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SPELLING & VOCABULARY COMPLEMENT



GRADES 5 & 6 | 2025-26



UIL Spelling Complement 2025-26

For 5th & 6th 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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honeysuckle <HUHN.ee.suhk.uhl>

n / shrub with showy flowers rich with sweet nectar
In the summer, --- grows wild, filling the valley air with its sweet perfume.

hopefully <HOHP.fuh.lee>

adv / in a manner marked by expectation
"Jane will --- graduate in June, then all my children will be out of school," Mom said with apprehension.

hopscotch <HAHP.skahch>

n / children's sidewalk game
Drawing large boxes and numbers on the sidewalk, the children continued to play --- until late afternoon.

hospital <HAHS.pit.uhl>

n / institution where sick people are given medical care
Amanda joined the staff at the city --- as a nurse specializing in emergency room care.

hourglass <OWR.glas> or <OW.uhr.glas>

n / device with two chambers with sand spilling between at a measured rate
The game used an --- to time each competitor so none took a turn that was over the limit.

hubbub <HUHB.uhb>

n / noisy confusion
In all of the --- between classes, Janet had dropped her assignment and lost it.

huckleberry <HUHK.uhl.behr.ee>

n / edible dark-fruited shrub
My great grandmother had a --- growing in her backyard, and she picked the fruit to make pies.

humanity <hyoo.MAN.uht.ee> or

<yoo.MAN.uh.tee>
 n / mankind; quality of being compassionate for others
Walking in downtown Houston, Jeb was struck by the masses of --- crowding the sidewalks.

humdrum <HUHM.druhm>

adj / monotonous, lacking in excitement; state of being ordinary
The English professor's --- speech was monotonous as usual, and he covered no new information.

hydroplane <HII.druh.playn>

n / speedboat with a bottom that allows skimming on the water
The speedboat skimming along the water with the front of the hull well above water was identified as a ---.

hygiene <HII.jeen>

n / study or practice of maintenance of health
My dentist claims that good oral --- not only helps fight tooth decay but prevents gum disease as well.

hyperlink <HII.puhr.lingk>

n / digital address allowing one to access a location of document quickly
Raj clicked on the --- in the email to take him directly to the Internet to view a video.

hypnotism <HIP.nuh.tiz.uhm>

n / study of or act of inducing a state resembling sleep
 --- can be used on patients to induce an anesthetic state in which a person may accept curative suggestions.

icebreaker <IIS.bray.kuhr>

n / ship used to cut a channel through a frozen area
The --- shattered the frozen sheet before it inched forward through the Arctic waters.

icon <II.kahn>

n / symbol; religious image
The cathedral had an extraordinary --- that depicted the head of Mary crafted in precious metals and jewels.

identically <ii.DEN.tik.lee> or <ii.DEN.tik.uh.lee>

adv / in a manner showing the same characteristics and qualities
The twins were always dressed --- until they were old enough to pick out their own clothes.

identifiable <ii.DEN.tuh.fii.uh.buhl>

adj / able to have the origin or basic characteristics of
The tree was --- by the leaves and acorns as a burr oak, and there was no question about its species.

ignition <ig.NISH.uhn>

n / process of kindling fuel mixture
Using very dry sticks and a small bit of paper, Carrie had little trouble with the --- of the campfire.

ignorant <IG.nuh.ruhnt>

adj / not having knowledge, illiterate
The politician's speech was poorly received because he was clearly --- of local problems.

illiterate <il.IT.uh.ruht> or <il.LIT.uh.ruht>

<IL.lit.uh.ruht> <i.LIT.ruht>
 adj, n / unable to write or read, deficient in language
The kindly Mrs. Sander volunteered to work with --- adults to teach the fundamentals of reading and writing.

illogical <il.AHJ.i.kuhl> or <il.LAHJ.i.kuhl>

<IL.ahj.i.kuhl> <IL.lahj.i.kuhl>
 adj / relating to unsound reasoning through ignorance, contrary to correct thought
Mr. Bell's reasoning seemed --- to me because I had come to a different conclusion, using the same facts.

qualify <KWAHL.uh.fii>

v / meet certain standards, measure up to a requirement

Ross was the only player on our baseball team to --- for the all-star game.

quarrelsome <KWAURL.suhm> or <KWAUR.uhl.suhm>

<KWAHR.uhl.suhm> <KWAHRL.suhm>

adj / contentious, given to arguing

The --- squirrel chattered belligerently at us from the limb in protest of our pecan-gathering.

quarto <KAWR.toh>

n / page size of a book determined by folding a piece of paper in half twice

The rare book had the complete works of Homer printed in ---, and the small size of the pages made it lengthy.

quicken <KWIK.ning> or <KWIK.uh.ning>

v / stimulating, exciting; accelerating

The speaker touched on exciting ideas, and you could feel the interest of the students --- as he spoke.

quintillion <kwin.TIL.yuhn>

n / 10 to the 15th, number 1,000 followed by 5 groups of 3 zeros

The cube of 1,000,000 is a ---.

quipped <KWIP.t>

v / glib; jested at; made a clever, usually taunting, remark

Vesta --- about the school rules, but her jesting was stifled by the principal quickly.

quittance <KWIT.uhns> or <KWIT.uhnts>

n / discharge from an obligation; recompense, requital

Grandad's will provided Jim a ---, forgiving the debt owed for the money he had borrowed for college.

raccoon, racoon <ra.KOON>

n / mammal with black and white facial markings

The unique markings around his eyes made the --- appear to be wearing a mask.

racecourse <RAYS.kohrs> or <RAYS.kawrs>

n / route for competitions in speed

The --- followed a dirt road up and down hills, through pastures, over creeks, and back to the starting point.

racket, racquet <RAK.uht>

n, v / piece of equipment with a handle and a stringed area; noise

Nona had a favorite --- for playing tennis, and she was crushed when it broke.

Note: noise def only racket

radiology <rayd.ee.AHL.uh.jee>

n / science of using X rays to diagnose disease

Having an interest in X rays, the medical student decided to pursue a residency in ---.

rallying <RAL.ee.ing>

v / summoning strength to renew efforts of weakened troops; bantering; auto sport

--- his beleaguered team, the coach promised steak dinners for all if they could recharge themselves and win.

rancid <RAN.suhd> or <RANT.suhd>

adj / having a foul taste or smell usually because of rot

Left in a sack in the garage for a month, some of the apples we'd picked had become --- and moldy.

ravenous <RAV.nuhs> or <RAV.uh.nuhs>

adj / urgently craving food

The --- wolves were skin and bone, and they prowled through the night eagerly seeking any edible creature.

rayon <RAY.ahn>

n / fabric or thread made from cellulose

Mom's blouse was made of ---, and it was light and airy and never needed ironing.

reactor <ree.AK.tuhr>

n / someone or something that exerts a reciprocating force

Edna wanted to learn more about the nuclear --- and how it produced energy from fissionable material.

reality <ree.AL.uht.ee>

n / actual state of things

Sarah dreams of being an actress, but in --- she lives a very conventional life.

recede <ri.SEED>

v / withdraw

Frank's hairline began to --- when he was only twenty-five.

receipt <ri.SEET>

n, v / written proof of goods delivered; to provide such; storage place; recipe

"Please give me a cash ---," asked Jimmy after he paid for his gasoline.

receptionist <ri.SEP.shnuhst> or <ri.SEP.shuh.nuhst>

n / person employed to greet visitors, clients or telephone callers

Meg tired of being a --- and wanted to go back to school to become a doctor rather than just talk to patients.

recondition <ree.kuhn.DISH.uhn>

v / return to working order or renew the appearance of

Tad wanted to have someone --- his printer, but his Dad felt like it was beyond repair and should be replaced.