



Scripps National Spelling Bee Study Words for Seventh Graders 2014–2015 School Year

This list includes 50 challenging seventh grade words and, to extend learning, 50 challenging eighth grade words. If you learn the spellings and meanings of these 100 words, you will be well prepared for a seventh grade classroom bee. If you would like to be well prepared for a school spelling bee, ask your teacher for the 450-word School Spelling Bee Study List.

1. **fragile** (adjective) easily broken or destroyed : frail.
2. **prolific** (adjective) occurring or existing in large numbers : abundant : profuse.
3. **veteran** (noun) a former member of armed forces who qualifies for benefits or privileges provided by law for ex-members of the armed forces.
4. **portrait** (noun) a painting, drawing, or other pictorial representation of a person usually showing the face.
5. **sesame** (noun) the small flattish seeds of an herb that are used in cooking and as a source for oil.
6. **goliath** (noun) giant.
7. **ammunition** (noun) the materials (such as bullets) that are fired from weapons.
8. **premises** (plural noun) a building and the area of land it sits on.
9. **modicum** (noun) a small portion : a limited quantity or amount.
10. **iteration** (noun) the action of repeating or saying or doing over again.
11. **gung ho** (adjective) extremely or overly zealous or enthusiastic.
12. **cinnamon** (noun) an aromatic spice made from the bark of certain tropical trees and used in cooking.
13. **phonics** (plural noun) a method of teaching beginners to read and pronounce words by learning the speech sounds of letters and letter groups.
14. **arrogant** (adjective) having or showing an exaggerated sense of one's own worth or importance.
15. **jettison** (verb) drop (as in extra equipment, bombs, cargo, or fuel) from an airplane in flight.
16. **indulgent** (adjective) benignly tolerant : markedly permissive.
17. **berserk** (adjective) marked by a display of violent, crazed behavior that indicates extreme excitement or agitation.
18. **edification** (noun) a building up of the mind, character, or faith : intellectual, moral or spiritual improvement.
19. **outrageous** (adjective) not conventional : extravagant : fantastic.
20. **debilitate** (verb) to impair the strength of : weaken.
21. **bona fide** (adjective) not counterfeit : genuine.
22. **havoc** (noun) wide and general damage or destruction.
23. **crucial** (adjective) extremely important or essential.
24. **skirmish** (noun) combat between detached and small bodies of troops.
25. **albeit** (conjunction) even though : although.
26. **irrigation** (noun) the artificial watering of land (as by canals, ditches, pipes, or flooding) to supply moisture for plant growth.



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online quizzes and audio pronunciations.*

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27.	devotee	(<i>noun</i>)	an ardent or zealous follower, supporter, or enthusiast (as of a cause, an art, a sport).
28.	guffaw	(<i>verb</i>)	laugh noisily or coarsely.
29.	squirrely or squirrely	(<i>adjective</i>)	extremely odd : crazily peculiar or senseless.
30.	impugn	(<i>verb</i>)	call into question : attack as false.
31.	slovenly	(<i>adjective</i>)	lack of neatness and order especially in dress or person.
32.	flourish	(<i>verb</i>)	grow well : increase and enlarge : thrive.
33.	whey	(<i>noun</i>)	the serum or watery part of milk that is separated from the curd especially in the process of making cheese.
34.	nostalgia	(<i>noun</i>)	homesickness.
35.	paunch	(<i>noun</i>)	an enlarged, swollen, or protruding belly or stomach.
36.	thyme	(<i>noun</i>)	a common garden herb used in seasoning and formerly in medicine.
37.	jocularly	(<i>noun</i>)	the quality or state of being given to saying amusing things.
38.	ruminare	(<i>verb</i>)	consider something for a period or at intervals : engage in contemplation.
39.	brethren	(<i>plural noun</i>)	people who are related or linked to others by a common tie or interest (such as a shared profession or membership in a society).
40.	cabal	(<i>noun</i>)	a small, secret group that plots against a government or a public figure.
41.	fluctuation	(<i>noun</i>)	a wavering or unsteadiness (as of opinion or prices).
42.	boorish	(<i>adjective</i>)	characteristic of or relating to a rude, clumsy, insensitive, or boring individual : unrefined.
43.	ipso facto	(<i>adverb</i>)	by the fact or act itself : by that very fact.
44.	notoriety	(<i>noun</i>)	the state of being famous or well-known for something negative.
45.	foible	(<i>noun</i>)	a minor flaw or shortcoming in personal character or behavior : a failing : a weakness.
46.	veracity	(<i>noun</i>)	devotion to the truth : the quality of being accurate and sincere in describing reality.
47.	tempura	(<i>noun</i>)	deep fried fritters of seafood and vegetables.
48.	aqueduct	(<i>noun</i>)	a conduit or artificial channel for conveying water.
49.	lozenge	(<i>noun</i>)	a small medicated candy that comes in many flavors.
50.	churros	(<i>plural noun</i>)	Spanish and Mexican pastries made from deep-fried unsweetened dough and usually sprinkled with sugar.
51.	 Spoonerism	(<i>noun</i>)	a transposition of usually initial sounds of two or more words that generally creates a comic effect.
52.	firmament	(<i>noun</i>)	the vault or arch of the sky : the heavens.
53.	aardvark	(<i>noun</i>)	a burrowing nocturnal African mammal that feeds on ants and termites, and has a long snout, a snakelike tongue, large ears and a heavy tapering tail.
54.	pantomime	(<i>noun</i>)	a sequence of movements or actions not accompanied by speech or seen from beyond earshot.
55.	dinero	(<i>noun</i>)	money.
56.	marsupial	(<i>noun</i>)	any of an order of mammals having a pouch for carrying the young and including kangaroos, wombats, bandicoots and opossums.

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57.	savvy	<i>(adjective)</i>	characterized by shrewdness and practical grasp.
58.	terra-cotta	<i>(noun)</i>	an object (as a bowl or figurine) of a usually low-fired and typically reddish unglazed ceramic material.
59.	palliative	<i>(adjective)</i>	serving to cause to lessen or abate.
60.	epoch	<i>(noun)</i>	an extended period of time usually characterized by a distinctive development or by a memorable series of events
61.	abysmal	<i>(adjective)</i>	immeasurably low or wretched.
62.	hirsute	<i>(adjective)</i>	hairy, shaggy.
63.	noctambulist	<i>(noun)</i>	one who walks at night especially in his sleep.
64.	ballyhoo	<i>(noun)</i>	publicity characterized by exaggeration, unmitigated flamboyant display, or excessive sensationalism.
65.	gaffe	<i>(noun)</i>	a social or diplomatic blunder or clumsy mistake.
66.	obfuscate	<i>(verb)</i>	make unnecessarily complex usually to the point of confusion.
67.	maize	<i>(noun)</i>	corn with hard kernels of various colors (as reddish brown, dark purple, and yellow) that is typically used for ornamental purposes.
68.	benison	<i>(noun)</i>	blessing.
69.	dementia	<i>(noun)</i>	a condition of deteriorated mentality characterized by marked decline from the individual's former intellectual level and often by emotional apathy.
70.	slalom	<i>(noun)</i>	skiing in a zigzag or wavy course between upright obstacles (as flags).
71.	quotidian	<i>(adjective)</i>	commonplace, ordinary.
72.	hummock	<i>()</i>	a small hill or knoll that is rounded or conical : a slight rise of ground above a level surface.
73.	centenary	<i>(noun)</i>	commemoration or celebration of an event that occurred 100 years before.
74.	shebang	<i>(noun)</i>	establishment, affair, thing.
75.	grandeur	<i>(noun)</i>	the quality of being majestic, magnificent, splendid, or stately especially to the view.
76.	hydroponic	<i>(adjective)</i>	of or relating to the growing of plants in nutrient solutions in water with or without sand, gravel, or other inert medium to provide mechanical support.
77.	eschew	<i>(verb)</i>	to abstain from (as something wrong, inappropriate, distasteful, or harmful) : shun.
78.	sabbatical	<i>(noun)</i>	a leave with pay granted to one holding an administrative or professional position (as college professor) for rest, travel, or research.
79.	noxious	<i>(adjective)</i>	harmful or destructive to humans or to other organisms.
80.	largesses	<i>(plural noun)</i>	aid, support, or other valuables received as or as if as a gift or through the benevolence of another.
81.	flambé	<i>(adjective)</i>	(of a food) dressed or served covered with flaming brandy or other flaming liquor.
82.	tawdry	<i>(adjective)</i>	cheap and gaudy in appearance or quality : tastelessly showy.
83.	catalyst	<i>(noun)</i>	an agent that provokes or precipitates an action or reaction between two or more persons or forces.
84.	wherewithal	<i>(noun)</i>	means or resources for purchasing or doing something.
85.	anathema	<i>(noun)</i>	one or something that is intensely disliked or loathed.

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86.	exoneration	<i>(noun)</i>	the act of discharging, or freeing morally or legally (as from a charge, duty, obligation, or responsibility).
87.	ukulele* or ukelele	<i>(noun)</i>	a small guitar of Portuguese origin popularized in Hawaii in the 1880s, strung typically with four strings that are plucked or strummed with the fingers, and used especially in accompanying songs or dances.
88.	dromedary	<i>(noun)</i>	a camel of unusual speed, having a single large hump on the back and bred and trained especially for riding.
89.	El Niño	<i>(noun)</i>	an irregularly occurring flow of unusually warm surface water along the western coast of South America that is accompanied by abnormally high rainfall in usually dry areas.
90.	laudable	<i>(adjective)</i>	worthy of praise : commendable.
91.	ochre or ocher	<i>(noun)</i>	a moderate orange yellow.
92.	ingratiate	<i>(verb)</i>	to make agreeable to someone.
93.	ragout	<i>(noun)</i>	meat and vegetables well seasoned in a thick rich usually brown sauce.
94.	prima donna	<i>(noun)</i>	a person who finds it difficult to work under direction or as part of a team : one who is impatient of restraint or criticism.
95.	ancillary	<i>(adjective)</i>	serving to aid or assist : auxiliary : supplementary.
96.	epicurean	<i>(adjective)</i>	stimulating and satisfying to the senses.
97.	farrago	<i>(noun)</i>	a confused, disordered, or irrational collection (as of words or ideas).
98.	ad nauseam	<i>(adverb)</i>	to a sickening degree : so as to disgust.
99.	counterfeit	<i>(adjective)</i>	made fraudulently in imitation of government-issued legal tender.
100.	prescient	<i>(adjective)</i>	having foreknowledge : characterized by foresight.