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SPELLING & VOCABULARY COMPLEMENT



GRADES 3 & 4 | 2025-26



UIL Spelling Complement 2025-26

For 3rd & 4th Grades

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This work complements the alphabetic UIL word list for elementary and junior high students and is in the same alphabetic order to serve as a time-saving dictionary plus sentencea *Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary* for 3rd-and 4th grades and Merriam Webster's Online Dictionary for the 5th through 8th grades

Our unique pronunciation scheme is very similar to that now used by many major dictionaries and newspapers to provide a simple, "keyless" scheme for difficult words. Our scheme recognizes the following 14 primary vowel sounds; only a few 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

Syllables are separated by periods. Those with primary emphasis are capitalized; those not emphasized are in lower case. Secondary emphasis is not indicated. Our simple system has been in use since 1983 by spellers, first in The National Spelling Bee, and a short time later by those in UIL competitions. This pronunciation scheme also forms the basis of our unique spelling software.

We are a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.

~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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famine <FAM.uhn>

n / shortage of food

*A drought had destroyed the crops and food supply which in turn created a --- in the small desert community.***farsighted** <fahr.SIIT.uhd> or <FAHR.siit.uhd>

adj / able to plan for the future; able to see at great distances

*President Washington proved to be an able leader with a --- dream of forming a more perfect union.***fearful** <FIR.fuhl> or <FI.uhr.fuhl>

adj / causing alarm, inspired fright; terrible

*The boys became --- whenever they talked of the night they had spent in the empty, haunted castle.***feather** <FETHH.uhr>

n, v / one of many similar pieces of a bird's external covering

*The deep blue color in a peacock's tail --- is quite beautiful.***February** <FEB.uh.wehr.ee> or <FEB.yuh.wehr.ee>
<FEB.ruh.wehr.ee>

n / month following January

*It was only ---, the second month of the year; but, already they were anxious for summer to arrive.~~Always capitalized***fetch** <FECH>

v / retrieve something

*Tom tried to teach his dog to --- a ball, but the dog wore Tom down and still doesn't perform that trick.***fiction** <FIK.shuhn>

n / something invented in the mind

*Harry had us all aghast when he described his hunting trip, and we realized that the entire story was ---.***fierce** <FIRS> or <FI.uhrs>

adj / marked by savage or wild hostility

*George was amazed when the trainer was able to calm a --- lion to the tameness of a house cat.***fingerprint** <FING.guhr.print>

n / pattern created by pressing the end of a digit on ink and then on paper

*One --- was found at the crime scene, and the detective hoped to identify the perpetrator from it.***finish** <FIN.ish>

v, n / bring to a close, complete; conclusion

*Miss Edmund had to --- making the homework assignment quickly because the school bell was ringing.~~Hom: Finnish***floral** <FLOHR.uhl> or <FLAWR.uhl>

adj / relating to blooms of plants

*The --- arrangement on the table was exquisite, and it reminded Mary of a bouquet of wild flowers.***fluoride** <FLUR.iid> or <FLU.uhr.iid>

n / compound or salt containing particular chemical element

*The citizenry disagreed on the addition of --- to the water supply, even though it would decrease tooth decay.***foolish** <FOO.lish>

adj / lacking in intelligence, silly

*The deputy found himself locked in a cell after making the --- mistake of turning his back on the outlaw.***forenoon** <FOHR.noon> or <FAWR.noon>

n / early part of the day, morning

*It was ---, and already the station was crowded with people waiting for the 1:00 p.m. train.***forever** <fuh.REV.uhr> or <faw.REV.uhr>

adv / for endless ages, always; eternity

*The old chief knew his world was changing, and he looked at his grandson and said, "Only the rocks last ---."***forward** <FAWR.wuhrd>

adv, v, adj, n / ahead; transmit to; through the future; strongly inclined

*Looking --- to summer, Lila could hardly keep her mind on her studies for thinking of the vacation ahead.***foursome** <FOHR.suhm> or <FAWR.suhm>

n / group one more than three; golf match between two pairs of people

*"You and Alice meet Carole and me at the club Saturday, and we'll make it a --- for golf," suggested Ted.***frankly** <FRANK.lee>

adv / in a straightforward and truthful manner

*"---, Susan, I don't think that is a wise choice, but I won't stand in your way," said the teacher.***freeze** <FREEZ>

v, n / become hardened into ice; become motionless; prevent access to

*Dad insulated the outside pipes so they wouldn't --- during the bitterly cold, winter night.~~Hom: frieze/frees***friend** <FRIEND>

n / close companion, acquaintance

*Emily asked her best ---, whom she had known since first grade, to be the maid of honor at her wedding.***frighten** <FRIIT.uhn>

v / startle, scare; terrify

*The raging storm served to --- Ayla who sought refuge in a cave.***frigid** <FRIJ.uhd>

adj / exceedingly cold; indifferent

Unaccustomed to the --- weather in Canada, Amy yearned to move back to sunny Florida.

rehearse <ri.HUHRs>

v / practice in preparation for a formal presentation
Before the final production, our class had to --- its play over and over until each actor knew the lines well.

relative <REL.uht.iv>

n, adj / kin; comparative
Because Harry and Joe have the same last name, Joe thinks that Harry might be a distant ---.

relief <ri.LEEF>

n / removal of something painful; one who replaces another
What a --- when the dentist finally removed the abscessed tooth.

remember <ri.MEM.buhr>

v / recollect, recall in thoughts again
I --- the tree house I had as a boy, said Granddad thoughtfully.

republic <ri.PUHB.lik>

n / system of government headed by officers elected by the people
The United States is a --- in which the people vote to elect their governmental representatives.

request <ri.KWEST>

n, v / something asked for; demand
The attorney asked the judge for extra time to prepare his client's case, but his --- was denied.

retire <ri.TIIR> or <ri.TII.uhr>

v / leave active employment or active duty
My grandad wanted to --- at 60 years old, but he's still working at 70.

review <ri.VYOO>

v, n / examine or study again; evaluation
The instructor promised the class that they would --- the material before taking the final exam.~~Hom: revue

revolve <ri.VAHLV> or <ri.VAWLV>

v / rotate; recur
The instructor explained that the sun will --- around the earth once every day.

rhythm <RITHH.uhm>

n / meter
The booming --- of the base drum kept the marching band in step together.

rightful <RIIT.fuhl>

adj / having a proper claim
Placing an ad in the paper, Kim was soon able to find the --- owner of the stray dog.

risky <RIS.kee>

adj / dangerous
"The plan is ---; but if we succeed, we'll have recaptured all the hostages," admitted the leader.

roomy <ROOM.ee> or <RUM.ee>

adj / having plenty of space
Al's new apartment seemed especially --- since his last one had been a tiny efficiency unit.

rosy <ROH.zee>

adj / having the characteristic pink or red color of a particular flower; blushing
The child breezed in from the snowman-building expedition with --- cheeks and a giggling grin.

routine <roo.TEEN>

n, adj / choreographed dance; repetitive process; formula
Leandra worked on her twirling --- to the point that she rarely made a mistake.

rubbish <RUHB.ish>

n / trash; nonsense
Although Carol's teacher praised her talent for writing poetry, her classmates called her work ---.

running <RUHN.ing>

v, n, adj, adv / going faster than a walk; continuous
Rajiv was grinning the entire time he was --- the bases after he had hit his homer.

rural <RUR.uhl>

adj / relating to the area outside of the city, country
The story was about a city mouse who visited his --- cousin on a farm in the country.

salsa <SAWL.suh> or <SAHL.suh>

n / Latin American music; spicy Mexican sauce made of tomatoes, peppers and onions
Jim enjoyed the --- more than the reggae, and he felt it was closer to the jazz that he loved.

salvage <SAL.vij>

n, v / act of saving property from destruction; rescue
The mechanic told Jake he could not --- the old junker after the recent wreck because it was beyond repair.

sanitary <SAN.uh.tehr.ee>

adj / relating to cleanliness for the sake of health
Lack of --- conditions during the Civil War led to many deaths from infected wounds.

sardine <sahr.DEEN>

n / small edible fish; relating to kind of stone
Julie tasted her first --- on the picnic but decided to stick with tuna sandwiches.

satisfy <SAT.is.fii>

v / please, gratify
The cook worked overtime preparing a meal large enough to --- the appetites of the football team members.