

ALPHA SEQUENCE

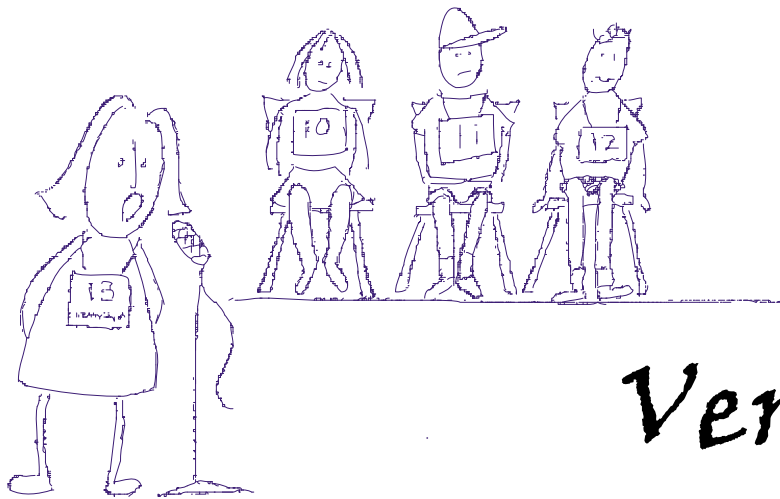
Verbomania

The "Granddaddy" of all Vocabulary Lists
For Spelling Bee and SAT Preparation



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Verbomania

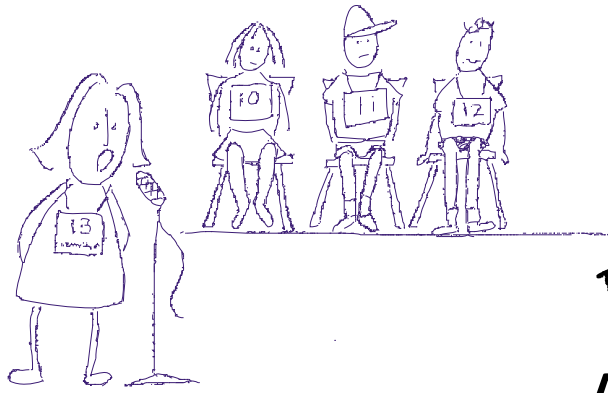
Alpha Sequence

For those seeking to expand both spelling and vocabulary skills with 13,000+ vocabulary enriching words with most collected over the years from various National Spelling Bee study lists and competitions.



HEXCO ACADEMIC

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Verbomania

Alpha Sequence

<vuhr.boh.MAY.nee.uh> n / an obsession with words

Congratulations! This tome is a direct route for learning a large number of vocabulary enriching words that are typical of those used in various levels of spelling competition of the National Bee. This same type of word is found on SAT and PSAT tests. Studying these words will expand your spelling word foundation, and studying their definitions will greatly enrich your vocabulary along the way.

Our pronunciations follow those in *Webster's Third New International*, unabridged. Providing up to 4 possibilities, we have omitted many strictly regional dialects. Also included for all words are part(s) of speech, a short definition, and etymology. Simple abbreviations are used to compact this data, such as L=Latin, Fr=French, Gk=Greek, Ger=German, E=English, It=Italian, and others as used in *Webster's Third*. Used in combination with these are the following: fr=from, prob=probably, and unk=unknown, perh=perhaps, and more that will be self-evident.

Our unique pronunciation scheme provides a simple, keyless scheme. Several dictionaries use a similar system. Much easier to utilize than the diacritical system in *Webster's Third*, our system recognizes 14 primary vowel sounds below: (only one or two should require your referencing our key at the bottom of each page)

ii=sign	eh=care	uh=ago	ay=wade	ah=calm	aw=paw	a=cap
oh=home	oo=too	ow=how	i=hit	ee=heat	u=put	e=pet

This 2013 volume incorporates all the updates made in the past few years to the pronunciations and etymology of the prior *Verbomania – Alpha Sequence*. In recent years, Scripps began pronouncing words with a *d stop* in a literal manner, which is strictly with a *d* sound. Previous pronouncers would use either a *d* or a *t* sound for such pronunciations. The word *butter* is shown with both a *d stop* pronunciation and with a *t* in the pronunciation, so it would be pronounced either way. Other words, like *perimeter* were pronounced either way previously in the National Bee, but in recent years, these are following the specific pronunciation shown in *Webster's Third*, which shows only one pronunciation, and this has a *d stop*. For this change we reedited every pronunciation in *Verbomania*, and we added etymology which was not in the original version. The *d-stop* pronunciation is usually the first one in *Webster's Third*, but it is not necessarily the first shown in *Verbomania*, unless there is no pronunciation without a *d-stop*.

This updates the 2004 *Verbomania* with its 13,000+ words. Historically, many words at regional bees are found in this collection as well as 30-40% of the words on the written round at the National Bee.

We are a small company that listens. If you have suggestions or criticisms or if you find an error in this book, we want to hear about it. *Verbomania* was a gargantuan undertaking, and while we have edited and reedited, there is a chance that a glitch could slip through. **We want to know of any improvements or corrections that we should make!**

We're easy to contact at the telephone number or email shown below.

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Verbomania – Alpha Sequence

- à deux** <ah.DUHR> or <ah.DUH>
adv, adj / having two together usually in an intimate manner
Ety/Note: Fr / Grave accent reqd on 'a'
- a fortiori** <ay.fawr.shee.OHR.ii> or <ay.fawr.tee.OHR.tee>
<AY.fawr.dee.ohr.ee> <ah.fawr.tee.OHR.ee>
adv, adj / just that much more certain, with a convincing force in drawing a conclusion
Ety/Note: L
- a la carte, à la carte** <ah.luh.KAHT> or <AH.luh.kahrt>
adj / having a price for each menu item
Ety/Note: Fr
- a posteriori** <ah.poh.stir.ee.OHR.ee> or <ay.pah.stir.ee.OHR.ii> <ah.pah.ster.ee.OH.uhr.ii> <ay.pah.stir.ee.AWR.ee>
adj / relating to that which can only be known from experience or observation
Ety/Note: L
- a priori** <ah.pree.OHR.ee> or <ay.prii.OHR.ii> <AH.pree.ohr.ee> <ap.ree.OHR.ee>
adj, adv, n / reasoning or deduction formed without examination or analysis
Ety/Note: L
- aardvark** <AHRD.vahrk>
n / African night mammal that eats bugs
Ety/Note: Afrik
- ab initio** <ab.i.NISH.ee.oh> or <ab.i.NID.ee.oh>
adv / since the beginning
Ety/Note: Gk
- abacus** <AB.i.kuhs> or <uh.BAK.uhs> <uh.BAHK.uhs>
n / frame with rods on which beads are moved in arithmetic calculations
Ety/Note: L fr Gk
- abacuses** <AB.a.kuhs.es>
n / instruments used for calculating by moving and positioning beads or counters
Ety/Note: L fr Gk
- abandon** <uh.BAN.duhn>
v, n / withdraw one's support, give up, yield; freedom
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L + E fr Fr of Gmc
- abandonedly** <uh.BAND.uhn.lee> or <uh.BAND.uhnd.lee>
adv / in a shameless or unrestrained manner
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L + E fr Fr of Gmc
- abandonment** <uh.BAN.duhn.muht>
n / state of having been forsaken or given up absolutely
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L + E fr Fr of Gmc
- abase** <uh.BAYS>
v / lower in terms of respect, to give up prestige
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L
- abash** <uh.BASH>
v / cause to be ashamed, embarrass
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L
- abatement** <uh.BAYT.muht>
n / act of decreasing or lowering; deduction
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L
- abat-jour** <ah.bah.ZHUR> or <ah.bah.ZHU.uhr>
n / skylight
Ety/Note: Fr fr L
- abattoir** <AB.uh.twahr> or <AB.uh.twawr> <AB.uh.tawr> <ab.uh.TWAHR>
n / public cattle slaughterhouse
Ety/Note: Fr + Fr fr L
- abbey** <AB.ee>
n / type of monastery; American artist
Ety/Note: L fr Gk fr Aramaic / Note: abbaye archaic variant
- abbot** <AB.uht>
n / person in charge at a monastery
Ety/Note: L fr Gk fr Aramaic
- abbreviate** <uh.BREE.vee.ayt> or <a.BREE.vee.ayt> <a.BREE.vee.it> <uh.BREE.vee.it>
v, n, adj / make shorter
Ety/Note: E fr L
- abbreviation** <uh.bree.vee.AY.shuhn> or <a.bree.vee.AY.shuhn>
n / end result of abridgment
Ety/Note: E fr L
- abbreviator** <uh.BREE.vee.ayt.uhr> or <a.BREE.vee.ayt.uhr> <uh.BREE.vee.ayd.uhr> <a.BREE.vee.ayd.uhr>
n / one who shortens something
Ety/Note: E fr L
- abdicate** <AB.duh.kayt>
v / renounce formally, abandon, relinquish or give up absolutely
Ety/Note: L
- abdication** <ab.duh.KAY.shuhn>
n / act of renouncing or surrendering
Ety/Note: L
- abdomen** <AB.duh.muht> or <ab.DOH.muht> <uhb.DOH.muht>
n / section of the body located in the lower part of the trunk
Ety/Note: Fr fr L
- abdominal** <ab.DAHM.uhn.uhl> or <uhb.DAHM.uhn.uhl>
adj, n / relating to part of body between the thorax and pelvis, referring to the belly
Ety/Note: Fr fr L
- abduction** <ab.DUHK.shuhn> or <uhb.DUHK.shuhn>
n / act of carrying away illegally
Ety/Note: L

Verbomania – Alpha Sequence - continued

terpsichore <tuhrp.SIK.uh.ree>
n / Greek muse of dance; choreography, dancing
Ety/Note: L fr Gk

terpsichorean <tuhrp.sik.uh.REE.uhn> or
<tuhrp.suh.KOHR.ee.uhn> <TUHRP.sik.uh.ree.uhm>
<tuhrp.suhk.uh.REE.uhn>
adj / relating to dancing
Ety/Note: myth name fr L fr Gk

terra firma <tehr.uh.FUHR.mu>
n / solid ground
Ety/Note: NL

terra incognita <tehr.uh.in.kahg.NEE.tuh> or
<tehr.uh.in.KAHG.nuh.tuh> <tehr.uh.in.kahg.NEE.duh>
<tehr.uh.in.KAHG.nuh.duh>
n / unknown region
Ety/Note: L

terrace <TEHR.is>
n, v, adj / flat porch or platform
Ety/Note: Fr fr Prov fr L

terra-cotta <tehr.uh.KAHT.uh> or <TEHR.uh.kaht.uh>
<tehr.uh.KAH.duh>
n / relating to reddish fired clay used for pottery
Ety/Note: It

terrain <tuh.RAYN> or <teh.RAYN> <TEH.rayn>
n, adj / geographical region
Ety/Note: Fr fr L / Note: terrane is variant at separate entry in dictionary

terrapin <TEHR.uh.pin>
n / edible turtle of North America; reddish-brown color
Ety/Note: E fr Algonquian orig

terrestrial <ti.RES.tree.uhl> or <teh.RES.tree.uhl>
adj, n / relating to the earth, global; inhabitant of the earth
Ety/Note: E fr L

terrible <TEHR.uh.buhl>
adj, adv, n / frightening, dreadful; very; scary person
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

terrify <TEHR.uh.fii>
v / scare, intimidate
Ety/Note: L

territorial <tehr.uh.TOHR.ee.uhl> or <TEHR.uh.tohr.ee.uhl>
<TEHR.uh.tawr.ee.uhl> <tehr.uh.TAWR.ee.uhl>
adj, n / relating to the local area, regional; military unit
Ety/Note: L

terrorism <TEHR.uh.riz.uhm>
n / coercion through threats and violence
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

terse <TUHRS>
adj / brief, concise; elegantly polished
Ety/Note: L / Hom: terce

tertiary (T) <TUHR.shee.ehr.ee> or <TUHR.shuh.ree>
adj, n / relating to the period following the Mesozoic era; third rank or order
Ety/Note: L

tertium quid <tuhr.shee.uhm.KWID> or <tuhr.dee.uhm.KWID>
<tehr.dee.uhm.KWID>
adj / third party with vague status, middle portion related to two others
Ety/Note: L

tessellated, tessellated <TES.uhl.ayt.id> or <TES.uh.lay.did>
adj, v / mottled, having a mosaic-like appearance, checkered
Ety/Note: L

testament <TES.tuh.mu>
n / statement of belief; will; either of two main parts of the Bible
Ety/Note: E fr L

testator <TES.tayt.uhr> or <tes.TAYT.uhr> <TES.tayd.uhr>
<tes.TAYD.uhr>
n / one who leaves a will upon his death
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

testify <TES.tuh.fii>
v / make a statement based on personal experience or firsthand evidence
Ety/Note: E fr L

testimonial <tes.tuh.MOH.nee.uhl> or <TES.tuh.moh.nee.uhl>
<TES.tuh.mohn.yuhl> <tes.tuh.MOHN.yuhl>
adj, n / relating to certified statement that serves as proof
Ety/Note: E fr L

testimony <TES.tuh.moh.nee>
n / evidence presented by a witness under oath
Ety/Note: E fr L

testy <TES.tee>
adj / irritable, waspish, quick tempered; exasperated, caustic
Ety/Note: E fr Fr / Hom: teste/testee

tête-à-tête <TAYT.uh.tayt> or <tayd.uh.TAYT>
<tayd.uh.TAYT> <tayt.uh.TAY>
n, adj, adv / private conversation; small sofa that seats only two
Ety/Note: Fr / Grave reqd on 'a' and circumflexes on 1st/3rd 'e's'

tether <TETHH.uhr>
v, n / fasten with a rope or chain
Ety/Note: E of Scand orig

tetrarch <TET.rahrk> or <TEE.trahrk>
n, adj / one of four people ruling together
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L fr Gk

tetrarchy <TET.rahrk.ee> or <TEE.trahrk.ee>
n / joint rule by 4 people
Ety/Note: E fr L fr Gk

texture <TEKS.chuhr>
n, v / visual or tactile surface of something
Ety/Note: L

thankfully <THANK.fuh.lee>
adj, adv / in a manner expressing pleasure or appreciation
Ety/Note: E

Phonetic key: ii=sign eh=care uh=ago ay=wade ah=calm aw=paw a=cap oh=home oo=too ow=how ee=heat e=pet i=hit u=put

Verbomania – Alpha Sequence - continued

veranda, verandah <vuh.RAN.duh>
n / porch or open portico attached to a building
Ety/Note: Hindi

verbal <VUHR.buhl>
adj, n / pertaining or relating to words
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

verbalism <VUHR.buh.liz.uhm>
n / phrasing, wording; term; wordy phrase or description with little meaning
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

verbalize <VUHRB.uh.liiz>
v / express something in words, speak
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

verbatim <vuhr.BAYT.im> or <vuhr.BAY.dim>
adv, adj, n / word for word
Ety/Note: E fr L

verbiage <VUHR.bee.ij>
n / wordiness, use of words in excess
Ety/Note: Fr

verbose <vuhr.BOHS>
adj / wordy
Ety/Note: L

verbs <VUHRBZ>
n / parts of speech that usually suggest action or state of being
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

verdant <VUHR.duhnt>
adj / green with growing plants, covered with green plants
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

verdict <VUHR.dikt>
n / judgment of a jury
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

verdigris <VUHRD.uh.grees> or <VUHR.duh.gris>
n, v / poisonous green pigment or compound; become stained or spotted green
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

verifiable <VEHR.uh.fii.uh.buhl>
adj / able to be proved true or false
Ety/Note: E

verification <vehr.uh.fi.KAY.shuhn>
n / act of establishing the truth or accuracy of something
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

verify <VEHR.uh.fii>
v / confirm, establish proof of
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

verisimilitude <vehr.uh.si.MIL.uh.tood> or <vehr.uh.si.MIL.uh.tyood> <VEHR.uh.si.mil.uh.tood> <VEHR.uh.si.mil.uh.tyood>
n / likelihood, having the appearance or probability of truth
Ety/Note: L

veritable <VEHR.uht.uh.buhl> or <VEHR.uhd.uh.buhl>
adj / authentic, being the same as that which is named
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

vérité <vehr.i.TAY>
n / act of making movies that emphasizes realism
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

verity <VEHR.uht.ee> or <VEHR.uhd.ee>
n / state of being true or real
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

vermicelli <vuhr.muh.SEL.ee> or <vuhr.muh.CHEL.ee>
n, adj / pasta made in long strands that are thinner than spaghetti
Ety/Note: It fr L

vermicular <vuhr.MIK.yuh.luhr> or <VUHR.mik.yuh.luhr>
adj / resembling a worm in the way something is formed or moves
Ety/Note: L

vermilion, vermilion <vuhr.MIL.yuhn>
n, v / bright, reddish-orange color
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

vermin <VUHR.min>
n / animals of an objectionable sort usually occurring in large numbers
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

vernacular <vuhr.NAK.yuh.luhr>
adj, n / native or unique to a particular place, as a language
Ety/Note: L

vernal <VUHRN.uhl>
adj / occurring in or relating to the spring of the year
Ety/Note: L

vers libre <vehr.LEE.bruh> or <vehr.LEEB>
n / poetry with no fixed metrical or rhyming pattern
Ety/Note: Fr

versatile <VUHR.suht.uhl> or <VUHR.suh.til> <VUHR.suh.duhl>
adj / adaptable to doing many things; marked by a variety of abilities
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

versatility <vuhr.suh.TIL.uht.ee> or <vuhr.suh.TIL.uh.dee>
n / adaptability; variability
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

verse <VUHRS>
n, adj, v / poetry; rhythmical writing
Ety/Note: E fr Fr fr L

version <VUHR.zhuhn> or <VUHR.shuhn>
n, v / description from one's own point of view
Ety/Note: Fr fr L

vertebra <VUHRT.uh.bruh> or <VUHRT.uh.bray> <VUHR.duh.bruh> <VUHR.duh.bray>
n / one of the bony segments making up the spinal column
Ety/Note: L

Verbomania – Alpha Sequence - continued

- wrought** <RAWT>
adj / formed, created, shaped
Ety/Note: E
- wrung** <RUHNG>
v, adj / squeezed; twisted to extract water
Ety/Note: E / Hom: rung
- wry** <RII>
v, adj, adv / twisted in a manner suggestive of irony
Ety/Note: E / Hom: rye
- x-axis** <EKS.aks.is>
n / horizontal line in the middle of a two-dimensional Cartesian graph
Ety/Note: L
- xenolith** <ZEN.uhl.ith>
n / rock fragment included in another rock
Ety/Note: L fr Gk + Gk
- xenophobe** <ZEN.uh.fohb>
n / person fearing foreign customs or people
Ety/Note: ISV fr Gk + L fr Gk
- xenophobia** <zen.uh.FOH.bee.uh>
n / fear of anything strange or foreign
Ety/Note: Gk
- xiphias (X)** <ZIF.ee.uhs>
n / swordfish
Ety/Note: NL fr L fr Gk / Note: Capitalized for genus only
- xylophone** <ZIL.luh.fohn> or <ZIL.uh.fohn>
n / musical instrument made of wooden bars that are struck with a hammer
Ety/Note: L fr Gk + Gk
- yacht** <YAHT>
n, v / sailing vessel built for speed
Ety/Note: Du fr Ger
- yachtsman** <YAHT.smuhn>
n / one who sails or owns a large boat
Ety/Note: Norw fr Ger + E / Note: plural yachtsmen pron identically
- yahoo (Y)** <YAH.hoo> or <YAY.hoo> <yah.HOO> <yay.HOO>
n / one who is crude or uncouth
Ety/Note: fictional people name
- yankee (Y)** <YANG.kee>
adj, n / relating to a native of the New England area
Ety/Note: orig unk
- yardstick** <YAHRD.stik>
n / three-foot ruler for measuring
Ety/Note: E
- yarn** <YAHRN>
n, v / strand of fiber in two or more plies used for weaving or knitting
Ety/Note: E
- yawn** <YAWN> or <YAHN>
n, v / mouth opened involuntarily with an intake of breath; gap
Ety/Note: E
- yea-sayer** <YAY.say.uhr>
n / yes-man, one who confidently agrees
Ety/Note: E
- yeast** <YEEST>
n, v / fungus used in bread-making that causes fermentation
Ety/Note: E
- yellow** <YEL.oh> or <YEL.uh> <YEL.uhw>
adj, v, n / colored similar to gold
Ety/Note: E
- yelp** <YELP>
n, v / shrill squeal or cry
Ety/Note: E
- yeoman** <YOH.muhn>
n, adj / respectable commoner who cultivates his own land; rank in the navy; seaman
Ety/Note: E / Plural yeomen pronun same
- yesterday** <YEST.uhr.dee> or <YEST.uhr.day>
adv, n, adj / in the 24-hour period of time before the present one
Ety/Note: E
- yiddish (Y)** <YID.ish>
n, adj / language of Ashkenazic Jews which merged with German dialects
Ety/Note: Yid fr Ger
- yield** <YEELD>
v, n / surrender the possession of something to another; amount obtained
Ety/Note: E
- yielding** <YEELD.ing> or <YEE.uhld.ing>
adj, v / inclined to comply or give way
Ety/Note: E
- yippee** <YIP.ee>
interj / expression of delight or triumph
Ety/Note: imit orig / Hom: yippie
- yoga (Y)** <YOH.guh>
n / Hindu philosophy and exercises involving mind, body and will
Ety/Note: Skt
- yogurt, yoghurt, yogourt** <YOH.guhrt>
n / pudding-like food made from milk that has fermented
Ety/Note: Turk
- yoke** <YOHK>
n, v / arched frame to connect two draft animals for hauling or pulling
Ety/Note: E / Hom: yolk
- yokel** <YOH.kuhl>
n / small-town inhabitant, usually naive and primitive
Ety/Note: E of imit orig
- yolk, yoke** <YOHK> or <YOHKL>
n / yellow, inner portion of an egg
Ety/Note: E