600 Spelling Bee Words & Sentences for Grades 6-8

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Directions

Spelling Bee Words and Sentences
Our list of 600 words was gleaned from a variety of grade-level resources. In general, our words appear from easiest to most difficult. However, this will not always be true for every speller. Students may find certain words easier or more difficult than others based on their own experiences and vocabularies.

I’ve purposely started with simple words so that many sixth graders can successfully make it through at least the first round of a spelling bee. Words gradually increase in difficulty. The final 50 words or so are at the 9th grade level and above to challenge your best students.

For a few of the words near the end of the list, I’ve included pronunciations to aid the pronouncer.

Pronunciations
We’ve included the most popular pronunciations. Additional pronunciations may exist for some words. We’ve chosen to use very few special symbols and markings.

Pronunciation Guide:
(a) - as in sad, tap, latch
(ā) - as in a in pay, late, cape
(e) - as in led, set, deck
(ē) - as in feel, deal, easy
(a) - as in about, confuse
(i) - as in lip, fish
(ī) - as in tide, white, ripe
(ō) - as in cone, rope, snow
(u) - as in sun, umbrella
(oo) - as in poodle
(yoo) - as in bugle, uniform
Before the Bee

Be sure to read through the words in advance of any spelling bee to rearrange, add and omit words as you see fit. We’ve used American English spellings, so depending on your location, you may need to change the spellings of a few words to match your own usage.

Also read the sentences carefully. Sentences are purposely brief. Many give clues to the words’ meanings to aid the speller. Feel free to substitute your own sentences for any of the ones here that you feel are not meaningful for your students. You don’t need to use every word on the list. Skip over any words that you think might cause problems.

Refer to http://www.spelling-words-well.com/spelling-bee-rules.html for a sample of easy spelling bee rules you may wish to use.

During the Bee

You may start with any word on the list, depending on the level of your students. Here are some general guidelines:
Grade 6 – Start at the beginning
Grade 7 – Start around #150
Grade 8 – Start around #250

During the bee, you may choose to skip large sections of the list in order to get to harder words more quickly, especially when only a few spellers remain.

Use the Recorder’s Chart on page 40 to keep track of students’ misspelled words and eliminations.

Alphabetical Listing of 600 Spelling Bee Words

This quick reference tool will allow you to compare our word list to your own spelling curriculum and other resources. You may wish to use a sampling of them for spelling activities prior to your competition.

If You Need More Resources…

For a complete set of spelling bee resources, including a different set of 620 words and sentences, rules, organizational charts, spelling bee award certificates, worksheets and much more, please refer to our Spelling Bee Toolbox eBooks at: http://www.spelling-words-well.com/spelling-bee-toolbox-ebook-order.html
131. heighten – The news story served to heighten our interest in the hurricane damage.

132. baboon – The baboon is a large African monkey with a long face.

133. pillar – Each pillar is over 20 feet tall.

134. pitiful – The starving, neglected horse was a very pitiful sight.

135. ballet – My sister takes ballet lessons and practices her dance moves at home.

136. dramatic – We saw a dramatic increase in gas prices after three refineries closed.

137. experimental – The cancer patient was eager to try a new experimental treatment.

138. operator – Each forklift operator undergoes safety training every month.

139. messaging – Many of us enjoy using instant messaging on the computer.

140. sloppiest – All the rain resulted in one of the sloppiest outdoor races ever!

141. medicine – There are many kinds of over-the-counter medicines for headaches.

142. tolerable – Temperatures became more tolerable when the sun went down.

143. midday – We take a midday break for lunch.

144. ivory – The key tops on the old piano were made from real ivory.

145. permanent – The two countries looked for a permanent solution for peace.

146. magician – The amazing magician made himself disappear!

147. ration – We'll have to ration our water because of the drought.

148. fabulous – Mom created a fabulous new recipe for chocolate cookies.

149. improvement – When Mel began practicing daily, he saw improvement in his game.

150. remedy – The doctor knew of a reliable remedy for Jeff's stubborn cough.

151. lapel – The groom wore a carnation on his lapel for the wedding.

152. notable – Mark Twain was a notable author of American humor.
### Recorder’s Chart

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