2016-2017

Elementary Spelling Word List (Level I & Level II Words)

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abate	to make less in amount, degree, force *"The weatherman said that the storm would **abate.**"*	Middle English, from Anglo-French, *abatre* transitive verb
abhor	to shrink from in fear; disgust or hatred; detest "I **abhor** baiting my fishhook with worms."	Middle English *abhorren,* from Latin *abhorrere* Transitive verb
abode	a place where one lives or stays; home; residence "He remained in his **abode**."	Middle English *abod* noun
absurd	so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous *"It was **absurd** to say the baby could reach the counter."*	Middle French *absurd,* from Latin *absurdus* adjective
active	lively, busy, agile *"Last night I babysat for a very **active** two-year old."*	Middle English, from Anglo-French, *actif,* or Latin,

arrange to put in the correct, proper, or suitable order
"The librarian will

benefit	promotion of welfare or prosperity *"This project will **benefit** all mankind."*	Middle English, from Anglo-French *benfet,*

career one’s progress through life or in a particular vT1.1 (t)-3(i2 ЭBC06 (a)(4c)-6.6.7c)-19 (u)5.7cn 0 Tw ( )Tj0.0(c)78 jEMC

copra	the source of coconut meat or coconut oil *"Hawaii produces a great amount of **copra**."*	Portuguese noun
corral	an enclosure for holding or capturing horses or other livestock; pen; to confine; roundup *"The wild horses were penned in the **corral** on the ranch."*	Spanish and Latin noun
corrupt	spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound *"The **corrupt** official accepted a bribe."*	Middle English, from Latin *corruptus* adjective

crick	a painful muscle spasm or cramp in the neck or back, etc. *"Watching the tennis match gave her a **crick** in the neck."*	Middle English *cryk* noun
crimson	deep red color *"The sky, at sunset, became beautifully **crimson**."*	Middle English *crimisin,* from Old Spanish *cremesín,* from Arabic *qirmizī* adjective
crisis	a turning point in the course of anything; decisive or crucial time, stage of event *"His fever reached its **crisis** at three in the morning."*	Middle English, from Latin, from Greo

depress to press down; push or pull down; lower
*"If you **depress***

desist	to cease; stop; abstain from action *"The librarian urged them to **desist** their discussion so others could study and concentrate."*	Anglo-French *desister*, from Latin *desistere* verb
dessert	usually the sweet course of a dinner; pie; cake, puddings, etc. *"Lemon pie is my favorite **dessert**."*	French and Latin noun
destroy	to tear down; demolish; to break up; ruin; crush *"The demolition crew will **destroy** the whole building."*	Anglo-French and Latin verb
detract	to take something desirable away from *"Frowning will **detract** from the beauty of her face."*	Latin verb
devoid	completely without; empty or destitute *"Crippled badly from the accident, he was **devoid** of any way to resume his former occupation."*	Anglo-French adjective
dictionary	wordbook, lexicon *"If you can't spell the beginning of a word, it is hard to look it up in a **dictionary."***	Medieval Latin noun
direct	consisting of the exact words of the writer or speaker; to show the way to *"It was a **direct** quotation by the speaker."*	Anglo-French and Latin adjective
discard	to throw away, abandon; get rid of as having no value *"They planned to **discard** the unwanted clothing."*	English verb
discipline	training that develops self-control or character *"In obedience classes, pet owners learn to **discipline** their pets consistently."*	Anglo-French and Latin verb

dismal

embark

ethnic	designating any, or of any, of the basic groups or divisions of mankind, having the same customs, characteristics, history or language *"His **ethnic** background was Italian."*	Latin and Greek adjective
excel	to be better or greater than; superior to *"Tests showed he would **excel** in Social Studies."*	Latin verb
facet	any of a number of sides or aspects, as of a personality *"They had never seen the generous **facet** of his personality."*	French noun
facile	not hard to do or achieve *"After years of practice, her violin playing appeared **facile**."*	Middle French and Latin adjective
faithful	having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility *"My dog is a very **faithful** companion."*	Latin adjective
famine	any acute shortage *"The people were suffering from the **famine**."*	French and Latin noun
feather	the lightweight body covering of birds *"Use the **feather** duster to clean these figurines."*	Old English noun

February the second month of the ruary

gamut

hobble	to walk lamely or awkwardly; limp *"The horse tried to **hobble** to the corral."*	Middle Dutch verb
honest	frank and open *"The store owner had an **honest** face."*	Latin adjective
honor	to respect greatly; regard highly; esteem *"The family met to **honor** the visiting grandparents."*	Latin verb
hopeless	impossible to solve, deal with, teach, etc. *"After working on the problem for ten hours, it appeared **hopeless**."*	English adjective
hostile	having or showing ill will; unfriendly; antagonistic *"The lion appeared **hostile** as the hunter approached."*	Middle French and Latin adjective
hunger	discomfort or pain caused by lack of	

innate	existing naturally rather than acquired; possessed at birth, inherent *"He has an **innate** talent for math."*	Latin adjective
inset	to insert into something else; a map set inside the border of a larger one; a piece of material sewed into a garment *"The **inset** shows the downtown section of the city."*	English noun

[redacted] or action

oblong

powder any dry

suet the hard fat about the kidneys and loins of beef and mutton

surround to enclose on all sides;

veteran a former member of the armed forces
*"Only one World War I **veteran** attended the ceremony this year."*

LEVEL II

abdicate	to give up formally (a high office, authority, throne, etc.) *"The king plans to **abdicate** his throne."*	Latin verb
abdominal	lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, on or for the abdomen *"The **abdominal** bandage seemed too tight."*	Latin adjective
aberrant	abnormal or deviant *"Her rude, **aberrant** behavior was quite a shock."*	Latin adjective
abrogate	to cancel or repeal by authority *"Congress must **abrogate** the new tax law."*	Latin verb

acetylene a colorless, poisonous, highly flammable gaseous hydroc (o)1.452 Tm 5.13(c3Tw 11.040 0 11.040 0.4572 Tm[(t)

anathema	a thing or person greatly detested *"Censorship is **anathema** to Americans."*	Greek noun
anonymous	no name known or acknowledged; name withheld *"The poem read was written by an **anonymous** poet."*	

capitulation	statement of the main parts of a subject; conditional surrender *"Their leader decided that **capitulation** was best."*	Latin and French noun
carcinogen	cancer causing *"Scientists seem to discover a new **carcinogen** every day."*	English noun
carburetor	a device in which air is mixed with gasoline spray to make an explosive mixture in an internal combustion engine *"The **carburetor** in the truck had to be replaced."*	Modern Latin and French noun
carnivorous	meat-eating *"The lion is a **carnivorous** animal."*	Latin adjective
cataclysm	any great upheaval that causes sudden and violent changes *"The weakened government could not withstand another **cataclysm**."*	Latin and Greek noun
catastrophe	calamity	

circumference	a line that goes around or encloses a circle *"When drawing a snowman, the head usually has a smaller* ***circumference*** *than the body."*	Latin

critique	the act or art of criticizing; criticism *"The director did not like the **critique** of his movie."*	Greek noun

disguise	to change the manner or appearance of in order to prevent recognition *"I will need a mask to **disguise** myself for the Halloween Party."*	Old French noun
disproportionate	not in proportion *"The harsh punishment was **disproportionate** to the infraction."*	French adjective
disseminate	to scatter seed; to sow widely; spread abroad *"When the dandelion becomes that feathery little puffball, the breezes cause it to **disseminate**."*	Latin verb
dissertation	a formal and lengthy discourse or treatise on some subject *"The student completed her **dissertation** for the degree of doctor."*	Latin noun
divination	a successful guess; clever conjecture *"Her **divination** of the winner was accurate."*	Latin noun
ebullient	overflowing with enthusiasm, high spirits *"After winning the game, the fans were **ebullient**."*	Latin adjective
ecclesiastical	of the church *"His writings were based on **ecclesiastical** discipline."*	Middle English adjective
echelon	any of the levels of responsibility or importance in an organization *"She worked in the **echelon** where major decisions were made."*	Latin noun
eczema	an inflammatory, itching disease of the skin *"A victim of **eczema**, she could not wear makeup on her face."*	Geek noun
effectuate	to bring about; cause to happen; effect *"The team members are trying to **effectuate** change in spring training rules."*	Latin verb
egalitarian	advocating, or characterized by the belief that all men should have equal political, social and economic rights *"The country's government was **egalitarian**."*	Latin noun
ellipsis	the omission of a word or words necessary for complete grammatical construction but understood in the context *"Add **ellipsis** where I have indicated on the rough draft of the legal pleading."*	Geek noun
embarrass	to cause to feel self-conscious, ill at ease *"He did not want to **embarrass** himself in front of his friends."*	Vulgar Latin verb
emulate	to try to equal or surpass; to rival successfully *"The baby birds strutted back and forth trying to **emulate** the actions of their parents."*	Latin verb

encapsulate	to put in concise form; condense *"We tried to **encapsulate** the week's news in five minutes."*	Latin verb
entomology	the study of insects *"My career in **entomology** began with a fascination about butterflies."*	Greek noun
ephemeral	lasting a very short time *"The sunset was **ephemeral** in its beauty."*	Greek adjective
epitome	a short statement of the main points of a book, report, incident; abstract; summary; representative or typical of a class *"He was the **epitome** of jockeys everywhere – slim, wiry and brisk."*	Greek noun
equivocal	two or more meanings; purposely vague; misleading; ambiguous *"Her answer was **equivocal**, but we couldn't get a definite opinion."*	Latin adjective
esoteric	beyond the understanding or knowledge or most people *"Few people attended the **esoteric** lectyf 473.52 350.52 39.52 350.52 39.52 3*	

facetious	joking, or trying to be jocular, esp. at an inappropriate time *"His mother could not tolerate his **facetious** remarks."*	Latin adjective

Fahrenheit a temperature scale

hepatitis	an inflammation of the liver *"Exposure to the **hepatitis** virus prevents a person from donating blood."*	Greek adjective
herbivorous	feeding on plants *"Deer and sheep are **herbivorous** animals."*	Latin adjective
hospitable	friendly, kind and solicitous toward guests; favoring comfort of new arrivals; receptive or open to new ideas *"Southern people are said to be most **hospitable** even to strangers."*	Medieval Latin adjective
humanity	human; human characteristics or nature; mankind; people *"**Humanity** everywhere does not always have the same kindness or sympathy."*	Latin noun
hybrid	anything of mixed origin, unlike parts *"Rock and roll is a **hybrid** of blues and jazz."*	Latin noun
hygiene	science of health and its maintenance; sanitary practices; cleanness *"We are taught **hygiene** for the preservation of health and prevention of disease."*	Greek noun
hyperbole	obvious and intentional exaggeration *"A clown uses **hyperbole** to make the stunts funnier."*	Greek noun
hypochondriac	a person who has hypochondria *"The **hypochondriac** made his tenth visit to the hospital in ten days."*	Greek noun

impecunious	having no money *"I am sorry to announce that the school board is in an **impecunious** situation as a result of Proposition 13."*	Latin adjective
impertinent	not showing proper respect or manners *"The **impertinent** child must be taught some manners."*	Latin adjective
imperturbable	that cannot be disconcerted, disturbed, or excited; impassive *"The **imperturbable** cat sat in the midst of the moving."*	Late Latin adjective
implement	any article or device used or needed for a given activity; fulfill *"The hammer and the saw are needed by the carpenter to **implement** his job."*	Latin verb
inaugurate	to introduce into office with ceremonies *"Every four years we **inaugurate** a President."*	Latin verb
incongruous	lacking harmony or agreement *"Hiking boots were **incongruous** to the wet suit outfit."*	Latin adjective
incorrigible	that cannot be corrected, improved, or reformed *"They held out little hope for the prisoner because he was **incorrigible**."*	Latin adjective
incredulous	showing doubt or disbelief *"Their eyes were large with **incredulous** joy."*	Latin adjective
indiscreet	lacking prudence; unwise; careless *"She was **indiscreet** in going shopping during school hours."*	Late Latin adjective
indomitable	not easily discouraged *"Even after three unsuccessful attempts, the new skier was **indomitable**."*	Latin adjective
inducement	motive; incentive; persuasion *"As an **inducement** for entering into the contract, she would receive a percentage of sales."*	Latin noun
inertia	a tendency to remain in a fixed condition without change *"The nation was declining due to **inertia**."*	Latin noun
infatuated	lacking sound judgment; foolish *"He was **infatuated** by the John Wayne movie and decided to become a cowboy."*	Latin adjective
infirmity	feebleness; weakness; frailty or ailment; defect *We realized his **infirmity***	

khaki	a light yellowish brown color *"The soldiers wore their **khaki** uniforms."*	Persian adjective

knowledge

metamorphosis	change of form, shape, structure, or substance *"The **metamorphosis** of a caterpillar into a butterfly is one of nature's miracles."*	Greek verb
mimicry	the action, art or instance of imitating *"With your gift of **mimicry**, you should be in show business."*	Greek noun
miniature	something much small1.1 (f)/04Tc 0 Tc ET t1 (f 1d -0 0 11.04 486 0c 531(ni)-5 Tj-0.001 Tc BC q8.24 693 106.5	

oligarchy	a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few persons *"Political office was restricted to those who knew a member of the **oligarchy**."*	Greek noun

phenomenal highly remarkable

reciprocal	done or felt equally by both sides *"They had a **reciprocal** feeling of admiration for each other."*	Latin adjective
reconciliation	the act of restoring friendly relations *"The treaty provided for a **reconciliation** between the two countries."*	Latin noun

reconnaissance

reverie	a dreamy, fanciful, or visionary notion or daydream *"Her **reverie** was broken by his loud arrival."*	French noun
rhetoric	the art of speaking correctly *"I have to prepare a ten minute speech for my **rhetoric** class tomorrow."*	Greek noun
ricochet	a glancing rebound *"If you hit the ball here, it will **ricochet** off the table and land in the pocket."*	French verb
rigmarole	a foolishly involved, fussy, or time-wasting procedure *"Registration for school is full of **rigmarole**."*	English noun
rosette	ornament made of ribbons gathered in the shape of a rose *"He wore a **rosette** in the buttonhole of his lapel."*	French adjective
sacrosanct	very sacred, holy, or inviolable *"The congregation felt the church was **sacrosanct**."*	Latin adjective
sanguinary	bloodthirsty *"Some corsairs were very **sanguinary**."*	Latin adjective

satchel A small flat-bottomed bag, sometimes with a shoulder

seismologist	a scientist who studies earthquakes *"The **seismologist** confirmed that the earthquake was centered twenty miles offshore."*	International Scientific Vocabulary noun
seraglio	the palace of a Turkish sultan *"The crown jewels were located in the **seraglio**."*	Turkish noun
serene	not disturbed or troubled *"The **serene** lake did not have a ripple on the surface."*	Latin adjective Old French

statuary	sculpture, a collection of statues *"The **statuary** lining the rose garden beckoned the visitors."*	Latin adjective
subterfuge	an expedient used to evade, escape or conceal *"The students pretended to be sick as a **subterfuge** to taking the test."*	Latin noun
succinct	clearly and briefly stated *"The commander's orders to his men were **succinct**."*	Latin adjective
succumb	give away to; yield or submit *"We expected him to **succumb** to persuasion."*	Latin verb

superfluous not needed, unnecessary, irrelevant
"I have cut down every

umbrage	resentment; offense *"I take **umbrage** at that outrageous remark."*	Latin noun
unconscionable	not being in accordance with what is right or just *"Such **unconscionable** behavior will result in expulsion from school."*	Latin adjective
unscathed	not hurt, uninjured, unharmed *"She was **unscathed** by their criticism."*	Scottish adjective
utilitarian	of or having to do with utility; usefulness *"A garbage can is a very **utilitarian** gift."*	Latin adjective
variegated	having patches, stripes or marks of different colors *"This **variegated** ivy would look nice on the trellis."*	Late Latin adjective
vaudeville	light theater featuring variety acts *"Bob Hope started his career as a **vaudeville** actor."*	French adjective
vertigo	a subjective sensation of dizziness in which an individual feels that he, or his surrounding, is whirling about sickeningly *"With too much stress, she suffered from **vertigo**."*	Latin noun
ventriloquist	someone whose voice can seemingly be made to come from another source *"The conversation between the **ventriloquist** and the wooden dummy delighted the audience."*	Greek noun
vignette	a short, delicate literary sketch *"The **vignette** was a great work by the promising author."*	French noun
xenophobia	fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything foreign or strange *"**Xenophobia** limits people fronoau*	

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