Fresno County Elementary Spell-Off

Study Word List
Grades 4-6

rehearsal - ri HUR suhl
a practice session preparatory to a public performance
This is the final **rehearsal** before tomorrow's concert.

statistician - stat is TISH uhn
one engaged in compiling and analyzing numerical data
The team **statistician** lets us know our batting averages before every game.

fulminating - ful-mi-nat-ing
thundering forth; exploding
It was a **fulminating** rally for the political candidate.

fervor - FUR vuhr
intensity of feeling; ardent zeal
Upon seeing the Declaration of Independence, we experienced a surge of patriotic **fervor**.

persistent - pur SIS tuhnt
continuing, existing or acting for longer than the usual time
This has been **persistent** cold spell.

hammer - HAM uhr
a tool used for pounding nails
Please bring a **hammer** to the work party tomorrow.

Massachusetts - MAS uh chooh sets
one of the six states comprising New England
The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, **Massachusetts**.

squabble - SKWAH-bul
to quarrel noisily and to no purpose
Children **squabble** when they are tired.

indebted - in DET uhd
owing something
I will forever be **indebted** to you for your kindness.

dynamite - DEYE nuh mite
a explosive
They had to **dynamite** the building in order to knock it down.

blasphemy - BLAS fuh mee
any irreverent act or utterance
It was **blasphemy** to speak ill of our teachers.

pasteurize - PAS chuh rize
partial sterilization of a fluid by exposure to heat
The dairy will **pasteurize** milk before bottling.

Illinois - il uh NOY
a north central state of the United States
Over twenty inches of snow fell on parts of **Illinois** and Indiana.

bullion - bool-yun
gold or silver
A large shipment of gold **bullion** was delivered to the mint.

vengeance - ven-jans
revenge
The family sought **vengeance** for the loss.

pestle - pe-sel OR pes-tel
a club-shaped grinding tool
Many indigenous people used a **pestle** to grind food in a mortar.

supple - SUP uhl
capable of being bent or folded without creases or breaks; pliant
These boots are made out of very **supple** leather.

adolescence - "a-del-'e-sen(t)s
the state between childhood and adulthood; a time of growing up
Good habits formed in **adolescence** are assets in later life.

Fahrenheit - FAIR uhn hite
a temperature scale
Normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees **Fahrenheit**.

cashier - ka-'shir
an officer in a bank or company responsible for receipts and disbursements
The **cashier** collected the receipts and recorded them for the bank.

deciduous - di SIG e wes
shedding leaves annually
The fall colors on the **deciduous** trees are beautiful.

raspberry - RAZ ber ee
small round fleshy red or black berry
These **raspberry** preserves won a blue ribbon at the county fair.

rapscallion - rap scal-yun
a rascal; a ne'er do-well
I was advised to stay away from the **rapscallion**.

traffic - TRAF ik
the movement or number of automobiles along a street
There is a lot more **traffic** on the freeway now.

litter - 'li-ter
scattered rubbish; disorder or untidiness
The **litter** of paper on the sidewalk was deplorable.

tyranny - TIR uh nee
a government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler
The people rebelled against the **tyranny** of their oppressive ruler.

narrate - nar-rate
to tell in writing or speech
The teacher began to **narrate** the story.

superintendent - super-in-ten-dent
person in charge; supervisor, custodian
The **superintendent** was found to be honest and trustworthy.

wreck or reck - rek
damage or destroy
A careless driver will some day **wreck** his car.

excuse - eks-kus
an explanation; that which is offered as a reason
What is your **excuse** for being late?

reprehensible - rep-re-hen-si-b'l
deserving to be reprehended
Assassination is a **reprehensible** crime.

Australia - aws TRAYL yuh
a continent (country) southeast of Asia
Someday I hope to visit **Australia** and see koala bears and kangaroos in the wild.

apparatus - ap pah RAT us
equipment used to do a particular kind of work
The balance beam is an **apparatus** in gymnastics.

concerto - kuhn CHAIR toh
a piece for one or more soloists and orchestra
She played the piano **concerto** beautifully.

reminisce - rem uh NIS
to think or talk about things from the past
At school I can **reminisce** about the good time I had at the spelling competition.

prying - prI-ing
improperly curious or inquisitive
Someone was **prying** into her personal affairs.

Connecticut - kuh NET uh kut
one of the New England states
Hartford, **Connecticut** is a major insurance center.

facsimile - fak SIM uh lee
an exact copy, especially one transmitted electronically
I am sending you a **facsimile** of this report.

Juneau - JOOH noh
the capital of Alaska
The city of **Juneau** Alaska is not accessible by road.

bruise or brews - BROOHZ
to crush or damage by pounding
Dropping a peach will **bruise** it.

buyer or byre - BEYE uhr
a purchaser for a store
The **buyer** selected an entire new line of clothing for the store.

technology - ek-NAH-luh-jee
applied science
The rate of **technology** seems to increase every day.

hieroglyphs - HEYE ruh glifs
picture writing, especially ancient
Egyptian tombs frequently contain **hieroglyphs** depicting animals.

familiar - fa-'mil-yur
well acquainted
I am very **familiar** with the rigors of studying for a spelling competition.

pattern - PAT uhrn
a regular, mainly unvarying way of acting or doing
I always follow the same **pattern** when getting ready for school.

abdominal - ab-däm-n'l
lower part of the truck of the human body; in, or for the abdomen
The **abdominal** bandage seemed too tight.

orchid - OR kid
the flower of a tropical plant with three petals, the lowest of which is enlarged
When we stepped off the plane in Hawaii, we were each given an **orchid** lei.

euphemism - 'yü-fa-'mi-zum
use of a word considered less distasteful even though less direct
Instead of referring to the body as a corpse, they used the **euphemism**, remains'.

refuge - re-fyüj OR e-fyüzh
a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat
The deer sought a **refuge** from the hunters.

impress - im-'pres
to leave pressure on so as to leave a mark
We will **impress** the leaf on the paper to make a design.

giraffe - juh RAF
large cud-chewing animal with a very long neck and legs
During our trip to the zoo we enjoyed watching the **giraffe** chew on the acacia leaves.

perturb - per-TERB
to cause to be alarmed, agitated, or upset; disturb or trouble greatly
The loudspeaker may **perturb** the musician in the adjoining rooms.

poultry - POHL tree
domestic fowls
The preschoolers enjoyed their visit to the **poultry** farm.

coalesce - kO-uh-les
to grow together; to unite or merge into a single body
The splint would help the broken bones to continue to **coalesce**.

inspire - in-SPY-er OR in-SPYRE
to have an animating effect upon; influence or impel
The concert did **inspire** him to be a musician.

fiction - FIK shun
anything made up or imagined, as a statement, story, etc.
The librarian directed us to the **fiction** section.

plaintive - PLAYN-tiv
causing pity
The lost kitten gave a **plaintive** cry.

Hawaii - huh WEYE ee
the island state in the Pacific
The climate of **Hawaii** attracts many visitors.

scary - SKAIR ee
causing alarm; frightening
I did not like that **scary** movie.

glossy - glä-sE
having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish
The **glossy** cat was sleeping in the window.

counterfeit - KOWNT-er-fit
to imitate or copy, especially with intent to deceive
This is the way to check if this bill is **counterfeit**.

zucchini - zooh KEE nee
a summer squash, dark green in color
Stuffed **zucchini** is one of my favorite dishes.

orthodox - OR thuh dahks
traditional; conservative in belief
My teacher encourages both **orthodox** and novel approaches to learning.

drawl - drol
to speak in a slow, lengthened tone
Pardon my southern **drawl**.

villain - VIH-lin
an evil person; scoundrel
In a melodrama, the audience boos whenever the **villain** appears.

picturesque - pik-chuh-RESK
resembling or suitable for a painted picture
The **picturesque** valley draws many visitors.

disassemble - dis uh SEM buhl
to take apart
We will have to **disassemble** the room immediately following the competition.

romaine - ROH mane
a variety of lettuce with a cylindrical head of long, loose leaves
This Caesar salad recipe calls for **romaine** lettuce.

algid - al-jid
cold, chilly
When the door was opened an **algid** wind came howling in.

vehicle - VEE-uh-kul
something used to transport persons or goods
We will need a **vehicle** that holds six people.

remnant - REM-nant
what is left over; remainder; residue
The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a **remnant**.

career - kuh RIR
one's progress through life or in a particular vocation
I enjoy this as a hobby, but I would not want to make a **career** out of it.

sandal - SAN duhl
a shoe consisting of a sole strapped to the foot
I had to take my **sandal** to the shoe repair shop to have the strap fixed.

rejuvenate - re jüve NATE
to make seem fresh or new again
A long vacation will **rejuvenate** him.

ruin - ROO in
destroy
Be careful that you do not **ruin** your good shoes by wearing them in the rain.

cruise or crews - KROOHZ
to sail over or about
We are planning a **cruise** through the islands in the Caribbean Sea.

tournament - TUR nuh muhnt
a series of contests
Our team won first place in the soccer **tournament**.

facetious - fa-'sE-shus OR fuh-SEE-shuss
joking, especially at an inappropriate time
I did not mean to hurt you with my **facetious** remarks.

ransom - RAN suhm
consideration paid for the release of a captured person
The kidnapper demanded $500,000 in **ransom** for their child.

unprecedented - un-pre-s'-den-t'd
unheard-of; novel
The president took **unprecedented** steps toward peace.

insurance - in SHUR uhn(t)s
a system of financial protection
I will have to pay my own auto **insurance** after I get my driver's license.

software - SAWFT wair
programs for directing the operation of a computer
This new **software** helps you trace your family tree.

sentence - SENT-n(t)s
a decision or judgment, as of a court; esp. the determination by a court of the punishment
The **sentence** was in the defendant's favor.

people - PEE puhl
human beings
A large group of **people** gathered to watch the festivities.

dysfunction - dis FUNGK shun
deterioration of the natural action of (anything)
The **dysfunction** of the criminal's family formed the crux of the defense.

accommodate - a-kä-ma-DATE
to make fit, suitable, or congruous
The school can now **accommodate** handicapped students.

prepare - pri PAIR
to make ready, usually for a specific purpose
How are you going to **prepare** for the spelling competition?

collegian - ka-'lE-j(E-) en
a member of a college; college student
Dad bought the **collegian** a new set of luggage.

mocha - MOH kuh
a mixture of coffee and chocolate
Mocha is the flavor of the month at the ice cream parlor.

government - GUV-ern-munt
the established political administration
Washington D.C. is the seat of our federal **government**.

interrupt - in tuh RUPT
to break the continuity or course of
Do not **interrupt** me while I am talking.

peasant - PEZ uhnt
one of a group of lower class workers
Because they were of the **peasant** class, they could not attend school.

discipline - DIS uh pluhn
training that develops self-control or character
The vice principal is in charge of **discipline** at many schools.

surgeon - SUR juhn
a doctor who specializes in performing operations
The **surgeon** made a skillful incision.

intelligence - in-'te-la-jun(t)s
ability to exercise the higher mental functions
The debate centered on whether **intelligence** was accurately measured by IQ tests.

license - LEYE suhn(t)s
formal or legal permission to do something specified
In California, you are eligible to apply for a driver's **license** when you are sixteen.

camouflage - KAM uh flahj
the disguise applied to military equipment
The uniforms are now tan to **camouflage** them in the desert.

perseverance - per se vir ens
continued or steadfast effort in spite of difficulties
After many years of **perseverance** the Wright Brothers finally made their airplane fly.

battalion - ba-'tal-yun
a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; and large group joined in some activity
He had command of a **battalion** during World War II.

dinosaur - DEYE nuh sor
any of a group of extinct reptiles
A plastic replica of a huge **dinosaur** is on display at the science museum.

adolescent - ad-o-les-sent
period of life between puberty and adulthood
An **adolescent** frequently has trouble communicating with parents.

medley - med LEE
a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works
The chorus performed a **medley** of show tunes.

shepherd - SHEP urd
a person who tends a flock of sheep
The **shepherd** led the flock along the path.

sacerdotal - sass-er-DOH-tul or sak-er-DOH-tul
pertaining to a priest or his office
The **sacerdotal** functions of the pastor were numerous.

chrysanthemum - kri SAN thuh mum
popular plant grown for its long-lasting flowers
A **chrysanthemum** bouquet was the centerpiece for our Thanksgiving table.

rheostat - re-o-stat
an electrical resister for regulating current
The stage lights were dimmed by means of a **rheostat**.

buoyancy - 'boi-un(t)-sE OR 'bü-yun(t)
the tendency of a body to float in a fluid
Filling the raft with more air will increase its **buoyancy**.

questionnaire - kwes chuh NAIR
a form comprising a series of questions, especially for a survey
Please complete this short **questionnaire** before leaving.

casserole - KAS uh role
earthenware or glass baking dish, or food cooked in one
Please bring a vegetable **casserole** to the potluck.

admire - ad-mire
to gaze on with delight
I **admire** your choice of neckties.

fervent - 'fer-vent
having or showing great warmth of feeling; intensely devoted or earnest; ardent
The children showed a **fervent** devotion to their pet.

prairie - PRAIR ee
a large area of level or rolling grassland
Life on the **prairie** was often difficult for the early settlers.

marmalade - MAR muh lade
a clear jelly containing pieces of fruit and fruit rind
Orange **marmalade** tastes delicious on English muffins.

destroy - di STROY
to tear down
The demolition crew will **destroy** the whole building.

overwhelming - oh vuhr HWEL ming
crushed by reason of force, weight or numbers
The prosecution presented **overwhelming** evidence against the accused.

neglect - nih-GLEKT
to give little attention or respect to
We must not **neglect** our homework.

delicacy - de-li-k'-sE
pleasing in taste, odor, texture; fragile beauty of graceful slightness
Caviar is considered a **delicacy** by many.

carousel - kar uh SEL
a merry-go-round
I love riding the **carousel** at the park.

prescribe - pri SKRIBE
to order or direct the use of something as a remedy
The doctor will probably **prescribe** a painkiller for your recurring headaches.

exhaustion - ig-'zos-chun
deprivation of strength or energy
The marathon runners' **exhaustion** was apparent as they entered the stadium.

maintenance - MAYN tuh nun(t)s
the act of keeping in an existing state
Proper **maintenance** of your car will make it last longer.

parochial - puh ROH kee uhl
narrow; provincial
That newscast presented a very **parochial** view of the problem.

boulevard - 'bu-la-"värd OR 'bü-la-"värd OR 'ba-la-"värd
a broad often landscaped thoroughfare
Sometimes driving on a **boulevard** is faster than taking the freeway.

architecture - 'är-ka-"tek-chur
the style of building that designers produce
Colonial style **architecture** was popular in Southern plantation homes.

narcissistic - nar sis SIS tik
possessed by self-love
The **narcissistic** attitudes of the "Me Generation" are appalling.

neighborhood - NAY buhr hood
the region near where one resides
Our **neighborhood** holds a Block Party every Labor Day.

botany - 'bah-ten-E OR 'baht-nE
the science of plants
The branch of biology dealing with plant life is called **botany**.

extraordinary - ik STROR duh nair ee OR ek stre ORD n er ee
exceeding the ordinary degree
The spelling champion demonstrated **extraordinary** composure under the intense pressure.

active - AK tiv
lively, busy, agile
Last night I baby-sat for a very **active** two-year old.

massive - MAS-iv
large or imposing or impressive; of considerable magnitude
The new bank was **massive**.

secretary - SEK ruh tair ee
a person who handles correspondence and office tasks
My **secretary** will send you a letter tomorrow.

psychologist - seye KAHL uh juhst
a professional who studies or treats human behavior and intelligence
The school **psychologist** will evaluate the students for placement in the special program.

harbor - här-ber
a place of refuge, safety, retreat; a protected inlet, branch of the sea, etc., used as shelter and anchorage for ships
Ships lay in the broad sunny **harbor** at the foot of the street.

shield - SHEELD
something that protects or defends
The guide recommended that we all wear hats to **shield** ourselves from the sun.

remote - ri-'mOt
distant in connection
There is only a **remote** possibility of rain today.

inkling - INGK ling
a vague notion or idea
I have an **inkling** that I will get what I want for my birthday.

office - AW fis
a place of business
I usually shop here for **office** supplies.

retrieve - ri TREEV
to get back; regain
I hope I can **retrieve** the lost data.

recruit - rih-KROOT
to secure the services of
Did they **recruit** you for the competitive team?

recess - REE ses
to halt temporarily
The court will **recess** until this afternoon.

mortgage - MOR gij
a transfer of rights to a piece of property
Generally, the **mortgage** is a homeowner's major expense.

ladle - LAYD l
to dip out with
The cook will **ladle** the soup for each customer.

argue - AR gyooh
to dispute or quarrel
My friend and I often **argue** over trivial details.

straight or strait or Strait - 'strAte
having the same direction throughout its length
Use a ruler to draw a **straight** line.

unruly - un-rool-i
not submissive to rule or restraint
The natives are **unruly** tonight.

precocious - pri KOH shuhs
exhibiting mature qualities or abilities
That preschooler can already read and is **precocious** in other ways as well.

faucet - FAW-sit OR FAH-sit
a fixture for drawing a liquid from a pipe
A dripping **faucet** wastes a lot of water.

perfect - PUR fikt
complete in all respects; flawless
The blazing sunset made a **perfect** ending to the day.

convenient - kuhn VEEN yuhnt
conducive to comfort or ease
It would be more **convenient** if you would stop by around 6:00.

intermittent - in tur MIT uhnt
starting, stopping and starting again
The weather forecast is for **intermittent** showers.

submit - suhb MIT
to refer to others for decisions
We will **submit** our plan to the committee.

gorgeous - GOR-juss
very beautiful
You look **gorgeous** in that evening gown.

ninth - NIN(t)th
the ordinal number 9th
In many school districts, **ninth** grade is the first year of high school.

anniversary - an uh VUR suhr ee
the yearly commemoration of a special event
Our school will celebrate its fiftieth **anniversary** next year.

synonym - SIN uh nim
one of two or more words of the same language that have the same meaning
It is helpful to use a thesaurus when you want to find a **synonym** for a word.

panic - PAN ik
sudden, unreasonable fear
They did not **panic** when the fire broke out.

redoubt - re-dout
a small enclosed fort often temporary, fortifying hills and passes
The soldiers took up their positions in the unassailable **redoubt**.

sabotage - SAB uh tahzh
deliberate damage of equipment, usually by disgruntled employees
Security was strengthened amidst concerns that striking workers might **sabotage** the factory.

antidote - ANT i dote
something that relieves, prevents, or counteracts
Education is often said to be an **antidote** to crime.

crisis - KREYE sis
decisive or crucial time or stage of an event
We knew we had to deal with the **crisis** quickly and efficiently.

fasten - FAS uhn
to become fixed or joined
Let me help you **fasten** those buckles.

vestige - VES tij
a visible sign or trace left by something vanished or lost
Only a **vestige** of the city's previous grandeur remained after the bombing.

thesaurus - thi SOR uhs
a dictionary of synonyms
This word processing program features an excellent **thesaurus**, making it easy for the user to find appropriate synonyms.

antecedence - AN tu-s E d'ns
priority; precedence; going before
The teacher stressed the **antecedence** of study to success.

compatible - kum-PAT-uh-bul
capable of existing together in harmony
In a group, it helps if the members are **compatible**.

amaze - uh MAZE
to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder
The musician's talent will **amaze** the audience.

first - FURST
preceding all other
I hope I win **first** place in the spelling competition.

thermometer - thuhr MAHM uh tuhr
an instrument for measuring temperatures
A **thermometer** placed in the sun will not give an accurate reading.

daisy - DAY zee
a common American field flower
Your bouquet will last longer if you cut each **daisy** this way.

doctor - DOK tur
a person licensed to practice any of the healing arts
The **doctor** examined the patient.

mathematician - math (uh)muh TISH uhn
a specialist in the science of numbers
A **mathematician** at the university derived this new number theory.

addressee - a-dre-sE OR u-dre-sE
person to whom mail, etc., is addressed
His name is that of the **addressee** on the envelope.

dilemma - di LEM uh
predicament; a situation in which one must choose
It was a real **dilemma** deciding which college to attend.

equal - EE kwahl
of the same quantity or size
These two objects have **equal** value.

signal - SIG nuhl
a sign or event fixed or understood as the occasion for prearranged combined action
Traffic was backed up because the **signal** was broken.

lecture - LEK (t)chur
an informative talk given for the purpose of teaching
Today's history **lecture** was very interesting.

perceptible - pur-SEP-tuh-bul
capable of being noticed or observed
The difference between the two brands of hot dogs is hardly **perceptible**.

chorus - KOR uhs
music repeated between verses
The choir will sing the verses, and all will join in on the **chorus**.

fourfold - 'fOr-"fOld OR 'for-"fOld
increased four times
When the quadruplets were born the couple's needs were **fourfold**.

crimson - 'krim-zón
deep red color
The sky, at sunset became beautifully **crimson**.

mindful - MIND ful
having in mind; aware heedful, or careful
The children were **mindful** of the danger of playing in the street.

bougainvillea - boo gan VEE(l) ya
evergreen vine with vibrant colored flowers
The walls of the hotel terrace in Mexico were covered with gorgeous **bougainvillea** vines.

caption - KAP shun
a heading or title, as of a newspaper article
The **caption** at the top of the story attracted my attention.

deafen - DEF uhn
overwhelm with noise
The volume of the loudspeaker will **deafen** the audience.

foreign - FOR in
connected with another country
Their formal style of dress was very **foreign** to us.

literature - LIT ur uh chur
writings in prose or verse having permanent value
My collection of children's **literature** includes many of the classics.

dreadful - dred-ful
inspiring dread; terrible or awesome
The volcano eruption was **dreadful**.

safety - SAFE tee
freedom from danger; security
Today's presentation was on the **safety** issues we should employ in case of a disaster.

persuade - pur SWADE
to convince
I hope my arguments will **persuade** you to study harder.

plague - PLAYG
a disastrous evil, especially a large number of destructive pests
A **plague** of locusts destroyed this year's crops.

peninsula - pa-'nin(t)-s(u-)la
a long projection of land into water
We drove around the **peninsula** until we found the best beach.

quadratic - kwah DRAT ik
an algebraic term involving the square and no higher power of an unknown quantity
Solve this **quadratic** equation for the value of x.

temperament - 'tem-p(u-)ru-munt
frame of mind; internal constitution
The composer was a man of melancholy **temperament**.

sourdough - SOU(uh)R doh
a leaven of dough in which fermentation is active
San Francisco is famous for **sourdough** french bread.

gobble - GOB uhl
to eat quickly and greedily
The chickens usually **gobble** all the grain.

parachute - PAIR uh shoot
a device used for making a safe descent from an airplane
The fighter pilot feared that the **parachute** might not deploy properly.

platinum - PLAT uh nuhm
a heavy precious metallic element
This antique ring has a **platinum** band inlaid with diamonds.

chief - CHEEF
a ruler, leader, head
The crew **chief** will give you your assignments.

treasurer - TRAYZH uh ruhr
a person entrusted with handling the funds of an organization
Please turn in all magazine sales money to the **treasurer** today.

retain - ri TANE (not ree-tain)
to stay constant
I hope this T-shirt will **retain** its color after washing.

occur - uh KUR
to take place; happen
The celebration will **occur** next week.

ecstatic - ek STAT ik
overwhelming joy or delight
The team was **ecstatic** over their unexpected win.

skirmish - SKIR-mish
a brief encounter between small groups, usually an incident of a battle
The **skirmish** was quickly forgotten after the peace treaty was signed.

residential - rez e den shel
of or having to do with residence
The families who lived in that **residential** area did not want the prison built near them.

wharf - HWORF
a structure built on the shore to enable ships to receive and discharge cargo and passengers
That restaurant on the **wharf** serves delicious seafood entrees.

appoint - uh POYNT
to name or select officially for an office, position
The president will **appoint** all the committee chairs.

courier - KUR ee uhr
a messenger
The bicycle **courier** sped through the city's streets.

carnivorous - kar NIV uh ruhs
meat-eating
The lion is a **carnivorous** animal.

blithe - blithe
jovial; glad; cheerful; lightheartedly gay
The theatergoers were in a **blithe** spirit.

beleaguer - bih-LEE-gur
to blockade by surrounding with an array
The military operation was planned to **beleaguer** the enemy.

lantern - lan-tern
transparent case for holding a light and protecting it from wind and weather
The light from the **lantern** helped us find our way along the rocky path.

harvest - här-vest
time of year when matured fruit, grain, vegetables, etc., are reaped; season's yield; gathering of a crop
We usually **harvest** our pumpkins and squash for Halloween.

margarine - MARJ uh ruhn
food product made from usually vegetable oils and skim milk
Would you like **margarine** or butter for your toast?

gasconade - gas-kon-ayd
a boat or boasting; bravado
The braggart was insufferable with his ridiculous **gasconade**.

verbatim - vur-BATE-ihm
in the same words: word for word
Each student in Russell's class was assigned to memorize a poem and then recite it **verbatim** to the class.

grammar - GRAM uhr
the use of language according to proper rules
Your essay will be graded on content, **grammar**, punctuation and spelling.

portion - POR shun
share; part of
They were willing to share a **portion** of the proceeds from the dance.

session or cession - 'se-shun
a school term or period of study
The fall **session** of school was about to end.

linguistics - ling-gwis-tiks
science of language; study of the structure of languages
Linguistics is usually divided into descriptive, historical, comparative and geographical.

scissors - SIZ urz
a cutting implement with handles and a pair of blades
Using sewing **scissors** or cutting paper makes them dull.

ambush - AM-bush
an arrangement of persons in hiding to make a surprise attack
The sheriff did not suspect **ambush**.

immigrant - IM uh gruhnt
person who comes into a country to become a permanent resident
Every European **immigrant** was required to pass through Ellis Island.

leisure - LEE-zher
freedom from work or duties
Many retirees find it difficult having so much **leisure** time.

dichotomy - deye KOT uh mee
division into two (contrasting) halves, pairs or set
Reconciling the **dichotomy** between public and private interests is a difficult job.

arouse - a-rous
to excite to action
The night watchman hastened to **arouse** the sleeping guests.

clothes or close - klothz
covering for the human body
Clothes make the man.

disturbance - dis TUR buhn(t)s
a tumult or commotion by which the public peace is upset
There was quite a **disturbance** outside my bedroom window last night.

khaki - KAK-ee
a light yellowish brown
The soldiers wore their **khaki** uniforms during the summer.

leopard - LEP uhrd
a large strong cat of southern Asia and Africa; panther
The **leopard** grabbed its prey with its strong paws.

silhouette - sill-uh-WET
an outline of an object, filled in with a solid color
When I walked by, I could see my neighbor's **silhouette** on the window shade.

legato - le-ga-to
in music, smooth and connected with no break
The instructor cautioned the piece should be played **legato** and not staccato.

wrist - rist
the joint of the arm on which the hand turns
Fred sprained his **wrist** and could not play in the game.

pigeon - PIJ uhn
any of numerous birds with a stout body and smooth plumage
The fattest **pigeon** in the park grabbed the most food.

woman - WUM-en
a female human being; adult female; femininity
The term 'lady' was once restricted to a **woman** of the higher social class.

plaid - PLAD
a pattern of unevenly spaced repeated stripes crossing at right angles
That is a very nice looking **plaid** skirt.

satellite - SAT-uh-lite
a moon or man-made vehicle which orbits a celestial body
The weather **satellite** aided us in tracking the hurricane.

weapon - WEP uhn
something (as a gun, knife or club) that may be used to fight with
The police officer fired the **weapon** in self-defense.

dosage - dO-sij
the system to be followed in taking does, as of medicine
He forgot to take his **dosage** of cough medicine.

metaphor - MET uh for
a literary likeness showing implied comparison
An example of a **metaphor** is "the ship plows the sea."

depth - DEPTH
distance from the top
The pool goes down to a **depth** of ten feet.

puppet - PUP it
doll or figure used in plays
The children will put on a **puppet** show.

enough - i-NUF
sufficient
Do you have **enough** clothes for your trip?

foulard - foo-lard
a think, soft material of silk
Her dress was of flaming red **foulard**.

zenith - ZEE-nuth or ZEH-nuth
the point in the celestial sphere that is exactly overhead
When the sun is at its **zenith**, it shines directly through this hole.

surround - suh ROUND
to enclose on all sides; encircle
When playing the game, the children would first **surround** themselves with all the toy cars.

absurd - AB-surd
so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous
It was **absurd** to say the baby could reach the counter.

courteous - KUR tee uhs
marked by respect for and consideration of others
If one is **courteous**, one will reap many benefits.

ignore - ig NOR
to disregard deliberately
The students appeared to **ignore** the teacher's request for quiet.

whistle - HWIS uhl
a device or manner by which a shrill sound is produced
The sound of a steam train **whistle** is music to a railroad buff's ears.

lonely - LOHN lee
alone; solitary
I was very **lonely** when I first moved to town.

bureaucracy - byooh RAWK ruh see
a body of (hired) government officials
The federal government is criticized for the size of its **bureaucracy**.

allegiance - uh LEE juhn(t)s
the obligation of fidelity in general
The soldier's **allegiance** to their country was unquestioned.

decent - 'dE-sent
proper and fitting; not immodest; conforming to approved social standards
Father provided for a **decent**, comfortable standard of loving.

journal - JUR nuhl
a brief account of daily events
We kept a **journal** of our trip.

discord - DIS-kord
lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones
The sense of **discord** in the committee made us nervous.

weird - WIRD OR WEERD
strange, bizarre
That is a **weird** color scheme.

zealous - ZEL uhs
very eager; very enthusiastic
The politician's **zealous** supporters campaigned vigorously.

skeptic or sceptic - skep-tik
person who habitually doubts, questions or suspends judgment on generally accepted matters
He was such a **skeptic** that he was known as "Doubting Thomas."

famine - fa-men
any acute shortage
The people were suffering from the **famine**.

powder - POW duhr
any dry substance in the form of very fine, dust like particles
The volcanic ash covered the car with a very fine **powder**.

English - i(ng)-glish OR i(ng)-lish
the language of the people of England, the official language of the British Commonwealth, the U.S., Liberia, etc.
We study **English** in school.

expertise - ek pur TEEZ
possessing outstanding skill
The soccer player showed **expertise** in controlling the ball.

sortie - sor-tee
one mission or attack by a single plane
The pilot returned unharmed from a dangerous **sortie**.

gregarious - grih-GAIR-ee-uss
tending to live associate or congregate with others of the same kind, sociable
Baboons are **gregarious** animals, seldom found in isolation.

yield - YEELD
to give up possession of on claim or demand
Be certain to **yield** to oncoming traffic.

jostle - JOS uhl
to bump or push, as in a crowd
I hope I do not **jostle** too many passengers when I take these bags on the plane.

pantomime - PAN-tuh-myme
a performance in which a story is told using expressive body or facial movements
In the game of Charades, players **pantomime** the words or phrases.

flexible - FLEK-suh-bul
capable of being bent, turned or twisted without breaking
It would be easier if you used **flexible** pipe for this part of the job.

yellow - YEL oh
one of the three primary colors
If you combine blue and **yellow**, you will get green.

basin - BAY suhn
a washbowl or sink
Rinse your contact lenses over a **basin** with the drain closed.

confidential - kän-fa-'den(t)-shul
told in confidence; secret
Do not you dare tell anyone I said this; it is **confidential** between you and me.

quarrel - kwor-el
argument, dispute
The bitter **quarrel** ended their friendship.

dying - dy-ing
losing life
Following the heavy frost, the annual flowers started **dying**.

engrave - in-'grAv
to cut or etch into a metal plate or other surface
We will want to **engrave** the coach's name on the trophy.

conscientious - KAHN shee en chuhs
scrupulous; careful
I try to be **conscientious** about getting my homework done.

poncho - PAHN choh
a (waterproof) cloak with a slit or hole in the middle for the head
Do not forget to take your **poncho** in case it rains.

Albuquerque - 'al-ba-'kur-kE
the largest city in New Mexico
Albuquerque is the site of an annual hot air balloon festival.

daughter - DAWT uhr
a female offspring
We are very proud of all that our **daughter** has accomplished.

vacant - VAY kuhnt
having no occupant
They just started building on the **vacant** lot next door.

gratuitous - gruh-TOO-uh-tuss OR gruh-TYOO-uh-tuss
given or received without charge or payment; free
I reject offers of so-called **gratuitous** merchandise, as some kind of later payment is often expected.

implement - IM pluh muhnt
to carry out; put into effect
This will require your signature to **implement** all the provisions of the contract.

intravenous - in truh VEE nuhs
within or into a vein
The patient was receiving fluids through an **intravenous** tube.

column - KOL uhm
a vertical arrangement of items
Place the cursor at the top of this **column**.

label - LAY buhl
identifying card or paper
We could no longer read the **label** on the jar.

loquacious - loh KWAY shus
given to excess talking
The teacher became very frustrated with the **loquacious** nature of the students in the class.

fashion - fa-shun
to make in a certain way; give a certain form to; shape; mold
The potter will **fashion** the clay to resemble a lion.

believe - be-lev'
to have faith or confidence
I **believe** this will be an interesting contest.

February - FEB rooh air ee
the second month of the year
Valentine's Day is **February** 14th.

prestigious - preh-STIH-juss OR preh-STEE-juss
having or imparting prestige or distinction
The **prestigious** writer had a great following.

coincidence - ko in se dens
the happening of events at the same time by chance
It is quite a **coincidence** that Steve and his father have their birthdays on the same day.

tribute - tri-byüt
something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, etc., to show gratitude
Their success was a **tribute** to his leadership.

prism - PRIZ uhm
a transparent solid body which disperses light into a spectrum
When I was cleaning this **prism** from the chandelier, it broke.

occasion - a-kA-zhan
a favorable opportunity or circumstance
A sixteenth birthday is an appropriate **occasion** for a party.

benevolent - buh-NEH-vuh-lunt
doing or inclined to do good; kindly; charitable
He was known as a **benevolent** despot.

faithful - FAYTH ful
having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility
My dog is a very **faithful** companion.

instant - in-stant
a moment of time
The lightning flashed and in the next **instant**, there was thunder.

wisdom - WIZ dem
learning knowledge; good judgment; wise discourse or teaching
We cut our **wisdom** teeth at about age 15.

reconciliation - rek uhn sil EE ay shun
the act of restoring friendly relations
The treaty provided for **reconciliation** between the two countries.

width - WIDTH
distance from side to side; breadth
We have to measure the **width** of the shelf to make sure it will fit the space.

utensil - yooh TEN(t) suhl
an instrument or container used in a household
A ladle is the proper **utensil** to use for serving soup.

cinnamon - SIN uh muhn
a highly aromatic spice
We are serving **cinnamon** rolls for breakfast.

souvenir - SOOH vuh nir
memento
What did you bring home as a **souvenir** of your travels?

freeze or frees or frieze - FREEZ
to become ice or severely chilled
If you go out in this weather, you are likely to **freeze** to death.

possibility - päs-e-BIL-et-ee
quality or condition of being done, known or acquired
There is a **possibility** that our next trip will be to Disneyland.

mischievous - MIS chuh vuhs
conduct that is often playful but causes harm or annoyance
My **mischievous** puppy chewed the corner of my social studies book.

campaign - kam PANE
a systematic course of aggressive activities
At the meeting, they introduced the advertising **campaign** for the coming season.

depress - dE-PRESS
to press down; push or pull down; lower
If you **depress** this button, water comes out.

remittent - re-mit-ent
temporarily stopping or abating
The doctor said it was a **remittent** fever and would return.

magnet - MAG nit
a piece of iron or steel that attracts metal
We use a colorful **magnet** to hold notes on our refrigerator.

recommend - REK uh mend
to suggest favorably
I **recommend** this book to you.

inaugurate - in AW g(y)uh rate
to introduce into office with ceremonies
Every four years we **inaugurate** our President.

wonderful - wun-der-ful
inspiring wonder; amazing
It was a **wonderful** sight to see the sun set behind the mountain.

meaning - meen-ing
sense; that which is intended
It was difficult to understand the **meaning** of the sentence.

shriek - SHREEK
to utter a loud shrill sound, or the sound itself
Your child will **shriek** with delight upon receiving this special gift.

populous or populace - 'pä-pyu-lus
abounding in people
India is one of the most **populous** countries on earth.

depressant - di PRES uhnt
a drug that reduces bodily functional activity
The doctor administered a **depressant** to calm the manic patient's behavior.

kayak - KI-'ak
an Eskimo canoe, or one similar
The ocean was too rough to take the **kayak** out today.

colleague - KOL eeg
a fellow worker
I would like to introduce my **colleague** who designed this project.

convert - kuhn vurt
to change from one form to another
Use this key to **convert** uppercase letters to lowercase ones.

lightning or lightening - LIT-ni[ng]
a flash of light in the sky caused by the discharge of atmospheric electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth
The **lightning** flashed in the sky.

nightmare - NITE me(uh)r
a frightening or oppressing dream
I had a scary **nightmare** last night.

stomach - STUHM uhk
pouch where food is digested after swallowing
My **stomach** always aches when I run after eating.

snorkel - snor-k'l
to move or swim under water using a snorkel
We plan to **snorkel** when we are in Hawaii.

partner - PART nuhr
a person who takes part in some activity in common with another
My **partner** keeps the books, and I do the purchasing.

pannikin - pan-i-kin
a small pan or cup
He drank heartily from the **pannikin**.

entrepreneur - ahn truh pruh NUHR
a person who takes the risk of starting and running a business
The young **entrepreneur** started a roommate matching business.

salmon - SAM uhn
any of various large fish that live in oceans and swim up streams to lay eggs
The fish ladder at the dam allows the **salmon** to reach their spawning grounds.

secret - SEE krit
kept from public knowledge
If I tell you this, will you promise to keep it a **secret**?

devoid - du-'void
completely without; empty or destitute
Crippled badly from the accident, he was **devoid** of any way to resume his former occupation.

obsequious - eb-see-kwee-es
meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant
General Smith's **obsequious** staff is good for nothing but fawning and groveling on command.

bankrupt - BANGK rupt
a person legally declared unable to pay debts
The store's owner was **bankrupt** and had to go out of business.

fluid - flü-id
that which can flow; not solid; able to move and change shape without separating when under pressure
Water is an important **fluid** for survival.

ninetieth - NINT ee uhth
the ordinal number 90th
Your spelling scores are above the **ninetieth** percentile.

sheriff - SHAIR if
a county law enforcement officer
The **sheriff** responded to a disturbance outside the city limits.

grease or Greece - GREES
animal fat
Put the leftover bacon **grease** in this can.

knowledge - NAHL ij
understanding or skill gained by experience or learning
Visiting National Parks has increased our **knowledge** about geologic formations.

unconstitutional - un kan ste too shen l
not in agreement with or permitted by a constitution, specifically the U.S. Constitution
It is **unconstitutional** to deprive me of my rights, insisted the criminal, as they dragged him away.

embarrass - im BAIR uhs
to cause to feel self-conscious, ill at ease
The students did not want to **embarrass** themselves in front of their friends.

curtain - kur-tin
window drapery
The window **curtain** matched the bedspread in the room.

fountain - 'faunt-ten
a water spray; a spring
We all threw a coin in the **fountain** and made a wish.

odor - OH dur
a smell
The **odor** of sulfur filled the lab.

posture - POS chur
the position or carriage of the body; bearing
Good **posture** is important for good health.

gnarled - NARLD
distorted, cross-grained
We enjoyed playing under the old **gnarled** tree in the park.

chauffeur - SHOH-fer
driver of a private automobile for someone else
The **chauffeur** drove her to school each day.

sauterne - so-turn
a kind of sweet white wine from France
He enjoyed a glass of **sauterne** with his dinner each evening.

census or senses - sen-sus
an official enumeration of the population
The last **census** showed a population increase.

acoustics - uh KOOHS tiks
the qualities of a room that enhance or deaden sound
The concert hall is known for its fine **acoustics**.

guillotine - GHIH-luh-teen
the instrument of capital punishment in France which beheads the victim
As they marched the prisoner to the **guillotine**, the crowds begged for mercy.

irresistible - ir i ZIS tuh buhl
impossible to resist or oppose
The food sitting out on the table was an **irresistible** temptation for the dog.

quietly - kwi-et-li
still; without noise
We drove **quietly** past the hospital.

useful - YOOS fuhl
that can be used to advantage; helpful
The fork is a **useful** utensil.

hello - he-low
an exclamation of greeting
I saw my friend and shouted, "**hello**!"

revenge - ri-venj
to inflict damage, injury, or punishment in return for an injury, insult, etc.
The leaders plotted **revenge** for the bombing.

correspondence - kor uh SPAHN dun(t)s
a communication by letters
Please file this **correspondence** alphabetically.

league - LEEG
an association of persons united for common interests
There is talk of forming a new baseball **league**.

permeable - PER-mee-uh-bul
having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through
The skin is a semi-**permeable** membrane.

lackadaisical - "la-ka-'dA-zi-kul
lacking life, spirit, or zest
The **lackadaisical** students are not likely to get good grades.

bellwether - bel-weth-er
a male sheep (usually wearing a bell) which leads the flock
The **bellwether** led the sheep into the slaughterhouse.

memorabilia - mem uh ruh BIL ee uh
things worth remembering
Elvis Presley **memorabilia** is valuable to many collectors.

absorb - ub-SORB OR ub-ZORB
to suck up or drink in
The paper towel will **absorb** the spilled milk.

hidden - HID n
concealed; secret
If I put these clothes under the bed, they will be **hidden** from view.

solitaire - SAHL uh tair
a card game played by one person alone
I played **solitaire** while waiting for my plane connection.

furrier - fur-i-er
a dresser of or dealer in furs
The **furrier** appraised the mink coat at three thousand dollars.

reservoir - REZ uhr vwar
a place where water is stored in quantity
During the drought, the **reservoir** was dangerously low.

biscuit - BIS kut
a small quick bread
Here's some honey for your **biscuit**.

delicatessen - deh-lih-kuh-TEH-sun
a shop where sandwich items, meats and cheeses are sold
Let us stop by the **delicatessen** to pick up things for our picnic.

pigment - pig-ment
coloring matter, usually insoluble powder, mixed with oil or water, etc.
Pigment in some plants is increased when they grow in full sun.

hinge - HINJ
a joint or device on which a door, gate, lid, etc., swings
The **hinge** needed oiling.

judicial - jooh DISH uhl
of or relating to the courts or judges
The defendant was awaiting a **judicial** decision regarding the acceptability of the evidence.

patriarch - PAY tree ark
the father and ruler of a family
The family **patriarch** always sits at the head of the table.

phenomenal - fi NAHM un uhl
extraordinary, remarkable
It was **phenomenal** how fast the flu virus spread.

tortoise - TOR tuhs
a land turtle
In one of Aesop's fables, the **tortoise** wins a race against the hare.

apiarist - a-pi-a-rist
one who keeps bee hives
When he retired, he became an enthusiastic **apiarist**.

kaleidoscope - kuh LEYED uh skope
a changing pattern or scene
The sun through the fall trees presented a **kaleidoscope** of color.

homonym - HOM-u-nim
a word having the same pronunciation as another but a different meaning
The teacher asked for a **homonym** for the word.

secede - si-SEED
to withdraw from an organization
South Carolina was the first state to **secede** from the Union.

lament - le-MENT
an outward expression of sorrow
A long **lament** was heard in the garden.

parliamentary - par luh MEN tree
being in accordance with the rules
When conducting a meeting it is helpful to be familiar with **parliamentary** procedure.

ubiquitous - yoo-BIH-kwuh-tuss
present or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent
I knew it was in my mind, but it seemed that everywhere I looked I saw his **ubiquitous** face.

terrace - ter-és
a small, usually roofed balcony, as outside an apartment
Flowerpots lined the **terrace** outside the apartment.

compel - kum-PEL
to enforce or constrain, as to do something
New laws **compel** judges to issue the maximum sentence.

advise - ad VIZE
to give counsel
I would **advise** you to study hard for this test.

hypochondriac - heye puh KAHN dree ak
a person who suffers from imaginary physical ailments
Knowing the patient was a **hypochondriac**; the doctor prescribed a placebo.

kettle - 'ke-tul
a metal container for boiling or cooking things
I will boil some water in the **kettle** for your tea.

penitentiary - pen uh TEN shur ee
a prison
The old **penitentiary** held many clues to the hard life of a convict.

hachures - ha-shurz OR hash-urz
short lines used in drawing; shading to denote different surfaces
The **hachures** on the map told where the elevation was highest.

almond - ah-mond
the edible, nutlike kernel of the small, dry, peach like fruit of a tree
Modesto is known as an **almond-growing** region.

miniature - MIN ee uh chur
something much smaller than the usual size
That is an impressive collection of **miniature** cars.

ostrich - äs-trich OR OS-trij
a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East
The white **ostrich** feather adorned her new hat.

restaurant - 'res-t(&-)r&nt, -t&-"ränt, -"tränt, -t&rnt
a public eating place
Before the prom, we are going to a nice **restaurant** for dinner.

visionary - 'vi-zha-"ner-E
having or marked by foresight and imagination
The **visionary** described a utopia that could never exist.

dormant - DOR ment
sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive
Some plants and animals are **dormant** during the cold weather.

mental - MEN tuhl
of or for the mind or intellect
I have a **mental** picture of what I want it to look like.

repartee - reh-per-TEE
a clever or witty retort; skill in making clever retorts; such retorts collectively
The two humorists engaged in a clever **repartee**.

Saturday - SAT ur day
the seventh day of the week
This **Saturday** we can go to the Mall together.

environment - in VEYE ruhn muhnt
all the influences surrounding and affecting an organism
The National Parks preserve the natural **environment**.

catastrophe - kuh TAS truh fee
the culminating event of a drama, tragedy; disastrous end; any great and sudden calamity or failure
The Northridge Earthquake was a **catastrophe**.

plagiarize - PLAY juh rise
to steal and pass off as one's own the works of another
Students who **plagiarize** articles generally get caught.

sword or soared - SORD
a weapon having a long usually sharp-pointed and sharp-edged blade
The magician's **sword** appeared to pass right through the rabbit.

orchestra - OR ki struh
a group of musicians who perform together
Our school **orchestra** won top honors at the music festival.

lemon - lem-un
a small yellow fruit with a bitter taste
The old lady always put **lemon** in her tea.

effusion - e-fu-shun
a pouring fourth; a gushing or unrestrained utterance
An **effusion** of praise marked the speech.

shoulder - SHOHL dur
the part of the body where the arm joins the body
The running back suffered a **shoulder** injury and will be out for the season.

procession - pro-'se-sh'n
orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way
The elephants moved in **procession**—trunk to tail.

recur - ri KUR
to happen or occur again
An eclipse of the sun will not **recur** for another ten years.

correct - ke-REKT
to change from wrong to right; to point our or mark the errors of
Schoolteachers often take papers home to **correct**.

Antarctica - ant ARK ti kuh
the continent surrounding the South Pole
The cold climate of **Antarctica** is the perfect habitat for penguins.

ballot - BAL-ut
a ticket or paper by which a vote is registered; act or method of voting
The class president was elected by a written **ballot**.

reconnaissance - ri KAHN uh suhn(t)s
preliminary survey of an area to gain information
Many missions of **reconnaissance** were flown over the enemy's territory.

rheumatism - ROOH muh tiz uhm
any of various conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles or joints
A person's **rheumatism** is generally worse in cold weather.

description - di-SCRIP-shen
the art, process or technique of picturing in words; sort or variety
Her **description** of the cathedral made us feel as if we had been there.

masquerade - mas kuh RADE
a party at which people wear masks and costumes
What are you going to wear for the **masquerade** ball?

extravagance - ik strav e gens
the wasteful spending of money
The new diamond bracelet was an **extravagance** for the young waitress.

warmth - WORMTH
state of giving off moderate degree of heat
We could feel the **warmth** of the sun on our faces.

receive - ri SEEV
to accept; to get or permit to enter
Did you **receive** my Christmas card?

antimacassar - an ti muh KAS ur
a covering to prevent the soiling of the backs of chairs or sofas
To create the Victorian setting, we will need a lace **antimacassar** for each of the chairs.

plural or pleural - plur-al
of or including more than one; involving or being one of
The **plural** of this noun is formed according to the principle listed.

homogenize - hO-'mä-ja-"nIz OR ha-'mä-ja-"nIz
make more uniform by breaking down and blending
Before they began to **homogenize** milk, our quarts left by the milkman used to freeze, and the cream would be pushed out of the bottle.

pennant - pen-ant
a long, tapering flag
Which team do you think will win the **pennant** this year?

pyramid - PEER uh mid
a polyhedron having a polygon for its base and triangular shaped faces
What is that **pyramid** shaped building on San Francisco's skyline?

barrel - bar-el
a container with rounded sides and flat top and bottom
The last **barrel** of water was loaded on to the truck.

intersection - int ur SEK shun
the place or point where two or more things cross
The office is at the **intersection** of Main and Broadway.

vaccine - vak-seen
a substance injected into the body to prevent disease by causing immunity
The polio **vaccine** was a tremendous advance in medicine.

spontaneity - spahnt uh NAY uht ee
state of acting freely and naturally
The mental health experts advise us to keep an air of **spontaneity** in our lives.

awkward - AW kwuhrd
not graceful, clumsy
My walk was very **awkward** right after my cast was removed.

aspirin - AS puhr in
a white crystalline drug used as a pain and fever remedy
The doctor prescribed **aspirin** and bed rest for my cold.

scaffold - SKA-fOld
temporary wood or metal framework to support workmen and/or material
They worked from the **scaffold** easily.

laboratory - LAB ruh tor ee
a building or room fitted up for conducting scientific experiments
The scientist spent long hours in the **laboratory** perfecting the vaccine.

opponent - a-pO-nent
person against one; adversary
The candidate's **opponent** waged a clean campaign.

amphibious - am FIB ee uhs
capable of operating on land or water
D-day was marked by an **amphibious** assault.

significance - sig-'ni-fi-ken(t)s
the real or impled meaning
What is the **significance** of putting a heart on the letter to your sweetheart?

miscellaneous - mis uh LAY nee uhs
consisting of many things of different sorts
Most people have a junk drawer for all the **miscellaneous** things they cannot easily categorize.

rasorial - ra-so-ri-al
scratching the ground in search of food as fowl
Turkeys and pheasants are **rasorial** birds.

fictitious - fik-TISH-es
imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended
Some novelists use a **fictitious** name under which they write.

fancy - fan-si
gaudy; not plain
The dress was very **fancy**.

feather - FETH ur
the lightweight body covering of birds
Use the **feather** duster to clean these figurines.

humble - hum-bl
low in condition, rank, or position; lowly; unpretentious
The **humble** home was neat and tidy.

mileage - mI-lij
aggregate distance in miles or total number of miles traveled; recorded, etc.
The salesman bought a new car each year because he had such high **mileage** on his current one.

gymnasium - jim NAY zee uhm
a building used for physical education activities
If the bond passes, we will get a new **gymnasium** at our school.

excellent - EK suh lent
superior in worth of value
They served an **excellent** dish of spaghetti and meatballs.

eclipse - i-'klips
the partial or total obscuring of the sun when the moon comes between it and the earth; or of the moon when the earth's shadow is cast upon it
We studied the lunar **eclipse** in class.

ensemble - ahn SAHM buhl
a group of musicians playing together
A string **ensemble** will play at the concert hall tonight.

distress - di-'stres
to cause sorrow or misery; pain, suffering
Arthritic pain causes **distress** in her stiff knee when she walks.

imperceptible - im-per-sep-ti'bl
not plain or distinct to the eye of mind; not easily seen
The scar on her face had healed so well it was almost **imperceptible**.

shady - SHAY dee
shielded from the sun
The bench under the trees was **shady** and cool.

perpetuity - pe(r) pe tüed ee
the state or quality of being perpetual
Perpetuity is implied in the fundamental law of all national governments.

error - AIR uhr
mistake
Be careful that you do not make an **error** in spelling this word.

poinsettia - poin-'se-tE-a
usually indoor plant with showy red leaves in winter
Our neighbor gave us a **poinsettia** for the holidays.

language - LANG gwij
spoken communication
Russian is a difficult **language** for most foreigners to master.

acumen - a-ku-men
acuteness of mind; keenness in intellectual or practical matters; sharpness
He was a businessman of acknowledged **acumen**.

defendant - di FEN dunt
a person who is sued or accused in court
The jury ruled the **defendant** is not guilty.

vignette - vin YET
a brief, appealing scene, as in a movie
The short **vignette** at the beginning was the key to the whole story.

college - KOL ij
a school after high school
Many high school students also take **college** courses.

upholstery - up HOHL stuhr ee
materials (as fabric, padding, and springs) used to make a soft covering especially for a seat
We chose this **upholstery** for our new sofa.

rendezvous - RAHN day vooh
a planned meeting; a place for a planned meeting
We will **rendezvous** at the Park and Ride, then go on together to the party.

vulpine - VUL-pyne
of or like a fox; cunning; crafty
The racketeer had a **vulpine** scheme but it backfired.

corrupt - COR-rupt
spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound
The **corrupt** official accepted a bribe.

forty - FOR tee
cardinal number between 39 and 41
These shoes cost **forty** dollars.

stubborn - stub-ern
person who refuses to comply; resisting unreasonably; obstinate
Donkeys are said to be **stubborn** like some people I know.

employ - im PLOY
to engage services or labor for pay
The new business is seeking to **employ** fifty qualified workers.

special - spesh-uhl
out of the ordinary; for a particular purpose or occasion
The children put on their finest clothes for the **special** occasion.

seismologist - seyez MAHL uh juhst
a scientist who studies earthquakes
The **seismologist** confirmed that the earthquake was centered twenty miles offshore.

opportunity - ahp uhr TOOH nuh tee
a fit or convenient time; favorable occasion
The spelling bee will be an **opportunity** for you to practice your skills and make new friends.

fastidious - fass-TIH-dee-uss
not easy to please; very critical or discriminating
With **fastidious** attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again.

addendum - a-den-dum
thing added or to be added
The name of the second speaker is an **addendum** to the program.

accessory - ak SES uh ree
useful but not essential thing
That necklace is a nice **accessory** to your outfit.

center - sen-ter
the middle
A small island was in the **center** of the lake.

benefit - BEN uh fit
promotion of welfare or prosperity
This project will **benefit** all humankind.

raccoon - ra KOOHN
a small carnivore of North America, usually nocturnal
A **raccoon** raided our campsite while we were asleep.

proceed - pruh SEED
to go on or forward, especially after an interruption
We will now **proceed** with the spelling competition.

walnut - wall-nut
a nut; the trees which produces it; the wood of the tree
Walnut furniture is usually expensive.

giggle - GIG uhl
to laugh with rapid, often high-pitched sounds
We all started to **giggle** when the teacher noticed our practical joke.

scarf - skarf
a piece of cloth worn around the neck or used as a cover
She wore a brightly-colored **scarf**.

offense - OFF-ense
the condition of being offended, esp. of feeling hurt, resentful, or angry; umbrage
His friend took **offense** from the joke.

brief - BREEF
condensed; short
The teacher gave a **brief** description of the assignment.

tongue or tung - tung
the fleshy moveable part inside the mouth
When the boy tripped and fell, he bit his **tongue**.

Boise - BOY si
the capital of Idaho
To the southeast of **Boise** the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area provides a haven for these species.

nauseous - NAW shus
affected with tending to cause stomach distress
I felt **nauseous** after eating too much ice cream.

Wednesday - WENZ day
the fourth day of the week
I have soccer practice every **Wednesday** after school.

Tuesday - TOOHZ day
the third day of the week
My birthday will fall on a **Tuesday** this year.

unanimous - yooh NAN uh muhs
complete agreement
The boxer won a **unanimous** decision over his opponent.

impairment - im-pâr'-MENT
to make worse, less, weaker
Dense fog is an **impairment** to safe driving.

valet - val AY
an employee who cares for the clothing of hotel patrons
If you leave your suit on the chair, the **valet** will see to it that it is pressed.

orthodontist - or thuh DAHN tist
a doctor who corrects the position of the teeth
The **orthodontist** said I would need to wear braces for two years.

spectacular - SPEK tak yuh luhr
characterized by grand scenic display
The fireworks display was the most **spectacular** part of the Independence Day celebration.

volume - VOL yoom
the quantity, strength, or loudness of sound
The **volume** of the music was deafening.

centrifugal - sen-'tri-fyu-gal OR sen-'tri-fi-gal OR "sen-tri-'fyü-gal
radiating or departing from the center
The road was banked to counteract the **centrifugal** force.

proliferation - pru-lif-urA-shun
growing by multiplying new parts
The **proliferation** of the buds on the rosebud was truly amazing.

abbreviate - uh-BREE-vee-ayt
shorten
In formal papers, it is not proper to **abbreviate** words.

assistance - a-SIS-tun(t)s
support
We will need your **assistance** to put our campaign over the top.

yacht - YAHT
any of various small ships used especially for pleasure
The annual **yacht** races will be held on the Bay tomorrow.

jacket - JAK-it
a short coat
This blue **jacket** would like nice with your gray trousers.

pamphlet - PAM(P) flit
a short publication with no cover
Please send me the **pamphlet** you advertised about starting a rock collection.

marriage - MAIR ij
the state of matrimony; wedlock
That couple's **marriage** seems to be very happy.

ethnic - 'eth-nik
designating any or of any of the basic groups of divisions of mankind
His **ethnic** background was Italian.

poltergeist - POHL tur geyest
a spirit supposed to manifest itself by noises, knocking, etc.
In the play, a **poltergeist** appears during the seance.

against - uh GENST
in opposition to
The Student Council voted **against** school uniforms.

burglar - 'bur-glur OR 'bur-ga-lur
a person who steals from a home or business
The **burglar** entered through an unlocked door.

thunder - thun-der
the loud noise after lighting
The **thunder** seemed to be coming from the east.

dictionary - DIK shun air ee
wordbook, lexicon
If you cannot spell the beginning of a word, it is hard to look it up in the **dictionary**.

kindling - kin(d)-li(ng)
bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted materials for starting a fire
The campers gathered **kindling** for the fire.

terrific - tuh RIF ik
extraordinary; astounding
We attended the most **terrific** party last night.

equivalent - quiv-a-lent (NOT EE-quivalent)
equal in quantity, value, force, meaning
Although their education had been **equivalent**, one twin did much better in mathematics than the other.

honest - ON ist
frank and open
The storeowner had an **honest** face.

middle - MID l
in between
When we drive to my grandparent's house ny sister and I take turns sitting in the **middle**.

linen - lin-en
thread, yarns or cloth made from flax
The tablecloth was made of fine **linen**.

allegory - al-e-go-ri
a figurative story or narrative
Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" is a celebrated example of the **allegory**.

fraud - FRAWD
deceit
Cellular phone **fraud** is costing millions to legitimate users.

complexion - kuhm PLEK shun
the skin color of the face
People with a fair **complexion** need to be very careful in the sun.

embroidery - im BROY duhr ee
a decoration made by needlework on cloth
The **embroidery** on this sampler is a nineteenth century design.

vociferous - voe SIF e res
characterized by clamor or vehement outcry
The **vociferous** protest of Liberals could not stop the passage of Proposition 13.

nuisance - NYOO suhnts
that which annoys, vexes or harms
Sometimes it can be a real **nuisance** to have to take care of younger siblings.

metamorphosis - meh-tuh-MOR-fuh-siss
change of form, shape, structure, or substance
As part of her science class, Karen was able to witness the **metamorphosis** of a caterpillar into a butterfly.

parent - pair-ent
a mother or father
His **parent** signed the reportcard.

package - PAK ij
a small wrapped bundle
I hope there will be a **package** in the mail for me today.

maneuver - muh NOOH vuhr
a cleaver often evasive move or action
We had to **maneuver** our way through the downtown traffic.

shuttle - SHUT l
a vehicle that goes back and forth between scheduled stops
You can take the airport **shuttle** to the hotel.

symmetrical - si MET ri kuhl
having balanced proportions
It would look better if the pictures on either side were more **symmetrical**.

napkin - kap-kin
a small cloth used to wipe the mouth and hands when dining
Line the basket with a linen **napkin**.

spinach - SPIN ich
a potherb widely grown for its edible leaves
I will have the **spinach** salad.

listless - list-less
having no interest in what is going on about one, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc.; spiritless; languid
The **listless** dog lay on the floor by the fire.

harmful - HARM fuhl
able to cause hurt or damage
The cold weather is **harmful** to these tropical plants.

pretend - pri-'tend
make believe
Sometimes I **pretend** that I am a pilot.

cessation - se-SA-shen
ceasing or stopping, either forever or for a period of time
Shutting the heavy door caused a **cessation** of all the noise.

data - DAY tuh
things known or assumed: facts or figures for information
The computer analyst entered **data** during his shift.

dollar - DOL-uhr
a coin or piece of paper money in the value of 100 cents
The **dollar** bill has a picture of George Washington on it.

capriciousness - ka-pri-sh's-ness
a change without apparent reason; erratic behavior
Her **capriciousness** was evident as soon as she appeared at dinner.

carry - kair-E
take from one place to another
I helped the teacher **carry** all his books.

prior - PREYE uhr
preceding in time; earlier
The ad said that **prior** experience was necessary.

mystique - mis TEEK
a set of beliefs and attitudes developing around an object
Non-runners cannot appreciate the true **mystique** of jogging.

misspell - mis SPEL
to spell incorrectly
During the spelling competition, we were not allowed to **misspell** a single word.

those - thoz
plural of that
Please hand me **those** books.

emollient - e-mol-i-ent
something that has a softening or soothing effect
An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream's **emollient** powers.

forest - for-est
dense growth of trees
The family of bears lived in the **forest**.

moccasin - MAHK uh suhn
soft leather shoes with the sole and sides of one piece
The podiatrist told me to wear a **moccasin** to protect my foot after the surgery.

constitutional - CON-sti-tu-shn'l
of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential
Everyone in the United States has **constitutional** rights.

abhor - ab HOR
to shrink from in fear; detest
I **abhor** baiting my fishhook with worms.

surveillance - sur VAY luhn(t)s
close watch
The police kept a constant **surveillance** at the suspect's house.

preliminary - pri LIM uh nair ee
introductory to the main discourse
You will have an opportunity to ask questions during the **preliminary** round of the competition.

lettuce - LET is
any of a genus of plants grown for its edible green leaves
The meal will begin with a salad of **lettuce** and other vegtables.

imperialism - im PIR-ee-e-liz-em
the policy and practice of seeking to dominate the economic or political affairs of underdeveloped areas or weaker countries
A policy of **imperialism** hinders the growth of underdeveloped countries.

reserve - rE-sûrv
to hold; or hold over to a later time
We will **reserve** a place for you at the table.

central - SEN truhl
in, at, or near the center
Let us get back to the **central** issue we are here to discuss.

boisterous - 'boi-st(a-)rus
rowdy
The security officer had to quiet the **boisterous** group.

translucent - tranz LOOH suhnt
capable of allowing some light to show through, but not transparent
We purchased a new **translucent** window for our bathroom.

remembrance - ri MEM bruhn(t)s
memory, the act of remembering
The donation was made in **remembrance** of the director who passed away recently.

perennial - puh REN ee uhl
lasting or active throughout the whole year
To cut down on my yard work I planted mostly **perennial** shrubs.

substantial - sub STAN shuhl
important, essential
There is a **substantial** difference between the two candidates.

physique - fi ZEEK
the build of a person's body
The body builder's **physique** mainly is due to good conditioning.

schedule - SKEJ oohl
a detailed and timed plan for any procedure
The **schedule** calls for us to take a break at 10:45.

crescent - KRES uhnt OR KREH-sunt
the shape of a new moon or one in its last quarter
These little **crescent** shaped rolls are delicious.

banner - ban-er
a flag
The boy scouts held their **banner** high throughout the parade.

sequel - SEE kwuhl
an event that follows or comes afterward
The **sequel** to the show will be aired next week.

comfort - kum-fort
to import strength and hope
Thy rod and thy staff, they **comfort** me.

erroneous - i-'rO-nE-us OR e-'rO-nE-us (not LONG E)
mistaken; wrong
The police report for the accident was **erroneous**.

extemporaneous - ik STEM puh ray nee uhs
speaking without notes
The highlight was an entertaining speaker who delivered an **extemporaneous** talk about spelling bees of the past.

existence - ig ZIS tun(t)s
the state or fact of being
They were debating the **existence** of life on Mars.

arrogance - AR-e-gen(t)s
self-importance; overbearing pride; haughty
His **arrogance** was difficult to put up with.

robber - rob-er
one who steals or robs
The **robber** was sent to prison.

ophthalmologist - äp-thel-mäl-e-gest
a physician specializing in diseases of the eye
The **ophthalmologist** had to dilate the patient's eyes.

outrageous - out RAY juhs
extremely offensive, insulting or shameful
The parents were dismayed by their child's **outrageous** behavior.

machinery - mu-shE-nu-rE
the working parts of a machine or instrument
The workers had the day off because the **machinery** broke down at the plant.

obsolescent - ahb suh LES uhnt
going out of use; becoming outmoded
Phonograph records are becoming **obsolescent**.

spectrum - spek-trem
a continuous range or entire extent
The newspaper reported a wide **spectrum** of opinions.

routine - rooh TEEN
a regular or customary course of procedure
My morning **routine** includes feeding the cat.

method - METH uhd
a way of doing anything
What **method** did you use to arrive at this answer?

tenacious - te-NAE-shes OR tuh-NAY-shuss
persistent, stubborn
He had **tenacious** courage as he faced the endless pile of papers on his desk.

behavior - bee HAYV yuhr
manner of one's conduct
The young child's reward for good **behavior** was a trip to the zoo.

therapeutic - ther-e-pyüt-ik
serving to cure or heal; curative
The **therapeutic** treatment hastened his recovery.

scheme - SKEEM
a systemic or organized design
That is a nice color **scheme** you have picked out.

Indianapolis - in di uh NAP uh lis
the capital of Indiana
The **Indianapolis** Children's Museum features fun and fascinating hands-on exhibits.

xenophobia - zeh-nuh-FOH-bee-uh or zee-nuh-FOH-bee-uh
fear or hatred of foreigners
Gene wished very much that he could travel more, but because of his **xenophobia** he didn't dare go to other countries.

xylophone - 'zI-la-"fOn OR 'zi-la-"fOn
a musical instrument sounded by striking the series of bars with two wooden hammers
A toy **xylophone** makes a wonderful gift for a child.

mausoleum - mah suh LEE uhm
a large stately tomb
The **mausoleum** is on the right as you go into the cemetery.