



**Fresno County Elementary  
Spell-Off**

**Study Word List  
Grades 4-6**

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**vengeance** - ven-jans

*revenge*

The family sought vengeance for the loss.

**pestle** - pe-sel OR pest-el

*a club-shaped grinding tool*

Many indigenous people used a pestle to grind food in a mortar.

**supple** - SUP uh1

*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 uh1 hie

*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.

**rascalion** - rap scal-yun

*a rascal; a ne'er-do-well*

I was advised to stay away from the rascalion.

**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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**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** - kuh 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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**hieroglyphs** - HEYE ruh glifs

*picture writings, especially ancient*

Egyptian tombs frequently contain **hieroglyphs** depicting animals.

**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.

**familiar** - fa-'mil-yur

*well acquainted*

I am very **familiar** with the rigors of studying for a spelling competition.

**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.

**pattern** - PAT uhm

*a regular, mainly unvarying way of acting or doing*

I always follow the same **pattern** when getting ready for school.

**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.

**abdominal** - ab-däm-n'i

*lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, or for the abdomen*

The **abdominal** bandage seemed too tight.

**poultry** - POHL tree

*domestic fowls*

The preschoolers enjoyed their visit to the **poultry** farm.

**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.

**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**.

**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'.

**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.

**refuge** - re-fyüj OR e-fyüzh

*a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat*

The deer sought a **refuge** from the hunters.

**fiction** - FIK shum

*anything made up or imagined, as a statement, story, etc.*

The librarian directed us to the **fiction** section.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

**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** - droi

*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-ehuh-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.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

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**remnant** - REM-nant

*what is left over; remainder; residue*

The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a remnant.

**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.

**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.

**ransom** - RAN subm

*consideration paid for the release of a captured person*

The kidnapper demanded \$500,000 in ransom for their child.

**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.

**unprecedented** - un-pre-'s'-den-'t'd

*unheard-of; novel*

The president took unprecedented steps toward peace.

**rejuvenate** - re ju've NATE

*to make seem fresh or new again*

A long vacation will rejuvenate him.

**insurance** - in SHUR uh(n)(t)s

*a system of financial protection*

I will have to pay my own auto insurance after I get my driver's license.

**ruin** - ROO in

*destroy*

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

**software** - SAWFT wair

*programs for directing the operation of a computer*

This new software helps you trace your family tree.

**cruise or crews** - KROOHZ

*to sail over or about*

We are planning a cruise through the islands in the Caribbean Sea.

**sentence** - SENT-n(t)s

*a decision or judgment, as of a court; esp. the determination*

The sentence was in the defendant's favor.

**tournament** - TUR nuh muhnt  
*a series of contests*

Our team won first place in the soccer tournament.

**people** - PEE puhl  
*human beings*

A large group of people gathered to watch the festivities.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**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-'IE-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 RUPP

*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 subn(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.



Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**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.

**rheostat** - re-o-stat

*an electrical resistor for regulating current*

The stage lights were dimmed by means of a **rheostat**.

**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.

**buoyancy** - 'boi-un(t)-sE OR 'bù-yun(t)

*the tendency of a body to float in a fluid*

Filling the raft with more air will increase its **buoyancy**.

**adolescent** - ad-o-less-sent

*period of life between puberty and adulthood*

An **adolescent** frequently has trouble communicating with parents.

**questionnaire** - kwes chuh NAIR

*a form comprising a series of questions, especially for a survey*

Please complete this short **questionnaire** before leaving.

**medley** - med LEE

*a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works*

The chorus performed a **medley** of show tunes.

**casserole** - KAS uh role

*earthenware or glass baking dish, or food cooked in one*

Please bring a vegetable **casserole** to the potluck.

**shepherd** - SHEP urd

*a person who tends a flock of sheep*

The **shepherd** led the flock along the path.

**admire** - ad-mire

*to gaze on with delight*

I **admire** your choice of neckties.

**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.

**fervent** - 'fer-vent

*having or showing great warmth of feeling; intensely devoted or earnest; ardent*

The children showed a **fervent** devotion to their pet.

**chrysanthemum** - kri SAN thuh mun

*popular plant grown for its long-lasting flowers*

A **chrysanthemum** bouquet was the centerpiece for our Thanksgiving table.

**prairie** - PRAIR ee

*a large area of level or rolling grassland*

Life on the **prairie** was often difficult for the early settlers.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**marmalade** - MAR muh lade

*a clear jelly containing pieces of fruit and fruit rind*

Orange **marmalade** tastes delicious on English muffins.

**exhaustion** - ig-'zos-chun

*deprivation of strength or energy*

The marathon runners' **exhaustion** was apparent as they entered the stadium.

**destroy** - di STROY

*to tear down*

The demolition crew will **destroy** the whole building.

**maintenance** - MAYN tuh nuh(t)s

*the act of keeping in an existing state*

Proper **maintenance** of your car will make it last longer.

**overwhelming** - oh vuhr HWEL ming

*crushed by reason of force, weight or numbers*

The prosecution presented **overwhelming** evidence against the accused.

**parochial** - puh ROH kee uhl

*narrow; provincial*

That newscast presented a very **parochial** view of the problem.

**neglect** - nih-GLEKT

*to give little attention or respect to*

We must not **neglect** our homework.

**boulevard** - 'bu-la-"vård OR 'bü-la-"vård OR

'ba-la-"vård

*a broad often landscaped thoroughfare*

Sometimes driving on a **boulevard** is faster than taking the freeway.

**delicacy** - de-li-k'-sE

*pleasing in taste, odor, texture; fragile beauty of graceful slowness*

Caviar is considered a **delicacy** by many.

**architecture** - 'är-ka-"tek-chur

*the style of building that designers produce*

Colonial style **architecture** was popular in Southern plantation homes.

**carousel** - kar uh SEL

*a merry-go-round*

I love riding the **carousel** at the park.

**narcissistic** - nar sis SIS tik

*possessed by self-love*

The **narcissistic** attitudes of the "Me Generation" are appalling.

**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.

**neighborhood** - NAY buhr hood

*the region near where one resides*

Our **neighborhood** holds a Block Party every Labor Day.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**botany** - 'bah-ten-E OR 'bah-t-nE

*the science of plants*

The branch of biology dealing with plant life is called **botany**.

**active** - AK tiv

*lively; busy, agile*

Last night I baby-sat for a very **active** two-year old.

**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.

**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** - hahr-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** - SHEILD

*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 ffs

*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** - rh-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.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

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**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 gyoooh

*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

*conductive 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** - subb 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(ŋ)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.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

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**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.

**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.

**panic** - PAN ik

*sudden, unreasonable fear*

They did not panic when the fire broke out.

**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.

**redoubt** - re-dout

*a small enclosed fort often temporary, fortifying hills and passes*

The soldiers took up their positions in the unassailable redoubt.

**antecedence** - AN tu-s-E dhs

*priority; precedence; going before*

The teacher stressed the antecedence of study to success.

**sabotage** - SAB uh rahzh

*deliberate damage of equipment, usually by disgruntled employees*

Security was strengthened amidst concerns that striking workers might sabotage the factory.

**compatible** - kum-PAT-uh-bul

*capable of existing together in harmony*

In a group, it helps if the members are compatible.

**antidote** - ANT i dote

*something that relieves, prevents, or counteracts*

Education is often said to be an antidote to crime.

**amaze** - uh MAZE

*to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder*

The musician's talent will amaze the audience.

**crisis** - KREYE sis

*decisive or crucial time or stage of an event*

We knew we had to deal with the crisis quickly and efficiently.

**first** - FURST

*preceding all other*

I hope I win first place in the spelling competition.

**fasten** - FAS uhn

*to become fixed or joined*

Let me help you fasten those buckles.

**thermometer** - thuhr MAHM uh tuhr

*an instrument for measuring temperatures*

A thermometer placed in the sun will not give an accurate reading.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**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 uh

*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-'FOID OR 'for-'FOID

*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(I) ya

*evergreen vine with vibrant colored flowers*

The walls of the hotel terrace in Mexico were covered with gorgeous bougainvillea vines.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

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**caption** - KAP shun

*a heading or title, as of a newspaper article*

The **caption** at the top of the story attracted my attention.

**plague** - PLAYG

*a disastrous evil, especially a large number of destructive pests*

A **plague** of locusts destroyed this year's crops.

**deafen** - DEF uh

*overwhelm with noise*

The volume of the loudspeaker will **deafen** the audience.

**peninsula** - pa-hin(l)-s(u)-la

*a long projection of land into water*

We drove around the **peninsula** until we found the best beach.

**foreign** - FOR in

*connected with another country*

Their formal style of dress was very **foreign** to us.

**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.

**literature** - LIT ur uh chur

*writings in prose or verse having permanent value*

My collection of children's **literature** includes many of the classics.

**temperament** - 'tem-p(u)-jru-munt

*frame of mind; internal constitution*

The composer was a man of melancholy **temperament**.

**dreadful** - dred-ful

*inspiring dread; terrible or awesome*

The volcano eruption was **dreadful**.

**sourdough** - SOU(uh)R doh

*a leaven of dough in which fermentation is active*

San Francisco is famous for **sourdough** french bread.

**safety** - SAFE tee

*freedom from danger; security*

Today's presentation was on the **safety** issues we should employ in case of a disaster.

**gobble** - GOB uh1

*to eat quickly and greedily*

The chickens usually **gobble** all the grain.

**persuade** - pur SWADE

*to convince*

I hope my arguments will **persuade** you to study harder.

**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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**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

*joyful; 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.



Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**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 ruh

*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** - SIJ 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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**arouse** - a-rous

*to excite to action*

The night watchman hastened to arouse the sleeping guests.

**wrist** - rist

*the joint of the arm on which the hand turns*

Fred sprained his wrist and could not play in the game.

**clothes or close** - klothz

*covering for the human body*

Clothes make the man.

**pigeon** - PIJuhn

*any of numerous birds with a stout body and smooth plumage*

The fattest pigeon in the park grabbed the most food.

**disturbance** - disTURbuh(t)s

*a tumult or commotion by which the public peace is upset*

There was quite a disturbance outside my bedroom window last night.

**woman** - WUM-en

*a female human being; adult female; femininity*

The term 'lady' was once restricted to a woman of the higher social class.

**khaki** - KAK-ee

*a light yellowish brown*

The soldiers wore their khaki uniforms during the summer.

**plaid** - PLAD

*a pattern of unevenly spaced repeated stripes crossing at right angles*

That is a very nice looking plaid skirt.

**leopard** - LEPuhrd

*a large strong cat of southern Asia and Africa; panther*

The leopard grabbed its prey with its strong paws.

**satellite** - SAT-uh-lite

*a moon or man-made vehicle which orbits a celestial body*

The weather satellite aided us in tracking the hurricane.

**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.

**weapon** - WEEPuhn

*something (as a gun, knife or club) that may be used to fight with*

The police officer fired the weapon in self-defense.

**legato** - le-ga-to

*in music, smooth and connected with no break*

The instructor cautioned the piece should be played legato and not staccato.

**dosage** - dO-sij

*the system to be followed in taking does, as of medicine*

He forgot to take his dosage of cough medicine.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**metaphor** - MET uh for

*a literary likeness showing implied comparison*

An example of a **metaphor** is “the ship plows the sea.”

**absurd** - AB-surd

*so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous*

It was **absurd** to say the baby could reach the counter.

**depth** - DEPTH

*distance from the top*

The pool goes down to a **depth** of ten feet.

**courteous** - KUR tee uhs

*marked by respect for and consideration of others*

If one is **courteous**, one will reap many benefits.

**puppet** - PUP it

*doll or figure used in plays*

The children will put on a **puppet** show.

**ignore** - ig NOR

*to disregard deliberately*

The students appeared to **ignore** the teacher’s request for quiet.

**enough** - i-NUF

*sufficient*

Do you have **enough** clothes for your trip?

**whistle** - HWIS uh1

*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.

**foulard** - foo-lard

*a thin, soft material of silk*

Her dress was of flaming red **foulard**.

**lonely** - LOHN lee

*alone; solitary*

I was very **lonely** when I first moved to town.

**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.

**bureaucracy** - byooh RAWK ruh see

*a body of (hired) government officials*

The federal government is criticized for the size of its **bureaucracy**.

**surround** - suh ROUND

*to enclose on all sides; encircle*

When playing the game, the children would first **surround** themselves with all the toy cars.

**allegiance** - uh LEE juh(n)ts

*the obligation of fidelity in general*

The soldier’s **allegiance** to their country was unquestioned.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

**pantomime** - PAN-tuh-myne

*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-sub-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** - kăn-fa-iden(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 chuhhs

*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.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**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.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**faithful** - FA'YTH fəl

*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 uhñ 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; breath*

We have to measure the **width** of the shelf to make sure it will fit the space.

**utensil** - yooñ 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 nuhn

*a highly aromatic spice*

We are serving **cinnamon** rolls for breakfast.

**souvenir** - SOOH vuh nuh

*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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**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** - kuh 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.



Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**snorkel** - snor-k'l

*to move or swim under water using a snorkel*

We plan to **snorkel** when we are in Hawaii.

**obsequious** - eb-see-kwee-es

*manly or servilely attentive; overly compliant*

General Smith's **obsequious** staff is good for nothing but fawning and groveling on command.

**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.

**bankrupt** - BANGK rupt

*a person legally declared unable to pay debts*

The store's owner was **bankrupt** and had to go out of business.

**pannikin** - pan-i-kin

*a small pan or cup*

He drank heartily from the **pannikin**.

**fluid** - flu-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.

**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.

**ninetieth** - NINT ee uhth

*the ordinal number 90th*

Your spelling scores are above the **ninetieth** percentile.

**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.

**sheriff** - SHAIR if

*a county law enforcement officer*

The **sheriff** responded to a disturbance outside the city limits.

**secret** - SEE krit

*kept from public knowledge*

If I tell you this, will you promise to keep it a **secret**?

**grease or Greece** - GREEES

*animal fat*

Put the leftover bacon **grease** in this can.

**devoid** - du-'void

*completely without; empty or destitute*

Crippled badly from the accident, he was **devoid** of any way to resume his former occupation.

**knowledge** - NAHL ij

*understanding or skill gained by experience or learning*

Visiting National Parks has increased our **knowledge** about geologic formations.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**unconstitutional** - un kan stee too shen I  
*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** - GHUH-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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**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** - LEEBG

*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-kuhl

*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.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**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** - HINI

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

**judicial** - joooh 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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

**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** - heyv puh KAHN drie 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** - ás-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(é-)'r&ent, -t&- 'rânt, -"trânt, -t&mt  
*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.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**mental** - MEN tuh  
*of or for the mind or intellect*

I have a **mental** picture of what I want it to look like.

**orchestra** - OR ki struh

*a group of musicians who perform together*

Our school **orchestra** won top honors at the music festival.

**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**.

**lemon** - lem-un

*a small yellow fruit with a bitter taste*

The old lady always put **lemon** in her tea.

**Saturday** - SAT ur day

*the seventh day of the week*

This **Saturday** we can go to the Mall together.

**effusion** - e-fu-shun

*a pouring forth; a gushing or unrestrained utterance*

An **effusion** of praise marked the speech.

**environment** - in VEYV ruh nuht

*all the influences surrounding and affecting an organism*

The National Parks preserve the natural **environment**.

**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.

**catastrophe** - kuh TAA truh fee

*the culminating event of a drama, tragedy; disastrous end; any great and sudden calamity or failure*

The Northridge Earthquake was a **catastrophe**.

**procession** - pro-'se-sh'n

*orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way*

The elephants moved in **procession**—trunk to tail.

**plagiarize** - PLAY juh rize

*to steal and pass off as one's own the works of another*

Students who **plagiarize** articles generally get caught.

**recur** - ri KUR

*to happen or occur again*

An eclipse of the sun will not **recur** for another ten years.

**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.

**correct** - ke-REKT

*to change from wrong to right; to point out or mark the errors of*

Schoolteachers often take papers home to **correct**.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**Antarctica** - ant ARK ti kuh

*the continent surrounding the South Pole*

The cold climate of **Antarctica** is the perfect habitat for penguins.

**warmth** - WORMTH

*state of giving off moderate degree of heat*

We could feel the **warmth** of the sun on our faces.

**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**.

**receive** - ri SEEV

*to accept; to get or permit to enter*

Did you **receive** my Christmas card?

**reconnaissance** - ri KAHN uh subn(t)s

*preliminary survey of an area to gain information*

Many missions of **reconnaissance** were flown over the enemy's territory.

**antimacassar** - an ti muk 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**masquerade** - mas kuh RADE

*a party at which people wear masks and costumes*

What are you going to wear for the **masquerade** ball?

**pennant** - pen-ant

*a long, tapering flag*

Which team do you think will win the **pennant** this year?

**extravagance** - ik strav e gens

*the wasteful spending of money*

The new diamond bracelet was an **extravagance** for the young waitress.

**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?

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**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** - spahn t 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 puh r 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-ment

*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 implied 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.



*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**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; impretentious*

The humble home was neat and tidy.

**mileage** - ml-tij

*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 um

*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(t) pe tied 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.

## Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**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 sthr 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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**opportunity** - ahp uhr TOOOh 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**.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**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-pär-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-fī-gal OR  
*"sen-tri-'fyū-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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**yacht** - YAHT

*any of various small ships used especially for pleasure*

The annual **yacht** races will be held on the Bay tomorrow.

**burglar** - 'bur-ɟlur OR 'bur-ɟa-lur

*a person who steals from a home or business*

The **burglar** entered through an unlocked door.

**jacket** - JAK-it

*a short coat*

This blue **jacket** would like nice with your gray trousers.

**thunder** - thun-der

*the loud noise after lightning*

The **thunder** seemed to be coming from the east.

**pamphlet** - PAM(P) flit

*a short publication with no cover*

Please send me the **pamphlet** you advertised about starting a rock collection.

**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**.

**marriage** - MAIR ij

*the state of matrimony; wedlock*

That couple's **marriage** seems to be very happy.

**kindling** - kin(d)-ling)

*bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted materials for starting a fire*

The campers gathered **kindling** for the fire.

**ethnic** - 'eth-nik

*designating any or of any of the basic groups of divisions of mankind*

His **ethnic** background was Italian.

**terrific** - tuh RIF ik

*extraordinary; astounding*

We attended the most **terrific** party last night.

**poltergeist** - POHL tur geyest

*a spirit supposed to manifest itself by noises, knocking, etc.*

In the play, a **poltergeist** appears during the seance.

**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.

**against** - uh GENST

*in opposition to*

The Student Council voted **against** school uniforms.

**honest** - ON ist

*frank and open*

The storeowner had an **honest** face.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**middle** - MID I

*in between*

When we drive to my grandparent's house my 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 suhns

*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 clever often evasive move or action*

We had to maneuver our way through the downtown traffic.

**shuttle** - SHUT I

*a vehicle that goes back and forth between scheduled stops*

You can take the airport shuttle to the hotel.

**symmetrical** - si MET ri kuhI

*having balanced proportions*

It would look better if the pictures on either side were more symmetrical.

*Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)*

---

**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-uh

*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 uh

*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.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**emollient** - e-mol-i-ent

*something that has a softening or soothing effect*

An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream's emollient powers.

**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 vegetables.

**forest** - for-est

*dense growth of trees*

The family of bears lived in the forest.

**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.

**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.

**reserve** - rĒ-shĕrv

*to hold; or hold over to a later time*

We will reserve a place for you at the table.

**constitutional** - CON-siti-tu-shn 'l

*of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential*

Everyone in the United States has constitutional rights.

**central** - SEN truhl

*in, at, or near the center*

Let us get back to the central issue we are here to discuss.

**abhor** - ab HOR

*to shrink from in fear; detest*

I abhor baiting my fishhook with worms.

**boisterous** - 'boi-st(a-)rus

*rowdy*

The security officer had to quiet the boisterous group.

**surveillance** - sur VAY luh(t)s

*close watch*

The police kept a constant surveillance at the suspect's house.

**translucent** - tranz LOOH subnt

*capable of allowing some light to show through, but not transparent*

We purchased a new translucent window for our bathroom.

**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.

**remembrance** - ri MEM bruhn(t)s

*memory, the act of remembering*

The donation was made in remembrance of the director who passed away recently.



Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

**perennial** - puh REN ee uh  
*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 ooh  
*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 impart 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** - ap-thel-mäl-e-gest  
*a physician specializing in diseases of the eye*  
The **ophthalmologist** had to dilate the  
patient's eyes.

Elementary Study Word List (Grades 4-6)

---

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

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

**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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

**xylophone** - 'ZI-lä-"fOn OR 'zi-lä-"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.

**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.

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