

## Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

1	<b>abattoir</b> [ab-uh-twahr] n.--Another name for slaughterhouse <i>We're the only <b>abattoir</b> left in the district.</i>
2	<b>abhorrent</b> [ab-hawr-uhnt] adj.--causing repugnance, detestable <i>Racial discrimination is morally <b>abhorrent</b>.</i>
3	<b>abscess</b> [ab-ses] n.—a localized collection of pus in the body <i>The doctor's exam revealed an <b>abscess</b> in the liver.</i>
4	<b>acquittal</b> [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 <b>acquittal</b> based on the grounds of insanity.</i>
5	<b>agglomeration</b> [uh-glom-uh-rey-shun] n.—a jumbled cluster or mass of varied parts <i>A comet is considered to be fragile <b>agglomeration</b> of ice and dust.</i>
6	<b>aleatory</b> [ey-lee-uh-tawr-ee] adj. – of or depending on chance, luck or contingency <i><b>Aleatory</b> uncertainty cannot be reduced by collection of additional information.</i>
7	<b>amanuensis</b> [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 <b>amanuensis</b>, copies of most of the author's letters and unpublished manuscripts have been preserved.</i>
8	<b>ambidextrous</b> [am-bi-dek-struhs] adj.—able to use both hands equally well <i>Because she was <b>ambidextrous</b>, Hailey could write with either hand.</i>
9	<b>arduous</b> ['a - ə-wəs - y -, -jü-əs] a . - : hard to accomplish or achieve : difficult <i>He went through a long and <b>arduous</b> training program.</i>
10	<b>asphyxia</b> [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 <b>asphyxia</b> means lack of oxygen around the time of birth.</i>
11	<b>balalaika</b> [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 <b>balalaika</b> extremely well.</i>
12	<b>balbriggan</b> [bal-'b i-gən] n. - knitted cotton fabric used especially for underwear or hosiery <i>The girl wore <b>balbriggan</b> socks.</i>
13	<b>bathymetry</b> [buh-thim-i-tree] n.—measurement of depths of oceans, seas, other lg. bodies of water <i>Knowledge of shallow water <b>bathymetry</b> is vital to many marine activities.</i>
14	<b>blaspheme</b> [blas- fem] v. to speak of or address with irreverence <i>He did not curse or <b>blaspheme</b>.</i>
15	<b>bludgeon</b> [bluhj-uhn] n.—a short, heavy club <i>Early humans fashioned a <b>bludgeon</b> from thick limbs of a tree.</i>
16	<b>candelabrum</b> [kan-dl-ah-bruhm] n.—an ornamental branched holder for more than one candle <i>That brass <b>candelabrum</b> dates from 1789.</i>
17	<b>carotid</b> [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 <b>carotid</b> artery.</i>

## Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

18	<b>casuistry</b> [kazh-oo-uh-stree] n.—false or dishonest application of morality <i>A master of <b>casuistry</b>, Matt refused to give a straight answer to anything.</i>
19	<b>catastrophe</b> [kuh-tas-truh-fee] n. -- a disastrous event of great significance <i>The collapse of the World Trade Center was a major U.S. <b>catastrophe</b>.</i>
20	<b>catechism</b> [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 <b>catechism</b> to the children.</i>
21	<b>cavalcade</b> [kav-uh l-keyd] n. – any procession <i>The <b>cavalcade</b> of horses was a spectacular event.</i>
22	<b>circumlocution</b> [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 <b>circumlocution</b>.</i>
23	<b>colloquialism</b> kuh-loh-kwee uh-liz-uhm] n.—an informal expression or style <i>He used an English <b>colloquialism</b> which has a similar meaning.</i>
24	<b>compensation</b> [cohm-pen-say-shuhn] n.—something given or received as payment for service/loss <i>My parents bought me a bike as <b>compensation</b> for mowing the lawn.</i>
25	<b>condolences</b> [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 <b>condolences</b>.</i>
26	<b>connoisseur</b> [kon-uh-sor] n.—person who is especially competent in an art or matter of taste <i>Jack is a <b>connoisseur</b> of food and drink.</i>
27	<b>contemporaneous</b> [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 <b>contemporaneous</b>.</i>
28	<b>coquettishly</b> [koh-ket-ish-ly] adv.—to flirt lightheartedly <i>The charming young woman winked at me <b>coquettishly</b> for the whole evening.</i>
29	<b>correspondence</b> [kawr-uh-spon-duh ns] n. – communication by exchange of letters <i>The woman had open <b>correspondence</b> with her friend in England.</i>
30	<b>daguerreotype</b> [duh-gair-uh-tahyp] n.—an obsolete photograph process <i>Lloyd thinks the <b>daguerreotype</b> was taken earlier, in 1852.</i>
31	<b>deficient</b> [dih-fish-uhnt] adj.—lacking in some necessary quality or element <i>Ally lunch choice of a candy bar and coke was <b>deficient</b> of any nutrition.</i>
32	<b>diffidence</b> [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 <b>diffidence</b>.</i>
33	<b>disbursement</b> [dis-burs-muhnt] n.—act of paying out, to expend money from a fund <i>Any <b>disbursement</b> of the school funds requires approval.</i>
34	<b>disoblige</b> [dis-uh-blahyj] v.—to refuse or neglect to act according to the wishes of <i>Michael was sure to <b>disoblige</b> his mother when he refused to obey.</i>
35	<b>dissociate</b> [di-soh-shee-eyt] v.—to separate from association or union with another <i>Abby always attempts to <b>dissociate</b> herself from the mean girls at the school.</i>
36	<b>diverticulitis</b> [dahy-ver-tik-yuh-lahy-tis] n.—inflammation of an abnormal pocket of the colon <i>He was admitted to the hospital with <b>diverticulitis</b>.</i>

## Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

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

## Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

58	<b>insouciance</b> [in-soo-see-uhns] n.—quality of being carefree or unconcerned <i>He has a boyish <b>insouciance</b> about him.</i>
59	<b>interrogative</b> [in-tuh-rah-guh-tiv] adj.—having the form or force of a question <i>To encourage participation, the teacher used <b>interrogative</b> statements.</i>
60	<b>intussusception</b> [in-tuhs-suh-sep-shuhn] n.—an obstruction caused by a length of intestine slipping into an adjacent portion <i><b>Intussusception</b> often occurs in small children, particularly boys.</i>
61	<b>irreconcilable</b> [ih-rek-uhn-sahy-luh-buhl] adj.—incapable of being brought into harmony <i>Our views are <b>irreconcilable</b>, so there seems to be no way to agree.</i>
62	<b>kyphosis</b> [kahy-foh-sis] adj.—curvature of the spine resulting in rounded upper back <i>The Hunchback of Notre Dame had severe <b>kyphosis</b>.</i>
63	<b>lachrymose</b> [lak-ruh-mohs] adj.—tending to cause tears, mournful <i>At the farewell party, Joyce was surrounded by a <b>lachrymose</b> family.</i>
64	<b>lackadaisical</b> [lak-uh-dey-zi-kuhl] adj.—without interest, vigor, or determination <i>Many students have poor grades because of their <b>lackadaisical</b> approach to school.</i>
65	<b>legitimate</b> [li-jit-uh-mit] adj. – in accordance with established rules, principles or standards <i>Separating spam from <b>legitimate</b> e-mail isn't easy.</i>
66	<b>loophole</b> [loop-hohl] n.—small opening or aperture <i>There was a <b>loophole</b> through to the building next door.</i>
67	<b>magnanimous</b> [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 <b>magnanimous</b> toward one's enemies.</i>
68	<b>malefactor</b> [mal-uh-fak-tuhr] n.—one who commits an offense against the law <i>Because she had talked unfavorably, Suzanne was the <b>malefactor</b> in the fight.</i>
69	<b>mansuetude</b> [man-swi-tood] n.—mildness, gentleness <i>While her voice had an air of <b>mansuetude</b>, it still rang out over the others.</i>
70	<b>mendacious</b> [men-day-shuhs] adj.—given to deception or falsehood <i>Bob gave us <b>mendacious</b> tales of his African safari adventures.</i>
71	<b>metallurgical</b> [met-l-ur-ji-kuhl] adj.—technique of heating metals into specific shapes or properties <i>We went on a tour of a <b>metallurgical</b> research laboratory.</i>
72	<b>meteor</b> [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 <b>meteor</b> left a long bright streak in the dark night sky.</i>
73	<b>mnemonic</b> [ni-mon-ik] adj.—intending to assist the memory <i>I like to use acronyms or a <b>mnemonic</b> device.</i>
74	<b>monsoon</b> [mahn-soon] n.—wind system that brings heavy rainfall to S. Asia <i>The <b>monsoon</b> brought heavy rains and 90 mph winds.</i>
75	<b>nonchalance</b> [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, <b>nonchalance</b> is not justified.</i>
76	<b>nouveau</b> [noo-voh] adj.—recently created, developed, or come to prominence <i>The sudden success of the firm created several <b>nouveau</b> millionaires.</i>
77	<b>numerator</b> [noo-muh-rey-ter] n.—part of a fraction that is above the line, to be divided <i>Which number is the <b>numerator</b> and which is the denominator?</i>
78	<b>oblique</b> [oh-bleek] adj.—neither perpendicular nor parallel <i>Measure the angle to see if the triangle is a right triangle or <b>oblique</b>.</i>
79	<b>obsequious</b> [uhb-see-kwee-uhs] adj.—exhibiting a fawning attentiveness <i>She expressed <b>obsequious</b> behavior towards her dog, including taking it to the spa.</i>
80	<b>obsolete</b> [ob-suh-leet] adj.—no longer in use or no longer useful <i>The computer my mom used in college is definitely <b>obsolete</b>.</i>
81	<b>onomatopoeia</b> [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><b>Onomatopoeia</b> was used in discussion for new names for children’s books.</i>
82	<b>opprobrious</b> [uh-proh-bree-uhs] adj.—outrageously disgraceful or shameful <i>The argument quickly deteriorated into <b>opprobrious</b> taunts and name-calling.</i>
83	<b>orthopedist</b> [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 <b>orthopedist</b> examined her knee after surgery to determine whether she needed further treatment.</i>
84	<b>palatable</b> [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 <b>palatable</b> to him.</i>
85	<b>pedagogue</b> ['pe- ə- ,gäg] n. - teacher, schoolmaster; especially : a dull, formal, or pedantic teacher <i>She was a <b>pedagogue</b> whose classroom lessons consisted entirely of reading directly from the textbook in a monotone.</i>
86	<b>pernicious</b> [puhr-ni-shuhs] adj.—highly injurious or destructive <i>The hurricane was extremely <b>pernicious</b>; it wiped out entire villages.</i>
87	<b>phosphorescence</b> [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 <b>phosphorescence</b> in the water.</i>
88	<b>picnicking</b> [pik-nik-ing] v.—to go on a picnic <i>We packed a lunch to eat when we go <b>picnicking</b> this afternoon.</i>
89	<b>picturesque</b> [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 <b>picturesque</b> lake.</i>
90	<b>poignancy</b> [poy-nyuhn-see] n.—a state of deeply felt distress or sorrow <i>The Diary of Anne Frank captured the <b>poignancy</b> of the Holocaust.</i>

## Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

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

## Spelling Bee Grade 8 Word List

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