

Delray Beach Summer Spellebration!

High School Spelling Bee List Words

gerrymander

American (noun and verb)

jer-i-man-der, ger-

divide voting districts unfairly and to one's advantage

"The group that can gerrymander districts will have the opportunity to earn the most congressional seats."

bowdlerize

English (verb)

bohd-luh-rahyz, boud-l

edit by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate

"Old libraries used to bowdlerize classic novels by removing offensive language."

impeach

Anglo-french (verb)

im-peech

bring an accusation against

"Believing that he had exaggerated his qualifications, the students look to impeach their professor."

chicanery

French (noun)

shi-key-nuh-ree, chi-

the use of tricks to deceive someone

"Helen wasn't above using chicanery to win extra votes in the election."

kowtow

Chinese (verb and noun)

kou-tou, -tou, koh-

bend the knees and bow in a servile manner, a special custom of Chinese culture

"If Jason does not kowtow to the boss, he will never get a promotion at work."

enfranchise

French (verb)

en-fran-chahyz

1. grant freedom to, as from slavery or servitude 2. to endow with municipal or parliamentary rights

"The Twenty-sixth Amendment enfranchised all citizens over 18 years of age."

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facetious

French (adj.)

fuh-see-shuh s

cleverly amusing in tone

"While Aaron thought he was being funny, he did not realize his remarks came across as facetious."

moiety

French-Latin (noun)

moi-i-tee

one of two approximately equal parts

"A moiety of fifty dollars is twenty-five dollars."

infrastructure

French (noun)

in-fruh-struhk-cher

the basic features of a system or organization

"The aging infrastructure of the cities roads, tunnels and bridges are in urgent need of repair."

chromosome

German (noun)

kroh-muh-sohm

a threadlike strand of DNA that carries genes

"We have 23 chromosomes that help make up our DNA."

laissez faire

French (adj.)

les-ey-fair; French le-sey-fer

a doctrine that government should not interfere in commerce

"If the police adopted a laissez-faire attitude and allowed people to do whatever they wanted, the city would be in chaos."

gauche

Germanic (adj.)

gohsh

lacking social polish

"His gauche table manners make me cringe, especially when he tries to talk with his mouth full."

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deleterious

Greek (adj.)

del-i-teer-ee-uh s

harmful to living things

"The drug has no deleterious effects on young patients."

hemoglobin

Greek (noun)

hee-muh-gloh-bin, hem-uh-

a hemoprotein taht gives red blood cells their color

"If your blood didn't contain any hemoglobin, it wouldn't be red in color."

gamete

Greek (noun)

gam-eet, guh-meet

a mature sexual reproductive cell

"Reproduction occurs when a female's gamete joins with a male's gamete."

homogenous

Greek (adj.)

huh-moj-uh-nuh s, hoh-

all of the same or similar kind of nature

"At my school, the smartest students are placed in homogenous classes so they can challenge each other."

hegemony

Greek (noun)

hi-jem-uh-nee, hej-uh-moh-nee

the dominance or leadership of one social group over others

"When the dictator was chased out of the country, his hegemony over the people came to an end."

hubris

Greek (noun)

hyoo-bris, hoo-

overbearing pride or presumption

"Filled with hubris, the rabbit lost the race to the turtle."

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kinetic

Greek (adj.)

ki-net-ik, kahy-

relating to the motion of material bodies and their forces

"A simple definition of kinetic energy is power in movement or motion."

mitosis

Greek (noun)

mahy-toh-sis

the process by which a cell divides into two smaller cells

"Each cell that results after mitosis has a complete set of chromosomes."

lexicon

Greek (noun)

lek-si-kon, -kuh n

a reference book containing an alphabetical list of words

"Rappers often create new words their fans use as lexicon in their own conversations."

bellicose

late mid-english (adj.)

bel-i-kohs

having or showing a ready disposition to fight

"John had a bellicose personality which made him a fierce competitor during wrestling competitions."

metamorphosis

Greek (noun)

met-uh-mawr-fuh-sis

striking change in appearance or character or circumstances

"From birth to death, the human body goes through many stages of metamorphosis."

abrogate

Latin (verb)

ab-ruh-qeyt

revoke formally

"The ministry proposed to abrogate the electoral law of 1850, and restore universal suffrage"

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abstemious

Latin (adj.)

ab-stee-mee-uh s

marked by temperance in indulgence

"Abstemious in his habits, he possessed great physical endurance"

auspicious

Latin (adj.)

aw-spish-uh s

with favorable circumstances and good luck

"Seeing that his first test grade was a D, Leo realized he was not off to an auspicious start in 11th grade chemistry class."

acumen

Latin (noun)

uh-kyoo-muh n, ak-yuh-

shrewdness shown by keen insight

"Capable lawyers with business acumen are valuable to any firm."

circumlocution

Latin (noun)

sur-kuh m-loh-kyoo-shuh n

an indirect way of expressing something

"Circumlocution causes an average book or essay to become excessively lengthy."

antebellum

latin (adj.)

an-tee-bel-uh m

belonging to a period before a war

"Widespread slavery ended in the 1800s antebellum period."

circumnavigate

Latin (verb)

sur-kuh m-nav-i-geyt

travel around, either by plane or ship

"Christopher Columbus hoped to circumnavigate the world and spread Spanish culture and Christianity to new lands."

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deciduous

Latin (adj.)

dih-sij-oo-uh s

shedding foliage at the end of the growing season

"We observed the bare branches of our yard's deciduous maple tree."

evanescent

Latin (adj.)

ev-uh-nes-uh nt

tending to vanish like vapor, fleeting

"Beauty can be as evanescent as a rainbow."

diffident

Latin (adj.)

dif-i-duh nt

showing modest reserve

"A good entertainer cannot have a diffident nature or personality."

expurgate

Latin (verb)

ek-sper-geyt

to edit by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate

"The rapper was told that if he did not expurgate the offensive lyrics from his new song, it would never be played on the radio."

enervate

Latin (verb)

verb en-er-veyt; adjective ih-nur-vit

weaken mentally or morally

"Surgery can often enervate a patient for several weeks."

fatuous

Latin (adj.)

fach-oo-uh s

devoid of intelligence

"Buying a car without negotiating down the price is a fatuous move."

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fiduciary

Latin (noun and adj.)

fi-doo-shee-er-ee, -dyoo-

relating to or of the nature of a legal trust

"Although the ten-year-old actor was a millionaire, he still needed a fiduciary to manage his financial matters."

inculcate

Latin (verb)

in-kuhl-keyt, in-kuhl-keyt

teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions

"When my puppy chewed up my slippers, I realized how difficult it was to inculcate obedience in a young dog."

hypotenuse

Latin (noun)

hahy-pot-n-oos, -yoos

the side of a right triangle opposite the right angle

"Using the Pythagorean Theorem, the mathematician was able to find the triangle's hypotenuse as well as its shorter sides."

interpolate

Latin (verb)

in-tur-puh-leyt

insert words into texts, often falsifying it thereby
...>>>

"Today many singers interpolate their own words and music into classic songs in order to create new tunes."

incontrovertible

Latin (adj.)

in-kon-truh-vur-tuh-buh l, in-kon-

impossible to deny or disprove

"Failing grades revealed an incontrovertible fact - no student properly studied for the test."

irony

Latin (noun)

ahy-ruh-nee, ahy-er-

incongruity between what might be expected and what occurs

"In an irony of war, the soldiers destroyed the country they were supposed to save."

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jejune

Latin (adj.)

ji-joon

lacking interest or significance or impact

"The man's 2006 computer is jejune when compared to my 2017 model."

nihilism

Latin (noun)

nahy-uh-liz-uh m

complete denial of established authority and institutions

"Some of the best music genres were created as a result of musicians and singers using the principle of nihilism to create original sounds."

loquacious

Latin (adj.)

loh-kwey-shuh s

full of trivial conversation

"Since the employees knew their manager was in a loquacious mood, they predicted the meeting would be a long one."

nomenclature

Latin (noun)

noh-muh n-kley-cher

a system of words used to name things in a discipline

"In law school, students spend years learning legal nomenclature so they will be prepared to work as attorneys."

lugubrious

Latin (adj.)

loo-goo-bree-uh s

excessively mournful

"Just because I'm a bit down today doesn't mean I'm in a lugubrious mood!"

nonsectarian

Latin (adj.)

non-sek-tair-ee-uh n

not restricted to one school or party

"The nonsectarian holiday parade is attended by people of all races and religions."