



## 2025-2026 School Spelling Bee Study List with Definitions

1.	tag	<i>noun</i>	a game in which one player chases the others and tries to touch one to make them it.
2.	send	<i>verb</i>	to cause to go or be conveyed to another person or place.
3.	deck	<i>noun</i>	a flat structure that is built next to a house and that has no roof or walls.
4.	stuck	<i>verb</i>	attached by or as if by gluing or plastering.
5.	snug	<i>adjective</i>	at rest, warmly covered, and safe from cold.
6.	fish	<i>noun</i>	a cold-blooded animal that lives in the water and that has a spine, gills, and usually fins.
7.	hold	<i>verb</i>	to keep back : to not loose : to not let go.
8.	mind	<i>verb</i>	to become concerned or troubled : to care, worry.
9.	stay	<i>verb</i>	to remain somewhere or with someone instead of leaving.
10.	scrub	<i>verb</i>	to clean with a rubbing action (as by using a stiff brush).
11.	draw	<i>verb</i>	to make lines with a pen, a pencil, or another tool in order to create a picture.
12.	brown	<i>adjective</i>	of a color between red and yellow in hue, of medium to low lightness, and of moderate to low saturation.
13.	cozy OR cosy	<i>adjective</i>	suggesting warmth and homey ease often within smallish or compact quarters.
14.	tint	<i>noun</i>	a usually slight or pale coloration.
15.	milk	<i>noun</i>	a white or yellowish fluid produced by female mammals for the nourishment of their young.
16.	yawn	<i>verb</i>	to take a deep breath with your mouth wide open usually because you're bored or tired.
17.	tank	<i>noun</i>	a large container for holding liquid.
18.	want	<i>verb</i>	to desire or wish for something.
19.	crowd	<i>noun</i>	a large number of people especially when condensed into a compact group without order.
20.	pond	<i>noun</i>	a body of water that is smaller than a lake but larger than a pool, and that either occurs naturally or is confined through man-made means.



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Official Dictionary of the  
Scripps National Spelling Bee.  
[merriam-webster.com](http://merriam-webster.com)



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21.	skirt	<i>noun</i>	the part of an outer garment extending from the waist down that has a free hanging lower edge.
22.	sharks	<i>plural noun</i>	fishes that are usually of medium or large size and that may be active predators or sluggish bottom dwellers.
23.	quilt	<i>noun</i>	a bed covering made of two layers of cloth and having a filling of wool, cotton, or down held in place by stitched designs.
24.	twigs	<i>plural noun</i>	small shoots or branches usually without leaves.
25.	taffy	<i>noun</i>	a candy made usually of molasses or brown sugar boiled until caramelized and pulled until porous and light-colored.
26.	comfy	<i>adjective</i>	giving or promising physical ease, pleasurable feeling, or cheerful well-being.
27.	stretch	<i>verb</i>	to reach out : to extend.
28.	tight	<i>adjective</i>	fitting closely and usually too closely.
29.	candy	<i>noun</i>	a sweet food made with sugar and often flavoring (such as chocolate) and filling.
30.	scrunch	<i>verb</i>	to squeeze together.
31.	ruby	<i>noun</i>	a valuable red gemstone.
32.	close	<i>verb</i>	to block or shut off against entry or passage.
33.	tackle	<i>verb</i>	to come to grips with : to take on.
34.	wire	<i>noun</i>	metal in the form of a usually very flexible thread.
35.	skater	<i>noun</i>	one that glides along on a short board mounted on small wheels propelled by the alternate action of the legs.
36.	giant	<i>adjective</i>	extremely large.
37.	bucket	<i>noun</i>	a typically round and wooden vessel for drawing up water from a well.
38.	chance	<i>noun</i>	opportunity.
39.	baskets	<i>plural noun</i>	lightweight containers in which berries, fruits, or vegetables are packed, shipped, or sold.
40.	tender	<i>adjective</i>	easily broken, cut, or hurt: not hard or tough.



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41.	paste	<i>verb</i>	to stick things together using a substance made for this purpose.
42.	melon	<i>noun</i>	either of two soft-fleshed sweet-flavored gourds that are usually eaten raw as a fruit.
43.	farmer	<i>noun</i>	a person who grows crops such as fruits or vegetables, or raises livestock such as cows or pigs.
44.	parent	<i>noun</i>	a father or mother or one who acts as such.
45.	tail	<i>noun</i>	a thin extension of the body that comes out of the back area of many mammals.
46.	hockey	<i>noun</i>	a game played on an ice rink by two teams of six players on skates whose object is to direct a puck into the opponents' goal with a curved stick.
47.	slime	<i>noun</i>	a gluey substance.
48.	insects	<i>plural noun</i>	small invertebrate animals that are more or less obviously segmented (such as spiders, mites, ticks, centipedes, sowbugs).
49.	teeth	<i>plural noun</i>	the hard bony parts attached to the jaws in the walls of the mouth that serve especially for the seizing and chewing of food.
50.	shortcut	<i>noun</i>	a route more direct or more quickly traveled than the one ordinarily taken.
51.	bait	<i>noun</i>	an enticement used to attract fish or other animals (as to a hook or trap) so that they can be caught.
52.	lure	<i>verb</i>	to attract : to entice.
53.	cluster	<i>noun</i>	a number of similar things grouped together.
54.	forest	<i>noun</i>	a large area of land covered with lots of trees, shrubs and bushes.
55.	hollow	<i>adjective</i>	having an empty space or cavity within : not solid.
56.	spinning	<i>verb</i>	revolving or whirling rapidly.
57.	baffling	<i>adjective</i>	perplexing : confusing.
58.	sizzling	<i>adjective</i>	making a hissing sound.
59.	hoist	<i>verb</i>	to raise : to lift.



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60.	search	<i>noun</i>	an endeavor to find, recover, or bring into view.
61.	remind	<i>verb</i>	to cause to remember.
62.	mango	<i>noun</i>	a yellowish red oblong to pear-shaped tropical fruit that has a firm skin and hard central stone.
63.	coral	<i>adjective</i>	of a variable color averaging a deep pink with yellow.
64.	jangle	<i>verb</i>	to cause to sound harshly or inharmoniously.
65.	shimmer	<i>verb</i>	to shine with a tremulous or fitful light : to gleam faintly.
66.	blossoms	<i>plural noun</i>	the usually colorful flowers of a seed plant.
67.	swampy	<i>adjective</i>	water-logged and poorly drained.
68.	studded	<i>adjective</i>	adorned, covered, or protected with solid buttons.
69.	focus	<i>verb</i>	to concentrate attention or effort.
70.	distress	<i>noun</i>	pain, suffering : anguish of body or mind.
71.	lessons	<i>plural noun</i>	classes taught on a single subject.
72.	moment	<i>noun</i>	a point of time : an instant.
73.	ajar	<i>adverb</i>	slightly open.
74.	basil	<i>noun</i>	the dried or fresh leaves of an aromatic of the mint family that is used especially as a seasoning.
75.	triple	<i>adjective</i>	being three times as much or as great or as many.
76.	satin	<i>noun</i>	a smooth fabric with a shiny front and dull back.
77.	ahoy	<i>interjection</i>	— used in greeting or beckoning by calling to.
78.	signal	<i>noun</i>	a sound or gesture made to give notice.
79.	answer	<i>noun</i>	something spoken or written in reply : a response to a question, call, summons, or appeal.



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80.	shuffle	<i>verb</i>	to slide the feet back and forth without lifting them.
81.	dollop	<i>noun</i>	a lump or blob of something semiliquid or mushy.
82.	minnows	<i>plural noun</i>	small fish common in gravelly streams and attaining a length of about three inches maximum.
83.	silver	<i>noun</i>	a white metallic element that is very easy to shape and is used to make coins, silverware, jewelry and other items.
84.	before	<i>adverb</i>	earlier than.
85.	circus	<i>noun</i>	a spectacular public entertainment given usually in a large tent and made up of acts of physical skill and daring and comedy by clowns.
86.	writing	<i>adjective</i>	of, relating to, or used in or for the act or art of forming letters on a suitable medium to communicate the ideas which characters and words express.
87.	kitchen	<i>noun</i>	a place (such as a room) with cooking facilities.
88.	sugar	<i>noun</i>	a sweet crystallizable substance that consists entirely or essentially of sucrose and that is colorless or white when pure.
89.	awkward	<i>adjective</i>	lacking dexterity or skill especially in the use of the hands or of instruments : clumsy.
90.	seep	<i>verb</i>	to flow or pass slowly through fine pores or small openings : to ooze.
91.	sweet	<i>adjective</i>	marked by or arising from graciousness, kindness, or sympathy.
92.	wheels	<i>plural noun</i>	round frames that attach to a shaft on which they turn.
93.	faint	<i>adjective</i>	feeble, dizzy, and likely to pass out due to hunger, illness, pain, shock or emotion.
94.	fruit	<i>noun</i>	the reproductive body of a seed plant having an edible more or less sweet pulp associated with the seed.
95.	roam	<i>verb</i>	to go from place to place without a specific purpose or direction : rove, wander.
96.	goats	<i>plural noun</i>	agile hollow-horned ruminant mammals long domesticated for their milk, wool, and flesh.
97.	woozy	<i>adjective</i>	affected with dizziness, mild nausea, or weakness.
98.	limbs	<i>plural noun</i>	legs or arms of a human being.



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99.	ahead	<i>adverb</i>	farther in the direction in which a person or thing is going.
100.	señor	<i>noun</i>	mister — used as a title of courtesy prefixed to the name of a Spanish or Spanish-speaking man.
101.	unicorn	<i>noun</i>	an imaginary animal that has the body of a horse, the back legs of a stag, the tail of a lion and a single horn in the middle of its head.
102.	faraway	<i>adjective</i>	distant in space.
103.	heater	<i>noun</i>	a device that gives off warmth.
104.	pirates	<i>plural noun</i>	robbers on the high seas.
105.	understand	<i>verb</i>	to comprehend.
106.	wooden	<i>adjective</i>	lacking in ease, grace, charm, liveliness, lifelikeness, interest, or zest : awkward, clumsy, dry, lifeless, dull.
107.	leaning	<i>verb</i>	casting one's weight by inclining or bearing down to one side.
108.	breakfast	<i>noun</i>	the first meal of the day.
109.	window	<i>noun</i>	an opening in a wall or door that usually contains a sheet of glass and that allows light and air in and permits viewing.
110.	acrobat	<i>noun</i>	one who performs gymnastic feats or exercises.
111.	message	<i>noun</i>	a written or oral communication or other transmitted information sent by messenger or by some other means (as by signals).
112.	chocolate	<i>noun</i>	a small candy with a center (as of fondant, nougat, or nut) and a coating of a food obtained by grinding roasted cacao beans that have been freed from germ and shell.
113.	forepaw	<i>noun</i>	the foot of a quadruped on a front leg.
114.	elephant	<i>noun</i>	any of a family of thickset extremely large nearly hairless herbivorous mammals that have a snout elongated into a muscular trunk and two incisors in the upper jaw developed especially in the male into large ivory tusks.
115.	hedgehog	<i>noun</i>	any of several nocturnal insectivorous mammals that have hair mixed with prickles or spines and are able to roll themselves up so as to present the spines outwardly in every direction.
116.	recipe	<i>noun</i>	a list of ingredients and a statement of the procedure to be followed in making an item of food or drink.
117.	garbage	<i>noun</i>	trash of any kind.

118.	surprise	<i>noun</i>	something unexpected or astonishing.
119.	mermaid	<i>noun</i>	an imaginary sea creature usually represented as having the upper body of a woman and the lower part like the tail of a fish.
120.	bombarded	<i>verb</i>	attacked vigorously or persistently (as with questions or petitions).
121.	disability	<i>noun</i>	a physical or mental illness, injury, or condition that incapacitates in any way.
122.	incredible	<i>adjective</i>	hard to believe real or true : unlikely : improbable.
123.	leather	<i>noun</i>	the skin of an animal tanned or otherwise dressed for use to render it relatively soft and flexible when dry.
124.	countess	<i>noun</i>	a woman who holds in her own right the rank of earl or a corresponding rank.
125.	nervous	<i>adjective</i>	fearful of what may be coming.
126.	peppercorn	<i>noun</i>	a dried berry of a plant of the genus <i>Piper</i> .
127.	cartwheel	<i>noun</i>	a sideways handspring with arms and legs extended.
128.	raise	<i>verb</i>	to lift higher.
129.	weather	<i>noun</i>	meteorological or atmospheric condition.
130.	zooming	<i>verb</i>	moving with or making a loud but low hum or buzz.
131.	attacked	<i>verb</i>	began to injure, damage, or eat.
132.	turnout	<i>noun</i>	a gathering of people for a special purpose.
133.	eaten	<i>adjective</i>	taken in through the mouth as food.
134.	streetlights	<i>plural noun</i>	electric lamps usually mounted on poles at intervals along a public road or highway.
135.	journey	<i>noun</i>	an act of traveling from one place to another.
136.	courtyard	<i>noun</i>	an enclosure attached to a house, castle, palace, or other building.
137.	shouting	<i>noun</i>	speaking in a loud voice.



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138.	asleep	<i>adjective</i>	lacking sensation or feeling : numb.
139.	curious	<i>adjective</i>	showing interest in finding or searching out information.
140.	dinosaur	<i>noun</i>	a member of a group of extinct reptiles.
141.	brilliant	<i>adjective</i>	showing great intelligence, originality, or resourcefulness.
142.	vacuum	<i>verb</i>	to remove by means of an electrical appliance for cleaning by suction.
143.	gorgeous	<i>adjective</i>	dazzlingly beautiful or attractive.
144.	monsoon	<i>noun</i>	the season of heavy rainfall in India and adjacent countries.
145.	dangerous	<i>adjective</i>	involving risk : demanding caution or care as extremely unsafe.
146.	avocado	<i>noun</i>	the pulpy green or purple somewhat pear-shaped edible fruit of various tropical American trees — called also “alligator pear.”
147.	valentine	<i>noun</i>	something sent or given especially to a sweetheart on a day of the same name.
148.	February	<i>noun</i>	the second month of the Gregorian calendar.
149.	formation	<i>noun</i>	a group of troops arranged in a particular order.
150.	especially	<i>adverb</i>	in particular : particularly.
151.	hesitate	<i>verb</i>	to delay or pause typically for a moment.
152.	scorcher	<i>noun</i>	something very hot.
153.	scavenger	<i>noun</i>	an organism that typically feeds on refuse or carrion.
154.	fragments	<i>plural noun</i>	parts broken off : imperfect or incomplete parts.
155.	deflated	<i>verb</i>	released air or gas from.
156.	unleash	<i>verb</i>	to let loose from control or restraint.
157.	ration	<i>noun</i>	the food allowance of one person or one animal for one day.

158.	cosmetics	<i>plural noun</i>	preparations to be applied to the human body for beautifying, preserving, or altering the appearance of a person or for cleansing, coloring, conditioning, or protecting the skin, hair, nails, lips, eyes, or teeth.
159.	crawdad	<i>noun</i>	any of numerous freshwater crustaceans resembling the lobster but usually much smaller in size.
160.	frustration	<i>noun</i>	something that induces feelings of discouragement.
161.	unruly	<i>adjective</i>	not readily ruled, disciplined, or managed : turbulent, uncontrollable.
162.	mascot	<i>noun</i>	something regarded as a cherished emblem or symbol (as of a group or institution).
163.	aroma	<i>noun</i>	any smell or odor.
164.	moustache OR mustache	<i>noun</i>	the hair growing on a man's or a woman's upper lip or that on either side of the upper lip.
165.	artifacts OR artefacts	<i>plural noun</i>	usually simple objects showing human workmanship or modification as distinguished from natural objects; especially : objects remaining from a particular period.
166.	perfume	<i>noun</i>	a fluid containing essences of flowers or synthetics which is used for its scent.
167.	sinister	<i>adjective</i>	evil or suggestive of evil.
168.	tuxedo	<i>noun</i>	semiformal evening clothing for men consisting of a jacket, a stiff or soft pleated shirt, and usually a cummerbund.
169.	discoveries	<i>plural noun</i>	acts or instances of finding or finding out.
170.	lurches	<i>verb</i>	moves unsteadily or in a series of stops and starts : staggers.
171.	language	<i>noun</i>	the words, their pronunciation, and the methods of combining them used and understood by a considerable community and established by long usage.
172.	prognosis	<i>noun</i>	the act or art of foretelling the course of a disease.
173.	Buffalo	<i>geographical entry</i>	city and port on Lake Erie and the Niagara River in western New York.
174.	sequins	<i>plural noun</i>	a small ornament usually of shiny metal or plastic pierced with a hole for sewing onto cloth in decorative designs.
175.	gallop	<i>noun</i>	the natural 3-beat gait of a horse.
176.	fabulous	<i>adjective</i>	outstanding or remarkable especially in some acceptable or pleasing quality.

177.	lanky	<i>adjective</i>	tall, somewhat thin, and usually loose-jointed.
178.	fluently	<i>adverb</i>	in a manner that is easy and flowing : pleasingly graceful.
179.	mysterious	<i>adjective</i>	difficult or impossible to understand : obscure.
180.	brandished	<i>verb</i>	shook or waved (a weapon) menacingly.
181.	sardines	<i>plural noun</i>	any of several small or immature fishes that are suitable for preserving for food.
182.	anguish	<i>noun</i>	extreme pain or distress.
183.	conical	<i>adjective</i>	resembling or having the shape of a solid bounded by a circular or other closed plane base and the surface formed by line segments joining every point of the boundary of the base to a common vertex.
184.	rickety	<i>adjective</i>	weak in the joints : tottering.
185.	lilt	<i>noun</i>	a rhythmical swing, flow, or cadence.
186.	pediatric	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to the care and medical treatment of children.
187.	porridge	<i>noun</i>	a soft food of legumes or grains that are boiled in water or milk until they are thick.
188.	democracy	<i>noun</i>	a government by the people : rule of the majority.
189.	rummage	<i>verb</i>	to make a thorough search in : look through every section of : ransack.
190.	beige	<i>adjective</i>	of a variable color averaging light grayish yellowish brown.
191.	ancestral	<i>adjective</i>	of or belonging to one or more persons from whom one is descended.
192.	grimace	<i>noun</i>	a deliberate or involuntary distortion of the face expressive of some feeling (as contempt or disapprobation).
193.	gaunt	<i>adjective</i>	thin and angular : attenuated especially by fasting or suffering.
194.	enormous	<i>adjective</i>	marked by extraordinarily great size, number, degree or significance.
195.	geranium	<i>noun</i>	any of a widely distributed genus of plants having regular flowers without spurs and with glands that alternate with the petals.

196.	nautical	<i>adjective</i>	of, relating to or associated with sailors, navigation or ships.
197.	dubious	<i>adjective</i>	questionable as to value, quality, origin, or character : open to question.
198.	ebony	<i>adjective</i>	of very low lightness : black, dark — used of color.
199.	foreign	<i>adjective</i>	born in, belonging to, derived from, intended for, or characteristic of some place or country (as nation) other than the one under consideration : not native or domestic.
200.	paltry	<i>adjective</i>	inferior, trashy, worthless.
201.	verdict	<i>noun</i>	an opinion pronounced or felt : decision, judgment.
202.	garbled	<i>verb</i>	mixed up through accident or ignorance : jumbled.
203.	encourages	<i>verb</i>	inspires with mental or moral strength, spirit, or hope.
204.	imitation	<i>noun</i>	an artificial likeness : counterfeit.
205.	miniature	<i>adjective</i>	being or represented on a small scale.
206.	receptionist	<i>noun</i>	one who is employed in a business or professional establishment to greet and help visitors, business callers, or patients.
207.	preamble	<i>noun</i>	a preface or introductory part (as to a written work).
208.	plausible	<i>adjective</i>	superficially worthy of belief : credible.
209.	reprimanding	<i>verb</i>	chiding for a fault : censuring formally and especially with authority.
210.	commotion	<i>noun</i>	noisy confusion.
211.	oblivion	<i>noun</i>	the quality or state of being forgotten.
212.	immigrants	<i>plural noun</i>	persons that come to a country for the purpose of permanent residence.
213.	steeple	<i>noun</i>	a tall structure usually composed of a series of diminishing stories finished at the top with a small spire or cupola surmounting the lower straight-sided story of a church tower.
214.	spectators	<i>plural noun</i>	people watching an exhibition (such as a sports event).

215.	lanyards	<i>plural noun</i>	cords worn around the neck by sailors to which is usually attached a knife.
216.	suspicious	<i>adjective</i>	arousing or tending to arouse the imagination or apprehension of something wrong or hurtful without proof or on slight evidence.
217.	parchment	<i>noun</i>	a thin sheet of a type of paper made for recording writing.
218.	ramshackle	<i>adjective</i>	appearing as if ready to collapse : dilapidated : rickety.
219.	fugitive	<i>noun</i>	one who tries to escape justice.
220.	heron	<i>noun</i>	a wading bird that has a long neck and legs, a long tapering bill with a sharp point and sharp cutting edges, large wings and soft plumage.
221.	dissolving	<i>verb</i>	causing to disperse or disappear : getting rid of.
222.	nomad	<i>noun</i>	a member of a people that has no fixed residence but wanders from place to place usually seasonally.
223.	billowed	<i>verb</i>	rose or rolled in waves or surges : surged, undulated.
224.	skewer	<i>noun</i>	a pin of wood or metal for fastening meat to keep in form while roasting or to hold small pieces of meat and vegetables for broiling.
225.	Berlin	<i>geographical entry</i>	city comprising a state of Germany; capital of Germany on the Spree River.
226.	lunacy	<i>noun</i>	wild foolishness : extravagant folly.
227.	conjure	<i>verb</i>	to bring into reality as if by magic.
228.	bracken	<i>noun</i>	a large coarse fern.
229.	noggin	<i>noun</i>	a person's head.
230.	neon	<i>adjective</i>	extremely bright in color.
231.	rakish	<i>adjective</i>	negligent of convention or strict formality : careless, jaunty, sporty.
232.	hypnosis	<i>noun</i>	a trancelike state that resembles sleep but is induced by a person whose suggestions are readily accepted by the subject.
233.	rotunda	<i>noun</i>	a round building; especially : one that is round both outside and inside and is covered by a dome.



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234.	gusto	<i>noun</i>	vitality marked by an overabundance of healthy positive and often unrefined vigor and enthusiasm.
235.	toiletries	<i>plural noun</i>	articles or preparations used in the process of washing, grooming, and arranging oneself.
236.	gleaned	<i>verb</i>	picked up or scraped together in piecemeal fashion : acquired bit by bit from some source.
237.	jeered	<i>verb</i>	spoke or cried out with derision or mockery.
238.	winsome	<i>adjective</i>	pleasant.
239.	prattling	<i>verb</i>	talking or saying much and idly.
240.	galore	<i>adjective</i>	abundant, plentiful, profuse.
241.	emporium	<i>noun</i>	a large business or store.
242.	atrium	<i>noun</i>	a large central room with other rooms opening from it.
243.	eccentric	<i>adjective</i>	peculiar or strange.
244.	savant	<i>noun</i>	a person of learning; especially : one with detailed knowledge in some specialized field.
245.	almanac	<i>noun</i>	a publication containing statistical, tabular and general information related to a given calendar period, usually a year.
246.	hippies	<i>plural noun</i>	usually young people who reject the mores of established society and adhere to a nonviolent ethic.
247.	samosas	<i>plural noun</i>	fried pastries that are stuffed with vegetables or spiced meat and shaped like small triangles.
248.	campaign	<i>noun</i>	a period of activity usually continuous and often competitive especially in any seasonal occupation or industry.
249.	pistachio	<i>noun</i>	the edible green seed of a small tree of southern Europe and Asia Minor.
250.	mosque	<i>noun</i>	a building used for public worship by Muslims.
251.	zombielike	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to a person markedly strange or abnormal in mentality, appearance, or behavior.
252.	warlock	<i>noun</i>	one given to black magic : sorcerer, wizard.
253.	colossus	<i>noun</i>	one marked by great size, strength, or power, and able to dwarf or dominate others.



## 2025-2026 School Spelling Bee Study List with Definitions

254.	convulsively	<i>adverb</i>	in a manner producing or accompanied by an unnatural, violent, and involuntary contraction or series of contractions of the muscles.
255.	dimensional	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to magnitude and size.
256.	garishly	<i>adverb</i>	in a manner that is tastelessly showy or overdecorated : flamboyant.
257.	graffitist	<i>noun</i>	one who makes an inscription, figure, or design scratched on rocks or walls or on artifacts made of plaster, stone, or clay.
258.	Everest	<i>noun</i>	the highest point : climax, apex.
259.	dexterity	<i>noun</i>	skill and ease in using the hands.
260.	cavorting	<i>verb</i>	bounding, prancing, or frisking about.
261.	marauder	<i>noun</i>	one who roams about and makes irregular sudden small-scale attacks, raids, or incursions for the sake of obtaining loot.
262.	conscience	<i>noun</i>	the sense of right or wrong within the individual.
263.	battlements	<i>plural noun</i>	parapets that consist of alternate solid parts and open spaces that is used in fortified buildings for defense.
264.	deferential	<i>adjective</i>	showing courteous or ingratiating regard for another's wishes.
265.	albatross	<i>noun</i>	any of a number of large web-footed seabirds that are related to the petrels and that include the largest of the seabirds, being capable of long-continued flight and appearing often at great distances from land chiefly over southern seas.
266.	khaki	<i>noun</i>	a durable cotton or woolen cloth used for military uniforms.
267.	opalescent	<i>adjective</i>	having a colored smooth surface that gives the effect of cloudiness and diffusion due to the intentional presence of fissures, striae, and bubbles.
268.	asphalt	<i>noun</i>	a mixture of gravel, sand and petroleum products that is used for pavement.
269.	Yiddish	<i>noun</i>	a High German language spoken by Jews chiefly in eastern Europe and areas to which Jews from eastern Europe have migrated and commonly written in Hebrew characters.
270.	talcum	<i>noun</i>	a soft mineral that is a basic magnesium silicate and is usually whitish, greenish or grayish with a soapy feel.
271.	tranquilizer	<i>noun</i>	a drug used to reduce anxiety and tension states or mental disturbances in people and animals.
272.	equestrian	<i>adjective</i>	related to horseback riding.

273.	plaited	<i>adjective</i>	braided : interwoven.
274.	monsieur	<i>noun</i>	mister.
275.	manticores	<i>plural noun</i>	legendary animals having the head of a man often with horns, the body of a lion, and the tail of a dragon or scorpion.
276.	prestigious	<i>adjective</i>	esteemed in general opinion : honored.
277.	fraidycat	<i>noun</i>	one that is timid or easily frightened.
278.	guttural	<i>adjective</i>	being a speech sound that is formed in the throat.
279.	lo mein	<i>noun</i>	a Chinese dish consisting of sliced vegetables, soft noodles, and usually meat or shrimp in bite-size pieces stir-fried in a seasoned sauce.
280.	courier	<i>noun</i>	one who carries messages, news, or information either with urgent haste or in accordance with a regular schedule.
281.	sans serif	<i>noun</i>	a letter or typeface with letters that have no short lines stemming from and at an angle to the upper and lower ends of the strokes of each letter.
282.	psyche	<i>noun</i>	the soul, self, or personality.
283.	stucco	<i>noun</i>	a fine plaster of high quality used in the decoration and ornamentation of interior walls.
284.	Frankenstein	<i>noun</i>	a work or agency that proves troublesomely uncontrollable especially to its creator; especially : one that ultimately destroys or ruins its creator.
285.	schema	<i>noun</i>	a diagrammatic depiction of a typical or average situation; broadly: an abridged or generalized presentation : a framework of reference.
286.	et cetera	<i>noun</i>	and others especially of the same kind : and so on : and so forth.
287.	vidimus	<i>noun</i>	an official or legal inspection (as of a document); also : an attested copy of a document.
288.	delphine	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to any of various small marine toothed whales that have the snout more or less elongated into a beak and the neck vertebrae partially fused.
289.	slough	<i>noun</i>	a state of moral degradation or spiritual dejection into which one sinks or from which one cannot free oneself : an engulfing depth.
290.	archipelago	<i>noun</i>	a group or cluster of islands.
291.	serape OR sarape	<i>noun</i>	a woolen blanket often of bright geometric patterns worn by Spanish-American men as a cloak or poncho.



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292.	puissance	<i>noun</i>	ability to coerce or sway : controlling influence : power.
293.	pinioning	<i>verb</i>	disabling or restraining by binding the arms usually to the body.
294.	chignon	<i>noun</i>	a smooth knot, twist, or arrangement of hair worn at the back of the head especially at the nape of the neck.
295.	pheromone	<i>noun</i>	a chemical substance that is produced by an animal and serves as a specific stimulus to other individuals of the same species for one or more behavioral responses.
296.	galleon	<i>noun</i>	a heavy chiefly square-rigged sailing ship of the 15th to early 18th centuries used for war or commerce especially by the Spanish.
297.	magnanimous	<i>adjective</i>	having, showing or suggesting nobility of feeling and generosity of mind.
298.	chartreuse	<i>noun</i>	a variable color averaging a brilliant yellow green.
299.	wainscoting	<i>verb</i>	lining (as a wall) with or as if with boards or paneling.
300.	Nehru	<i>adjective</i>	having a long narrow cut and a mandarin collar — usually used of a jacket.
301.	gangly	<i>adjective</i>	having a spindling or awkwardly long growth : loosely built : lanky.
302.	swaggering	<i>adjective</i>	of, relating to, or having the characteristics of one who conducts oneself in an arrogant or superciliously pompous manner.
303.	chimneys	<i>plural noun</i>	vertical structures incorporated into a building and enclosing flues that carry off smoke or other undesirable fumes or gases.
304.	riveted	<i>adjective</i>	attracted and held engrossingly (as the attention).
305.	plaid	<i>adjective</i>	having a cross-barred multicolored pattern.
306.	dirge	<i>noun</i>	a song or hymn expressing grief or a solemn sense of loss especially to accompany funeral or memorial rites.
307.	zeal	<i>noun</i>	impassioned eagerness.
308.	whittled	<i>verb</i>	cut or shaped (as a piece of wood) by paring or cutting off chips from the surface of with a knife.
309.	depots	<i>plural noun</i>	bus stations.
310.	fiberglass	<i>noun</i>	glass in fibrous form used in making various products.



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311.	salvaged	<i>verb</i>	rescued or saved especially from wreckage or ruin.
312.	fissures	<i>plural noun</i>	narrow openings, chasms, or cracks of some length and considerable depth usually occurring from some breaking, rending, or parting.
313.	enthusiastic	<i>adjective</i>	having an ardent, receptive, responsive temperament.
314.	discipline	<i>noun</i>	a subject that is taught : a branch of learning : field of study.
315.	unfamiliar	<i>adjective</i>	not well known : strange, unaccustomed.
316.	scurrying	<i>verb</i>	moving in or as if in a brisk rapidly alternating step.
317.	dignitaries	<i>plural noun</i>	those who possess exalted rank or hold a position of high regard or honor.
318.	pizzeria	<i>noun</i>	an establishment where usually large open pies typically of thinly rolled dough spread with a spiced mixture are made, baked, and sold.
319.	dismissal	<i>noun</i>	the fact or state of being removed from employment, enrollment, position or office.
320.	skittish	<i>adjective</i>	marked by extreme caution: fearful, wary.
321.	careened	<i>verb</i>	swayed from side to side : lurched.
322.	nomination	<i>noun</i>	an act or right of designating by name for an office or duty : appointment.
323.	opportunist	<i>noun</i>	one who practices taking advantage of circumstances, especially with little regard for principles or ultimate consequences.
324.	dictatorship	<i>noun</i>	a form of government in which a chief magistrate or small clique has absolute power without effective constitutional limitations.
325.	comrades	<i>plural noun</i>	very close friends : companions.
326.	sporadic	<i>adjective</i>	occurring occasionally, singly or in scattered instances.
327.	promenade	<i>noun</i>	a leisurely walk or ride especially in a public place for pleasure, display or exercise.
328.	repugnant	<i>adjective</i>	distasteful to a high degree : exciting distaste or aversion : loathsome.
329.	invincible	<i>adjective</i>	incapable of being vanquished or subjugated : impervious to attack or conquest.



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330.	renowned	<i>adjective</i>	celebrated.
331.	parachute	<i>noun</i>	a folding umbrella-shaped device made of light fabric and used for making a safe descent from an airplane, dropping equipment or supplies from an airplane, or slowing down an airplane upon landing.
332.	laborious	<i>adjective</i>	involving or characterized by hard or toilsome effort or by careful and detailed development.
333.	appointment	<i>noun</i>	an arrangement for a meeting : engagement.
334.	foreseeable	<i>adjective</i>	lying within the range for which forecasts are possible.
335.	ratify	<i>verb</i>	to make (as a treaty) valid or legally operative : confirm.
336.	scalpel	<i>noun</i>	a small straight knife with a thin keen blade used especially for dissecting.
337.	reclusive	<i>adjective</i>	marked by seclusion or retirement : solitary.
338.	compassionate	<i>adjective</i>	marked by a ready inclination to pity, sympathy, or tenderness.
339.	bulletin	<i>noun</i>	a brief public notice concerning a matter of marked current interest and usually issuing from an authoritative source.
340.	alfalfa	<i>noun</i>	an important leguminous forage plant grown widely and principally for hay and adapted to widely varying conditions of climate and soil.
341.	officially	<i>adverb</i>	with formal authorization : formally.
342.	crematorium	<i>noun</i>	a building containing a furnace for reducing the bodies of the dead to ashes by the action of fire either directly or in an oven or retort.
343.	bayonet	<i>noun</i>	a steel blade made to be attached to the muzzle end of a type of firearm that is fired while braced against the shoulder.
344.	amicable	<i>adjective</i>	characterized by friendship and goodwill.
345.	exuberant	<i>adjective</i>	joyously unrestrained and enthusiastic.
346.	beautician	<i>noun</i>	someone who is trained to style hair or give beauty treatments.
347.	equations	<i>plural noun</i>	statements of equivalence between two mathematical expressions (such as numbers, functions, magnitudes, operations), the sign = usually being placed between them.
348.	assignment	<i>noun</i>	a specified amount of work or a definite task or mission prescribed by authority or undertaken as though so prescribed.



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349.	ultimatum	<i>noun</i>	a last demand or proposal whose rejection will end negotiations and trigger an action such as force.
350.	whinnying	<i>verb</i>	neighing especially in a low or gentle fashion.
351.	squalor	<i>noun</i>	the quality or state of being marked by filthiness and degradation usually from neglect.
352.	memoirs	<i>plural noun</i>	histories or narratives composed from or stressing personal experience and acquaintance with the events, scenes, or persons described.
353.	cylinders	<i>plural noun</i>	objects or forms having flat circular ends and straight sides.
354.	ominous	<i>adjective</i>	indicative of future misfortune or calamity : causing anxiety and fear.
355.	muffler	<i>noun</i>	any of various devices to deaden the noise of escaping gases or vapor.
356.	syndrome	<i>noun</i>	a group of symptoms or signs typical of a disease, disturbance, or condition in animals or plants.
357.	premises	<i>plural noun</i>	a building and the area of land it sits on.
358.	safari	<i>noun</i>	a hunting or other expedition in east Africa especially on foot.
359.	lasagna	<i>noun</i>	a baked dish containing layers of boiled pasta ribbons, cheese, a seasoned sauce of tomatoes, and meat or vegetables.
360.	substantially	<i>adverb</i>	in a manner considerable in amount, value, or worth.
361.	mercantile	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to merchants or trading : appropriate to or characteristic of merchants : engaged in trade.
362.	formidable	<i>adjective</i>	tending to inspire awe or wonder usually by reason of notable size, quantity, superiority or excellence.
363.	propaganda	<i>noun</i>	the spreading of rumor, ideas or information for the purpose of either helping or injuring a person, institution or cause.
364.	marquee	<i>adjective</i>	having the star power of someone who is famous.
365.	proficient	<i>adjective</i>	well advanced in an art, an occupation, a skill, or a branch of knowledge.
366.	compunction	<i>noun</i>	remorse, reluctance, misgiving.
367.	emphatically	<i>adverb</i>	in an insistent manner.



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368.	hyperventilated	<i>verb</i>	underwent excessive rate and depth of respiration leading to abnormal loss of carbon dioxide from the blood.
369.	ostracism	<i>noun</i>	exclusion from common privileges or social acceptance.
370.	onslaught	<i>noun</i>	an especially fierce attack.
371.	ruefully	<i>adverb</i>	in a pitiable or woeful manner.
372.	misanthrope	<i>noun</i>	one who hates or despises mankind.
373.	prototype	<i>noun</i>	the first full-scale model of a new type or design of furniture, machinery, or vehicle.
374.	cravenly	<i>adverb</i>	in a manner lacking even the rudiments of courage: contemptibly fainheartedly.
375.	mulberry	<i>noun</i>	the edible usually dark purple fruit of a tree of the same name.
376.	hypocritical	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to the act or practice of pretending to be what one is not or to have principles or beliefs that one does not have.
377.	chlorine	<i>noun</i>	a common nonmetallic element best known as a heavy greenish irritating toxic gas of disagreeable odor and used chiefly as a powerful bleaching, oxidizing, and disinfecting agent in water purification.
378.	traumatic	<i>adjective</i>	of, relating to, or resulting from an injury or wound to the human body caused by the application of external force or violence.
379.	receipts	<i>plural noun</i>	writings acknowledging the taking or accepting of goods or money delivered or paid.
380.	solemnly	<i>adverb</i>	in a manner marked by grave sobriety and earnest serious sedateness : free from casualness or lighthearted levity.
381.	begrudge	<i>verb</i>	to look upon or acknowledge with reluctance, hesitation, or disapproval.
382.	contentious	<i>adjective</i>	marked by a wearisome tendency to disputes.
383.	precocious	<i>adjective</i>	manifesting at an early age some of the mental or physical characteristics usually associated with maturity.
384.	ensemble	<i>noun</i>	a group of supporting players or the chorus.
385.	cadre	<i>noun</i>	a nucleus or core group especially of trained personnel or active members of an organization who are capable of assuming leadership or of training and indoctrinating others.
386.	lye	<i>noun</i>	a strong alkaline liquor that contains chiefly potassium carbonate obtained by leaching wood ashes with water and that has been used especially in soapmaking and washing.



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387.	belfry	<i>noun</i>	a bell tower.
388.	lacrosse	<i>noun</i>	a game played with two teams of ten players each with each player using a long-handled stick to catch and throw a ball, and with the object being to throw the ball into the opponents' goal.
389.	sluice	<i>noun</i>	a body of water pent up behind a floodgate or water gate.
390.	cajolery	<i>noun</i>	the act or practice of alluring or inducing by soft words or flattery.
391.	vigilance	<i>noun</i>	watchfulness in respect of danger or hazard.
392.	residuals	<i>plural noun</i>	payments (as to an actor or writer) for each rerun especially of a commercial.
393.	boutique	<i>noun</i>	a small retail store; especially : a specialty shop dealing in ladies' fashionable ready-to-wear clothes and accessories.
394.	peroxide	<i>noun</i>	a binary compound containing a relatively high proportion of oxygen.
395.	aristocracy	<i>noun</i>	an upper class usually made up of a hereditary nobility.
396.	apocalypse	<i>noun</i>	something with the quality of a revelation by prophecy.
397.	tuberculosis	<i>noun</i>	a communicable disease caused by a bacillus and characterized by toxic symptoms or allergic manifestations which in humans primarily affect the lungs.
398.	barricade	<i>noun</i>	an object or objects placed so as to prevent entry or passage.
399.	confreres	<i>plural noun</i>	colleagues : fellow workers (as in a profession or in a field of study).
400.	anonymously	<i>adverb</i>	in a manner that is of unknown or unnamed source or origin.
401.	unparalleled	<i>adjective</i>	having no equal or match.
402.	barrette	<i>noun</i>	a clip used to hold hair in place.
403.	chassis	<i>noun</i>	the frame upon which is mounted the body (as of an automobile or airplane).
404.	junket	<i>noun</i>	a pleasure trip or tour made by an official at public expense ostensibly for purposes of inspection, investigation, or other public business.
405.	quandary	<i>noun</i>	a state of doubt or bewilderment : a dilemma.



Scripps National Spelling Bee®

## 2025-2026 School Spelling Bee Study List with Definitions

406.	Erie	<i>geographical entry</i>	a city and port on a lake in east central North America on the boundary between the U.S. and Canada; one of the Great Lakes.
407.	gingham	<i>noun</i>	a clothing fabric usually of yarn-dyed cotton in plain weave made in solid colors, checks, plaids, and stripes.
408.	silhouette	<i>noun</i>	a likeness of a person or thing showing only the outline, and that is typically filled in with black.
409.	auxiliary	<i>adjective</i>	offering or providing help, assistance, or support especially by interaction.
410.	thesaurus	<i>noun</i>	a book containing a store of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts; specifically : a dictionary of synonyms.
411.	patriarchs	<i>plural noun</i>	men regarded as fathers or founders (as of a race, science, religion or class of people).
412.	chandelier	<i>noun</i>	a lighting fixture suspended from the ceiling and having two or more usually upcurving arms bearing lights, originally candles, or two or more hanging lights.
413.	dulce	<i>noun</i>	sweetmeat, candy — used in the Southwest.
414.	concierge	<i>noun</i>	an attendant at the entrance of a building : a doorkeeper.
415.	latticework	<i>noun</i>	an assemblage of structures of wood or metal made by crossing thin strips so as to form a network.
416.	hibiscus	<i>noun</i>	any plant or flower of a large widely distributed genus of herbs, shrubs or small trees with dentate or lobed leaves and large showy flowers.
417.	tamale	<i>noun</i>	ground meat seasoned with chili or other filling, rolled up in cornmeal dough, wrapped in corn husks, and steamed.
418.	maracas	<i>plural noun</i>	rattles of Latin American origin that are often made from a hollow gourd containing pebbles or dried seeds and that are used as a percussion instrument usually in pairs.
419.	gyroplane	<i>noun</i>	a fixed-wing aircraft balanced and supported by the aerodynamic forces acting on rapidly rotating horizontal or slightly inclined planes.
420.	burpees	<i>plural noun</i>	conditioning exercises in which a person repeats a sequence of squats, push-ups, and vertical jumps.
421.	Adriatic	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to the sea that lies east of Italy.
422.	piccolo	<i>noun</i>	a small shrill flute pitched an octave higher than the ordinary flute.
423.	au revoir	<i>noun</i>	good-bye.
424.	tulle	<i>noun</i>	a sheer and often stiffened machine-made net made with a usually hexagonal mesh and of silk, rayon, or nylon and used chiefly for veils, evening dresses, or ballet costumes.



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425.	boll weevil	<i>noun</i>	a grayish snout beetle about 1/4 inch long that infests the cotton plant, puncturing and laying its eggs in the squares and pods or capsules, the larvae living in and feeding on the interior substance of the buds and pods or capsules and doing great damage to developing cotton.
426.	camphor	<i>noun</i>	a tough gumlike substance obtained especially from the wood and bark of a tree of the same name and used as a stimulant in medicine and as an insect repellent.
427.	Tucson	<i>geographical entry</i>	city in southeastern Arizona.
428.	paparazzi	<i>plural noun</i>	free-lance photographers who aggressively pursue celebrities in order to take candid photographs.
429.	pumpernickel	<i>noun</i>	a sourdough bread made with rye and wheat flours.
430.	pogrom	<i>noun</i>	an organized massacre and looting of helpless people usually with the connivance of officials; specifically : such a massacre of Jews.
431.	bursitis	<i>noun</i>	inflammation of a fluid-filled cavity in a joint of the body.
432.	pâtisserie	<i>noun</i>	a shop that sells French pastry.
433.	cycads	<i>plural noun</i>	any plants abundant in the Mesozoic but now reduced to a few localized and widely scattered tropical forms that have an unbranched trunk which is tall and arborescent or squat and tuberous with a large pith and starchy cortex and that bears a terminal crown of long pinnate leaves together with one or more very large cones.
434.	sarsaparilla	<i>noun</i>	a sweetened carbonated beverage similar to root beer with the predominant flavor from birch oil and sassafras.
435.	maître d'	<i>noun</i>	the head of the dining-room staff of a restaurant or hotel.
436.	cannelloni	<i>noun</i>	tubes especially of pasta filled with a savory stuffing (as of meat).
437.	boulangerie	<i>noun</i>	a bakery that specializes in bread and especially in French-style breads.
438.	bronchitis	<i>noun</i>	acute or chronic inflammation of either of the two primary divisions of the trachea that lead respectively into the right and the left lung.
439.	Oswego	<i>geographical entry</i>	city on Lake Ontario in northern New York.
440.	diphtheria	<i>noun</i>	a contagious disease in children that causes a sore, swollen throat.
441.	baklava	<i>noun</i>	a dessert made of thin pastry layered with nuts and honey.

442.	corbels	<i>plural noun</i>	architectural elements which project from within a wall and support a superincumbent weight; especially : ones that are stepped upward and outward from a vertical surface.
443.	trebuchets	<i>plural noun</i>	medieval military engines designed to hurl stones and similar missiles with great force by means of a heavy weight fastened to the short arm of a lever which raises the end of the long throwing arm with great velocity.
444.	Kilimanjaro	<i>geographical entry</i>	a volcanic mountain in Tanzania near the border of Kenya whose central peak is the highest point in Africa.
445.	fräulein	<i>noun</i>	a usually young unmarried woman especially of Germany.
446.	protégé	<i>noun</i>	one who is protected or trained or whose career is furthered by a person of experience, prominence, or influence : pupil.
447.	hors d'oeuvres	<i>plural noun</i>	any of various savory foods usually served as appetizers at the beginning of a meal.
448.	maquisards	<i>plural noun</i>	French guerrilla fighters in World War II resisting the Nazis.
449.	Aubusson	<i>noun</i>	a tapestry woven originally in the 16th century, noted for its figure and scenic designs, and used for wall hangings and upholstery.
450.	Charolais OR Charollais	<i>noun</i>	a breed of large white cattle developed in France for draft purposes but now kept chiefly as a beef breed and important for crossbreeding.