

Delray Beach Summer Spellebration!

Middle School Spelling Bee List Words

jaunty

French (adj.)

jawn-tee

having a cheerful, lively, and self-confident air

"The jaunty music made everyone feel cheerful."

gargoyle

French (noun)

gahr-goil

an ornament consisting of grotesquely carved figure

"From a distance, the gargoyle on the roof's edge looked like a wild beast with a gruesome human face"

bizarre

French (adjective)

bih-zahr

conspicuously or grossly unconventional or unusual

"On her trip around the world, Bridgett found the custom of eating snake quite bizarre."

kilometer

French (noun)

kih-lom-i-ter

metric unit of length equal to 1000 meters

"Running a five kilometer in record time was the next goal for the budding athlete."

camouflage

French (noun)

kam-uh-flahzh

an outward semblance misrepresenting the nature of something

"As a defensive measure, some lizards can camouflage by changing colors to blend into their environments."

maneuver

French (noun & verb)

muh-noo-ver

1. (noun) a movement or series of moves requiring skill and care; a large scale military operation of troops, warships, and other forces.
2. (verb) to move skillfully; carefully guide or manipulate to achieve a certain end

"During the holiday sales, it is often impossible to maneuver your shopping cart through the crowded store aisles."

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antibody

German (noun)

an-ti-bod-ee

a protein that produces as immune respnse

"Phil's body became accustomed to the antibody, rendering it ineffective at killing the virus."

enthusiastic

Greek (adjective)

en-thoo-zee-as-tik

having or showing great excitement and interest

"Howard is an enthusiastic teacher who is always looking for new ways to excite his students."

guerrilla

Germanic (noun & adjective)

guh-ril-uh

a member of an irregular army that fights a stronger force

"The guerrilla assault was planned by a group of anti-government rebels."

hologram

Greek (noun)

hol-uh-gram, hoh-luh-

a pictograph for reproducing a three-dimensional image

"In order to see the hologram, the art students used a laser to display the picture."

eclectic

Greek (adjective)

ih-klek-tik

selecting what seems best of various styles or ideas

"The painter's recent work is an eclectic collection of landscapes she has recently visited."

labyrinth

Greek (noun)

lab-uh-rinth

complex system of paths in which it is easy to get lost

"The casino was designed as a labyrinth to keep gamblers trapped inside."

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ozone

Greek (noun)

oh-zohn

a colorless gas that is a screen for ultraviolet radiation

"Because of the high amount of pollution in the area, the ozone layer is being depleted."

Hindi (noun)

goo r-oo, goo-roo

a Hindu or Buddhist religious leader and spiritual leader

"The tech guru's last software invention sold for over two billion dollars."

protagonist

Greek (noun)

proh-taq-uh-nist

the principal character in a work of fiction

"A protagonist usually has an antagonist opposing his goals."

boycott

Irish, New English (noun & verb)

boi-kot

refusal to have commercial dealings with some organization

"Since the employees have had their insurance demands met, they have ended the boycott and are now returning to work."

chronology

Greek/Latin (noun)

kruh-nol-uh-jee

the determination of the temporal sequence of past events

"The biographical film highlights the chronology of the civil rights leader from his birth to his death."

quarantine

Italian (noun)

kwawr-uh n-teen

isolation to prevent the spread of infectious disease

"As long as John is in quarantine, he will not be able to contaminate anyone else."

guru

nocturnal

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Late-Latin (noun & adjective)

noctur-nl

1. (adj) of or relating to the night, active at night
2. (noun) an astrolabe for telling time at night or for determining latitude by the position of certain stars in reference to polaris

"Because I sleep all night, I do not consider myself to be a nocturnal person."

uh-lit-uh-rey-shuh n

use of the same consonant at the beginning of each word

"Can you hear the alliteration when you say the tongue twister, Betty Baker bought butter biscuits baked by Benny Butler?"

pulverize

Late-Latin (verb)

puhl-vuh-rahyz

make into a powder by breaking up or cause to become dust

"The culinary students will use a grinder to pulverize the fresh herbs."

decorum

Latin (noun)

dih-kawr-uh m, -kohr-

propriety in manners of conduct

"John's lewd behavior showed he was unfamiliar with decorum."

despondent

Latin (adjective)

dih-spon-duh nt

without or almost without hope

"Because I just won a huge lottery, I am no longer despondent about my financial concerns."

exponent

Latin (noun)

ik-spoh-nuh nt, ek-spoh-nuh nt

a notation of how many times to multiply a number by itself

"Michelle Obama was an exponent of healthy nutrition for young people."

Alliteration

Latin (noun)

fallacy

Latin (noun)

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fal-uh-see

a misconception resulting from incorrect reasoning

"Having money makes you happy is a fallacy because happiness has nothing to do with wealth."

kwon-duh-ree

state of uncertainty in a choice between unfavorable options

"Mark is in a quandary about whether or not he should keep the money he found in the park."

introspection

Latin (noun)

in-truh-spek-shuh n

contemplation of your own thoughts and desires and conduct

"Perhaps if you indulged in a little introspection, you would stop repeating the same bad habits"

quota

Latin (noun)

kwoh-tuh

a prescribed number

"The fishing permit sets the catch quota at ten fish per person each day"

parasite

Latin (noun)

par-uh-sahyt

an animal or plant that lives in or on a host

"The flea is a parasite that survives by extracting nourishment from other organisms."

sacrifice

Latin (noun)

sak-ruh-fahys

the act of killing in order to appease a deity

"We thanked the veteran for his sacrifice in serving this country."

quandary

Latin (noun)

Accentuate

Latin (verb)

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ak-sen-choo-eyt

To stress or single out as important

"During the programming interview, make sure you accentuate your familiarity with coding languages."

ig-zuhlt

feel extreme happiness or elation

"You must exult over your victories and move forward through your defeats."

aspire

Latin (verb)

uh-spahyuh r

have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal

"No one should aspire to profit from the misfortune of others."

nebula

Latin-German (noun)

neb-yuh-luh

an immense cloud of gas and dust in interstellar space

"I like to imagine living in a spaceship, drifting around in some massive nebula, lost forever in space."

commemorate

Latin (verb)

kuh-mem-uh-reyt

call to remembrance

"We will commemorate the president's legacy by placing his image on the new coin."

laconic

Latin-Greek (adj.)

luh-kon-ik

brief and to the point

"I don't have all day, so be laconic with your answers."

exult

Latin (verb)

polygon

Latin-Greek (noun)

pol-ee-gon

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a closed plane figure bounded by straight sides

"Since it is a four-sided figure, the square can also be called a quadrilateral or a polygon."

of the condition in which an organism can resist disease

"Vitamins and minerals from fruits and vegetables will make your body immune from certain illnesses"

jovial

Medieval Latin (adj.)

joh-vee-uh l

full of or showing high-spirited merriment

"Even though I was not a rich person, the wealthy country club members surprised me with a jovial greeting."

impertinent

Mid English-Latin (adj.)

im-pur-tn-uh nt

1. improperly forward or bold 2. not pertinent or relevant to the matter at hand

"Considering the applicant's impertinent response to a serious question, Mr. Bailey decided to take his name off of the short list of candidates."

inference

Medieval Latin (noun)

in-fer-uh ns

drawing a conclusion on the basis of circumstantial evidence

"Since the committee had no facts or figures, they decided to refrain from making an inference about next year's budget."

formidable

Mid English-Latin (adjective)

fawr-mi-duh-buh l

extremely impressive in strength or excellence

"Be worried of your formidable opponent, because she is one smart cookie."

immune

Mid English-Latin (adj.)

ih-myoon

mutation

Mid English-Latin (noun)

myoo-tey-shuh n

a change or alteration in form or qualities

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"In my hometown, a disease was rapidly spreading due to a viral mutation."

"The arrival of a large number of immigrants into the community is likely to create a cultural renaissance in food and music."

deign

Mid English-Latin (verb)

deyn

do something that one considers to be below ones dignity

"The heiress would not deign to clean up her dog's mess."

boisterous

Middle English (adjective)

boi-ster-uh s, -struh s

full of rough and exuberant animal spirits

"The boisterous crowd gave a standing ovation after #56 scored a touchdown."

flourish

Mid English-Latin (verb)

flur-ish, fluhr-

grow vigorously

"Fortunately, the bakery's weekly sales are allowing the store to flourish."

mosaic

Middle English (noun & adjective)

moh-zey-ik

design made of small pieces of colored stone or glass 2. (adj) composed of a combination of diverse elements

"The little girl was fascinated by the colorful mosaic that comprised the church's window."

Renaissance

Mid French & Latin (noun)

ren-uh-sahns

period in European history at the close of the Middle Ages

outrageous

Mid-English (adj.)

out-rey-juh s

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

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"My stern mother does not tolerate outrageous behavior at the dinner table."

"The bee was a huge nuisance as it kept buzzing around the picnic table."

dialogue

Mid-English (noun)

dahy-uh-lawg, -log

a conversation between two persons

"Because Kelly does not listen well, it is hard to establish a dialogue with her."

cower

Mid-English (verb)

kou-er

crouch or curl up

"Believing that no one was his equal, the king insisted that everyone cower before him."

heritage

Mid-English (noun)

her-i-tij

that which is inherited

"It can be exciting to explore your heritage and see where your ancestors came from."

divulge

Mid-English Latin (verb)

dih-vuhlj, dahy-

make known to the public information previously kept secret

"Doctors must be careful to not divulge confidential information about their patients."

nuisance

Mid-English (noun)

noo-suh ns

anything that disturbs, endangers life, or is offensive

random

Mid-English-French (adj.)

ran-duh m

made, or occurring without definite aim, reason or pattern

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"To fairly choose the winner, the store owner pulled a random slip out of a hat full of numbered papers."

prevent the spread of diseases and harmful insects."

repose

Old French (noun and verb)

ri-pohz

the state of reposing or being at rest, 2. to lie peacefully and restfully

"Sometimes, when I don't want anyone to bother me, I go to the public library, my favorite place of repose"

renegade

Spanish-Medieval Latin (noun)

ren-i-geyd

someone who rebels and becomes an outlaw

"In the movie, the hero was a renegade who refused to believe he was inferior simply because of the color of his race."

bamboozle

ORIGIN UNKNOWN (verb)

bam-boo-zuh l

conceal ones true motives from

"The swindler would bamboozle wealthy women by selling them fake jewelry at hefty prices."

embargo

Spanish/Latin (noun & verb)

em-bahr-goh

a government order imposing a trade barrier

"The embargo on transporting fresh fruits and vegetables into our country was enacted to