

Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

1	abattoir [ab-uh-twahr] n.--Another name for slaughterhouse <i>We're the only abattoir left in the district.</i>
2	abhorrent [ab-hawr-uhnt] adj.--causing repugnance, detestable <i>Racial discrimination is morally abhorrent.</i>
3	abscess [ab-ses] n.—a localized collection of pus in the body <i>The doctor's exam revealed an abscess in the liver.</i>
4	acquittal [uh-kwit-l] n. – judicial deliverance from a criminal charge on a verdict or finding of not guilty. <i>The prisoner was released after an acquittal based on the grounds of insanity.</i>
5	agglomeration [uh-glom-uh-rey-shun] n.—a jumbled cluster or mass of varied parts <i>A comet is considered to be fragile agglomeration of ice and dust.</i>
6	aleatory [ey-lee-uh-tawr-ee] adj. – of or depending on chance, luck or contingency <i>Aleatory uncertainty cannot be reduced by collection of additional information.</i>
7	amanuensis [ə-,man-yə-'wen(t)-səs] n. - one employed to write from dictation or to copy manuscript <i>Thanks to the efforts of his dutiful amanuensis, copies of most of the author's letters and unpublished manuscripts have been preserved.</i>
8	ambidextrous [am-bi-dek-struhs] adj.—able to use both hands equally well <i>Because she was ambidextrous, Hailey could write with either hand.</i>
9	arduous ['a - ə-wəs - y -, -jü-əs] a . - : hard to accomplish or achieve : difficult <i>He went through a long and arduous training program.</i>
10	asphyxia [as-fik-see-uh] n. – the extreme condition caused by lack of oxygen and excess of carbon dioxide in the blood, produced by interference with respiration or insufficient oxygen in the air; suffocation. <i>Perinatal asphyxia means lack of oxygen around the time of birth.</i>
11	balalaika [ba-lə-'lī-kə] n. - a usually 3-stringed instrument of Russian origin with a triangular body played by plucking or strumming <i>She played the balalaika extremely well.</i>
12	balbriggan [bal-'b i-gən] n. - knitted cotton fabric used especially for underwear or hosiery <i>The girl wore balbriggan socks.</i>
13	bathymetry [buh-thim-i-tree] n.—measurement of depths of oceans, seas, other lg. bodies of water <i>Knowledge of shallow water bathymetry is vital to many marine activities.</i>
14	blaspheme [blas- fem] v. to speak of or address with irreverence <i>He did not curse or blaspheme.</i>
15	bludgeon [bluhj-uhn] n.—a short, heavy club <i>Early humans fashioned a bludgeon from thick limbs of a tree.</i>
16	candelabrum [kan-dl-ah-bruhm] n.—an ornamental branched holder for more than one candle <i>That brass candelabrum dates from 1789.</i>
17	carotid [kuh-rot-id] n.—either of the two large arteries on the side of the head and neck <i>Before performing CPR, you should check the pulse in the carotid artery.</i>

Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

18	casuistry [kazh-oo-uh-stree] n.—false or dishonest application of morality <i>A master of casuistry, Matt refused to give a straight answer to anything.</i>
19	catastrophe [kuh-tas-truh-fee] n. -- a disastrous event of great significance <i>The collapse of the World Trade Center was a major U.S. catastrophe.</i>
20	catechism [cat-e-chism] <i>noun</i> an elementary book containing a summary of the principles of the Christian religion, especially as maintained by a particular church, in the form of questions and answers. <i>We visit the houses, tend to the sick, and teach catechism to the children.</i>
21	cavalcade [kav-uh l-keyd] n. – any procession <i>The cavalcade of horses was a spectacular event.</i>
22	circumlocution [sir-kuhm-loh kyoo-shuhn] n.—a roundabout or indirect way of speaking <i>Although it would be easier to be frank, many politicians use circumlocution.</i>
23	colloquialism kuh-loh-kwee uh-liz-uhm] n.—an informal expression or style <i>He used an English colloquialism which has a similar meaning.</i>
24	compensation [cohm-pen-say-shuhn] n.—something given or received as payment for service/loss <i>My parents bought me a bike as compensation for mowing the lawn.</i>
25	condolences [Kuhn-doh-luhns-uhs] n.—sympathy with another in sorrow <i>After my neighbor’s dog died, I sent her a card to express my condolences.</i>
26	connoisseur [kon-uh-sor] n.—person who is especially competent in an art or matter of taste <i>Jack is a connoisseur of food and drink.</i>
27	contemporaneous [kuhn-tem-puh-rey-nee-uhs] adj.—living or occurring during the same period of time <i>Songs that are written in this century are contemporaneous.</i>
28	coquettishly [koh-ket-ish-ly] adv.—to flirt lightheartedly <i>The charming young woman winked at me coquettishly for the whole evening.</i>
29	correspondence [kawr-uh-spon-duh ns] n. – communication by exchange of letters <i>The woman had open correspondence with her friend in England.</i>
30	daguerreotype [duh-gair-uh-tahyp] n.—an obsolete photograph process <i>Lloyd thinks the daguerreotype was taken earlier, in 1852.</i>
31	deficient [dih-fish-uhnt] adj.—lacking in some necessary quality or element <i>Ally lunch choice of a candy bar and coke was deficient of any nutrition.</i>
32	diffidence [dif-I-duh ns] n. – the state of lacking confidence in one’s own ability with a fitness <i>Their decision reflected their sense of confidence, not their diffidence.</i>
33	disbursement [dis-burs-muhnt] n.—act of paying out, to expend money from a fund <i>Any disbursement of the school funds requires approval.</i>
34	disoblige [dis-uh-blahyj] v.—to refuse or neglect to act according to the wishes of <i>Michael was sure to disoblige his mother when he refused to obey.</i>
35	dissociate [di-soh-shee-eyt] v.—to separate from association or union with another <i>Abby always attempts to dissociate herself from the mean girls at the school.</i>
36	diverticulitis [dahy-ver-tik-yuh-lahy-tis] n.—inflammation of an abnormal pocket of the colon <i>He was admitted to the hospital with diverticulitis.</i>

Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

37	domesticate [duh-mess-tih-kayt] v.—to adapt a plant/animal to life with humans <i>Unlike a cat, which is easy to train, a cheetah would be difficult to domesticate.</i>
38	dysentery [dis-uhn-ter-ee] n.—an infectious disease marked by diarrhea <i>The dysentery sufferers were removed from the ship.</i>
39	eccrinology [ek-ruh-nol-uh-jee] n.—branch of anatomy dealing with secretions <i>Dr. Johnson’s specialty is eccrinology.</i>
40	ecstasy [ek-stah-see] n.—state of being beyond reason and self-control <i>Tommy was in ecstasy after opening his presents on Christmas morning.</i>
41	equilibrium [ee-kwuh-lih-bree-uhm] n.—a state of intellectual or emotional balance <i>Alex tried to recover his equilibrium after the roller coaster ride.</i>
42	equivocate [ih-kwiv-uh-keyt] v.—to use ambiguous or unclear expressions <i>He was known to equivocate when asked about difficult topics.</i>
43	expediency [ik-spee-dee-uh n-see] n. – the quality of being expedient; advantageousness <i>For expediency the fireman used a latter to get to the second floor.</i>
44	facetious [fuh-see-shuhs] adj.—joking or jesting often inappropriately <i>Andrew was being facetious when he said he didn’t like your dog; he loves dogs.</i>
45	femininity [fem-uh-nin-i-tee] n.—the quality or nature of the female sex <i>She expressed her femininity through long hair, make-up, and fancy clothes.</i>
46	fluorescent [floo-res-uhnt] adj.—having luminescence that is caused by absorption of radiation <i>Fluorescent light bulbs are more efficient than standard bulbs.</i>
47	franchise [fran-chayz] n.—right or license granted to an individual or group <i>The company was given a franchise to operate a recycling system for the city.</i>
48	fuselage [fyoo-suh-lahzh] n.—the central body portion of an aircraft <i>The unpleasant odor from the airplane restroom filled the entire fuselage.</i>
49	gauche [gohsh] adj.—lacking social experience or grace <i>Some people think it is gauche to eat with their hands.</i>
50	gerrymander [jer-ee-man-duhr] n.—to divide into political units to give advantage to one group <i>The gerrymander of the city’s wards unfairly increase representation of one area.</i>
51	heinous [hey-nuh s] adj. – hateful; odious;abominable; totally reprehensible <i>It was unbelievable that the criminal committed such a heinous act.</i>
52	histiocyte [his-tee-uh-sahyt] n.—a clump of white blood cells that occurs in connective tissue <i>The scan showed a several histiocyte in his lymph nodes.</i>
53	hydrodynamics [hahy-droh-dahy-nam-iks] n.—study of dynamics of fluids in motion <i>The scientists studied hydrodynamics to discover new ways for fluid to power vehicles.</i>
54	ichthyology [ik-thee-ol-uh-jee] n.—branch of zoology dealing with fishes <i>My cousin is very interested in ichthyology.</i>
55	impecunious [im-pi-kyoo-ni-uhs] adj.—having little or no money <i>When I was an impecunious student, I could barely pay for my books.</i>
56	impinge [im-pinj] v.—to strike or dash, especially with a sharp collision <i>During a thunderstorm, hail can impinge on house and cars, causing significant damage.</i>
57	innate [ih-neyt] adj. existing in one from birth, inborn, native <i>Babies have an innate ability to delight their mothers by simply smiling.</i>

Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

58	insouciance [in-soo-see-uhns] n.—quality of being carefree or unconcerned <i>He has a boyish insouciance about him.</i>
59	interrogative [in-tuh-rah-guh-tiv] adj.—having the form or force of a question <i>To encourage participation, the teacher used interrogative statements.</i>
60	intussusception [in-tuhs-suh-sep-shuhn] n.—an obstruction caused by a length of intestine slipping into an adjacent portion <i>Intussusception often occurs in small children, particularly boys.</i>
61	irreconcilable [ih-rek-uhn-sahy-luh-buhl] adj.—incapable of being brought into harmony <i>Our views are irreconcilable, so there seems to be no way to agree.</i>
62	kyphosis [kahy-foh-sis] adj.—curvature of the spine resulting in rounded upper back <i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame had severe kyphosis.</i>
63	lachrymose [lak-ruh-mohs] adj.—tending to cause tears, mournful <i>At the farewell party, Joyce was surrounded by a lachrymose family.</i>
64	lackadaisical [lak-uh-dey-zi-kuhl] adj.—without interest, vigor, or determination <i>Many students have poor grades because of their lackadaisical approach to school.</i>
65	legitimate [li-jit-uh-mit] adj. – in accordance with established rules, principles or standards <i>Separating spam from legitimate e-mail isn't easy.</i>
66	loophole [loop-hohl] n.—small opening or aperture <i>There was a loophole through to the building next door.</i>
67	magnanimous [mag-nan-uh-muh s] adj. – generous in forgiving an insult or injury; free from petty resentment or vindictiveness <i>It's sometimes not easy to be magnanimous toward one's enemies.</i>
68	malefactor [mal-uh-fak-tuhr] n.—one who commits an offense against the law <i>Because she had talked unfavorably, Suzanne was the malefactor in the fight.</i>
69	mansuetude [man-swi-tood] n.—mildness, gentleness <i>While her voice had an air of mansuetude, it still rang out over the others.</i>
70	mendacious [men-day-shuhs] adj.—given to deception or falsehood <i>Bob gave us mendacious tales of his African safari adventures.</i>
71	metallurgical [met-l-ur-ji-kuhl] adj.—technique of heating metals into specific shapes or properties <i>We went on a tour of a metallurgical research laboratory.</i>
72	meteor [mee-tee-uhr] n.—a transient fiery streak in the sky produced by a meteoroid passing through the earth's atmosphere; a shooting star <i>The meteor left a long bright streak in the dark night sky.</i>
73	mnemonic [ni-mon-ik] adj.—intending to assist the memory <i>I like to use acronyms or a mnemonic device.</i>
74	monsoon [mahn-soon] n.—wind system that brings heavy rainfall to S. Asia <i>The monsoon brought heavy rains and 90 mph winds.</i>
75	nonchalance [non-shuh-lahns] n. – the state or quality of being nonchalant; cool indifference or lack of concern; casualness

Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

	<i>Although a calm is welcome, nonchalance is not justified.</i>
76	nouveau [noo-voh] adj.—recently created, developed, or come to prominence <i>The sudden success of the firm created several nouveau millionaires.</i>
77	numerator [noo-muh-rey-ter] n.—part of a fraction that is above the line, to be divided <i>Which number is the numerator and which is the denominator?</i>
78	oblique [oh-bleek] adj.—neither perpendicular nor parallel <i>Measure the angle to see if the triangle is a right triangle or oblique.</i>
79	obsequious [uhb-see-kwee-uhs] adj.—exhibiting a fawning attentiveness <i>She expressed obsequious behavior towards her dog, including taking it to the spa.</i>
80	obsolete [ob-suh-leet] adj.—no longer in use or no longer useful <i>The computer my mom used in college is definitely obsolete.</i>
81	onomatopoeia [on-uh-mat-uh-pee-uh] n. – the formation of a word, as cuckoo, meow, honk or boom, by imitation of a sound made by or associated with its referent <i>Onomatopoeia was used in discussion for new names for children’s books.</i>
82	opprobrious [uh-proh-bree-uhs] adj.—outrageously disgraceful or shameful <i>The argument quickly deteriorated into opprobrious taunts and name-calling.</i>
83	orthopedist [or-tho-pe-dist] n. -- A medical professional who specializes in the skeletal system, mainly the extremities and spine. Their focus: correcting any deformities or impairments of these areas. <i>The orthopedist examined her knee after surgery to determine whether she needed further treatment.</i>
84	palatable [pal-uh-tuh-buh l] adj. – acceptable or agreeable to the palate or taste; savory <i>The young boy found the taste of lemons not palatable to him.</i>
85	pedagogue ['pe- ə- ,gäg] n. - teacher, schoolmaster; especially : a dull, formal, or pedantic teacher <i>She was a pedagogue whose classroom lessons consisted entirely of reading directly from the textbook in a monotone.</i>
86	pernicious [puhr-ni-shuhs] adj.—highly injurious or destructive <i>The hurricane was extremely pernicious; it wiped out entire villages.</i>
87	phosphorescence [fos-fuh-res-uh ns] n. luminescence that is caused by the absorption of radiations (as light or electrons) and continues for a noticeable time after these radiations have stopped. <i>I had been pumping that night and there was phosphorescence in the water.</i>
88	picnicking [pik-nik-ing] v.—to go on a picnic <i>We packed a lunch to eat when we go picnicking this afternoon.</i>
89	picturesque [pik-shuh-resk] adj. – visually charming or quaint, as if resembling or suitable for a painting <i>The hotel was near the most beautiful and picturesque lake.</i>
90	poignancy [poy-nyuhn-see] n.—a state of deeply felt distress or sorrow <i>The Diary of Anne Frank captured the poignancy of the Holocaust.</i>

Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

91	precipice [pre-suh-puhs] n.—a very steep or overhanging place <i>There is a beautiful view from the precipice on the mountain.</i>
92	prodigious [pruh-dij-uh s] adj. – extraordinary in size, amount, extent, degree, force; wonderful or marvelous <i>The legal costs involved in this enormous litigation could be prodigious.</i>
93	pseudonym [sood-n-im] n. – a fictitious name used by an author to conceal his or her identity; pen name <i>Mark Twain was a pseudonym for the writer Samuel Clemens.</i>
94	rescind [ri-sind] v.—to annul, revoke, or appeal <i>We must have consent from the chairman to rescind the agreement.</i>
95	veille [rev-uh-lee] n.—signal sounded early to awaken military personnel <i>When the bugles played the veille, we knew it was time to arise.</i>
96	righteous [rayh-chuhs] adj.—acting in accord with divine or moral law <i>The boy did the righteous thing and returned the wallet he found at the store.</i>
97	satiate [sey-shee-yet] v.—to supply with anything to excess <i>There's history enough, both modern and ancient, to satiate even the most enthusiastic.</i>
98	schooner [skoo-nuhr] n.—a sailing vessel with two masts <i>Today a schooner is primarily used for recreational purposes.</i>
99	sieve [siv] n.—utensil of mesh, used for straining and sifting <i>The chef used a sieve to separate seeds from his tomato puree.</i>
100	soliloquy [suh-li-luh-kwee] n.—the act of talking to oneself <i>The main character had a soliloquy after the other characters had left the stage.</i>
101	styptic [stip-tik] adj. - tending to contract or bind astringent; especially: tending to check bleeding <i>Any other type of bleeding should be stopped with direct pressure to the wound as well as styptic powder.</i>
102	subterfuge [suhb-tuhr-fyuj] n.—deception by artifice in order to conceal, escape, or evade <i>The box was used as subterfuge, no one expected the robbers to hide in it.</i>
103	subvert [suhb-vuht] v.—to overturn or overthrow from the foundation <i>Teenagers often try to subvert their parents' authority by breaking rules.</i>
104	synchronous ['sɪŋ-k ə-nəs] a.— happening, existing, or arising at precisely the same time <i>The synchronous arrival of a baby sister and loss of a beloved grandmother strongly affected the child.</i>
105	tamarind [ta-mjuh-ruhnd] n.—a tropical old world tree <i>A tamarind is sensitive to frost and can't grow in cold climates.</i>
106	trajectory [truh-jek-tuh-ree] n.—curve that a body describes in <i>Each planet follows a unique trajectory.</i>
107	trichinosis [trik-uh-noh-sis] n.—disease caused by eating undercooked pork <i>You must cook pork well so you don't get trichinosis.</i>
108	triumvirate [trahy-uhm-vuh-ruht] n.—one of a commission or ruling body of three <i>The President, Vice President, and Treasurer form a triumvirate for the student council.</i>

Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

109	turpitude [tuhr-puh-tood] n.—inherent baseness; a base act <i>His turpitude was evident in his neglect of and cruelty to his dogs.</i>
110	unctuous [uhngk-choo-uhs] adj.—excessively smooth, suave, or smug <i>He gave an unctuous appraisal of the child’s musical program.</i>
111	utilitarian [yoo-til-uh-ter-ee-uhn] n.—having regard for usefulness rather than beauty <i>The barn is a rather utilitarian building set just beyond a group of trees.</i>
112	valedictorian [val-i-dik-tawr-ee-uh n] n. – a student, usually the one ranking highest academically in a school graduating class, who delivers the valedictory at the commencement exercises. <i>She was valedictorian of her high school and an engineering major.</i>
113	variegated [vair-ee-i-gey-tid] adj.—varied in appearance or color <i>A variegated ivy would look good all year around.</i>
114	vengeance [ven-juhnts] n.—act or instance of paying back an injury with an injury <i>After the toddler hit her brother, he sought vengeance by pulling her hair.</i>
115	ventilate [ven-tuh-layt] v.—to expose to fresh air for purifying, curing or refreshing <i>It is important to ventilate grain stored in a grain elevator so it doesn’t rot.</i>
116	verisimilitude [ver-uh-si-mil-i-tood] n—the appearance or semblance of truth <i>The play was silly, it lacked any verisimilitude.</i>
117	vichyssoise [vish-ee-swahz] n.—cream soup of potatoes and leeks, served chilled <i>She loves to order the vichyssoise at the French restaurant.</i>
118	vociferous [voh-sif-er-uhs] adj.—crying out noisily, clamorous <i>So far he has been met with vociferous opposition.</i>
119	withhold [with-hohld] v.—to hold back or restrain <i>You can go to jail if you withhold payment of your taxes.</i>
120	xebec [zee-bek] n.—a small, three-masted vessel of the Mediterranean <i>Sometimes pirates would use a xebec as their pirate ship.</i>
121	yeoman [yoh-muhn] n.—lower-class farmer who worked his own land <i>It was hard work being the son of a yeoman.</i>
122	zapateado [zah-puh-tee-ah-doh] n.—spanish dance, marked by rhythmic tapping of the heels <i>We all gathered in the piazza to watch Juan do a zapateado.</i>
123	zealot [zel-uh t] n. – an excessively zealous person; fanatic <i>The man was considered a zealot because he held fast to his beliefs.</i>
124	zephyr [zef-er] n.—a gentle, mild breeze <i>A zephyr passed through the trees, rustling the leaves.</i>
125	zouave [zoo-ahv] n. – a member of any body of soldiers adopting a similar dress and drill, especially a soldier serving in any of certain volunteer regiments in the American Civil War. <i>A Civil War volunteer was called a zouave because of the design of his regiment’s uniform.</i>