee)	n	nearness in time or place “The race car driver is aware of the propinquity of sudden death.”
	obstreperous	(ob-strep´-er-us)	adj	loud, unruly, unmanageable, rowdy “Their obstreperous children were a babysitter’s nightmare.”
	stentorian	(sten-tore´-ee-un)	adj	extremely loud and powerful “His stentorian voice broadcast the message of peace.”
	mellifluous	(mel-if´-loo-us)	adj	sweet sounding, honeyed, smooth “Her mellifluous voice filled the opera house.”
	sinecure	(sy´-ni-kyoor)	n	easy job or position “Due to his past service, he has a sinecure at the company.”
	umbrage	(um´-brij)	n	a feeling of resentment, offense “He took umbrage no matter what I said.”
	opprobrium	(o-proh´-bree-um)	n	great disgrace brought by shameful conduct “Vandals are held up to public opprobrium.”
	ephemeral	(i-fem´-err-ul)	adj	lasting only a very short time “Success was ephemeral; the next day the army was defeated.”
	obsequious	(ob-see´-kwee-us)	adj	excessively or sickeningly respectful “She is obsequious towards her influential friends.”
	prodigious	(pro-dij´-us)	adj	exciting wonder, extraordinary in size and degree “It takes prodigious study to become a doctor.”
	obligatory	(o-blig´-a-ter´-ee)	adj	compulsory, not optional “Your attendance at the meeting is obligatory.”
	effluvium	(e-floo´-vee-um)	n	an offensive exhalation or smell “An effluvium of beer and smoke swirled out of the bar door.”
	connubial	(ko-new´-bee-ul)	adj	related to marriage “She attributes her problems to connubial stress.”
	delicatessen	(del´-i-ka-tess´-en)	n	a shop selling prepared delicacies and relishes “Dad stopped at the delicatessen for bread and cold cuts.”



numismatists (new-miz'-mat-ists) n specialists in coin, coin collectors  
 "Many numismatists have toured the mint."

assiduous (a-sid'-yoo-us) adj diligent and persevering  
 "The police conducted an assiduous search for the missing child."



solicitous (suh-liss'-it-tuss) adj full of concern or fears, very careful, anxious, troubled  
 "Because he was an only child, his parents were over-solicitous."

unctuous (unk'-tew-us) adj smooth and greasy like an ointment, insincerely smooth in speech  
 "They could tell by his unctuous greeting that he wanted a favor."



deleterious (del'-i-teer'-ee-us) adj harmful, often in an unexpected way  
 "Car exhaust has a deleterious effect on city dwellers."

vacillate (vass'-il-ate) v waver, keep changing one's mind, hesitate  
 "Never vacillate in your search for the truth."



ubiquitous (yoo-bik'-wit-us) adj widespread, universal, being everywhere at the same time  
 "He was hounded by the ubiquitous detective."

solipsism (sol'-ip-siz'-um) n the theory that the self is all that exists  
 "Her solipsism made her disregard other's feelings."



impresario (im'-preh-sah'-ree-owe) n one that sponsors or produces entertainment  
 "Opera singers must audition for the impresario."

egregious (i-gree'-juss) adj outstandingly bad  
 "An egregious error of judgement resulted in his termination."



corrigendum (kor'-i-jen'-dum) n an error to be corrected  
 "A newspaper corrigendum is printed in the same section where the original error appeared."

heinous (hay'-nuss) adj grossly wicked or reprehensible  
 "He was convicted of a heinous crime."



euphonious (yoo-foh'-nee-us) adj pleasing to the ear  
 "The name Melody was chosen because it is euphonious."

vicissitudes (vi-siss'-i-toods) n change of circumstances, especially of fortune  
 "Their business had to stand many vicissitudes."



troglodyte (trog'-lo-dite) n a cave dweller, a hermit  
 "The independent old man lived like a troglodyte."

hieroglyphics	(high´-ur-uh-gliff´-icks)	n	pictures or symbols used in ancient Egypt to represent sounds or words or ideas “We asked him to translate the hieroglyphics on the tomb wall.”
dilettante	(dill-e-tant´)	n	a person who dabble in a subject for his own enjoyment “She was a dilettante who studied violin for fun.”
Aeolian	(ee-o´-lee-un)	adj	from Aeolus, Greek god of wind “An Aeolian harp on the windowsill produced harmonies with every strong wind.”
nepenthe	(ne-pen´-thee)	n	something capable of making one forget grief or suffering “Her painting was a nepenthe in the days after his death.”
imbroglio	(im-brohl´-yo)	n	a complicated situation, a serious or embarrassing misunderstanding “All department heads were involved in the imbroglio.”
calliope	(kuh-lie´-uh-pee)	n	a keyboard instrument resembling an organ “The circus calliope tooted out a hearty welcome.”
pseudonym	(soo´-duh-nim)	n	pen name, fictitious name “Mary Ann Evans took the pseudonym George Eliot.”
zucchini	(zoo-kee´-nee)	n	a green summer squash, a kind of vegetable “Grilled zucchini is great with chicken.”
insouciant	(in-soo´-see-unt)	adj	carefree, unconcerned “He was an insouciant charmer that all the girls liked.”
onomatopoeia	(on´-o-mat´-o-pee´-uh)	n	formation of words whose sounds imitate what they stand for “Meow, hiss, and buzz are examples of onomatopoeia.”
recidivism	(re-sid´-i-vizz´-um)	n	tendency to relapse into previous behavior “Poverty can often cause recidivism amongst criminals.”
querulous	(kwear´-uh-luss)	adj	complaining, whining, irritable “You can often divert querulous children with a toy.”

**NOTES:**

1. THESE LISTS AND AGE RANGES ARE ONLY SUGGESTIONS
2. FOR AN EXTREMELY CHALLENGING LIST OF SPELLING BEE WORDS, REFER TO <http://www.spellingbee.com/studyaids.shtml>. Here you will find over two hundred pages of extremely difficult spelling words, along with their definitions and an example sentence.