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SPELLING & VOCABULARY COMPLEMENT

ALPHABETICAL SEQUENCE



High School 2025-26



UIL Spelling Complement™

Alphabetical Sequence 2025-2026

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*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., Jennifer King

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UIL Spelling Complement Alphabetical Sequence™

For the 2025-2026 UIL WordPower booklet of spelling and vocabulary words for high school contests

This work complements the UIL word list for high schools and serves as a time-saving dictionary substitute so that students can spend more time studying and less time looking up each word. UIL Spelling Complement also provides a researched sentence illustrating usage for each word.

A special circular symbol • precedes words selected for vocabulary study in the UIL Word Power booklet, and the etymology is included for each of these words. Simple abbreviations have been used to compact this data, such as L = Latin, Gk = Greek, Fr = French, G = German, E = English, I = Italian and others as used in the American Heritage Dictionary. Used in combination with these language indicators are the following: O = Old, M = Middle, L = Late, V = Vulgar, H = High, and No = North. Connecting words abbreviated are fr = from, prob=probably, dim=diminutive, alter=alteration, and orig = origin. These should all become self-evident.

Our pronunciations follow those found in the American Heritage Dictionary - Fourth Edition, unabridged, and up to four pronunciations are shown. Also included for each word are the part(s) of speech, definition, and a carefully written sentence with context clues illustrating the word in use. If alternate spellings are indicated in the American Heritage, they are listed with the first spelling.

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 only the 14 primary vowel sounds below: (only the first 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

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 for 25+ years by schools using our UIL products and for over 35 years by schools using our line of companion products for the National Spelling Bee. This pronunciation scheme also forms the basis of our unique eMentor online spelling platform.

Bedouin, Beduin <BED.oo.win> or <BED.win>

n, adj / member of a nomadic tribe that wanders in the desert; aggressive baboon

The --- pitched his tent on the white, hot sands near the oasis after wandering about the desert for weeks.

Note: Always capitalized

Begin <BAY.gin>

n / Israeli leader

Anwar el Sadat of Egypt and Menachem --- of Israel were both awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978.

Note: Always capitalized

• **Bellerophon** <buh.LEHR.uh.fuhn> or <buh.LEHR.uh.fahn>

n / Corinthian hero from Greek mythology

With the aid of the magical, winged horse Pegasus, --- slew the Chimera.

Ety: L fr Gk myth figure - Bellerphon (slew Chimera) Note: Always capitalized

• **benignancy** <bi.NIG.nuhn.see>

n / gentleness, kindness

The judge's reputation for --- was widespread, and his decisions all seemed tempered by his kindness.

Ety: ME fr MFr fr L - benignus/-a/-um (kind) fr bene (well) + geno/-ere&gigno/-ere (produce/beget)

benison <BEN.uh.zuhn> or <BEN.uh.suhn>

n / invocation of a blessing

The priest offered a --- upon the marriage of the couple after they said their vows.

• **bergamot** <BUHR.guh.maht> or <BUHR.guh.muht>

n / small citrus tree that yields a perfume oil; type of rug
Desiring a fresh fragrance, the perfume designers extracted the oil from the rind of a ---.

Ety: Turk geog name - Bergama (town in western Turkey)

Bessarabia <bes.uh.RAY.bee.uh>

n / region of eastern Europe that borders the Black Sea
As the gateway from Russia into the Danube River valley, --- was ruled by many powers over her history.

Note: Always capitalized

bibliotheca <bib.lee.uh.THEE.kuh>

n / collection or list of books

Very similar to the French and Spanish word for the same, "---" often refers to a library.

bight <BIIT>

n, v / bend in a coast making an open bay; tie with slack rope

From an airplane a --- appears as an inward bend in the coastline.

Note: Hom: bite/byte

bimestrial <bii.MES.tree.uhl>

adj / continuing for two months; occurring every second month

Drivers' education at the high school was scheduled as a --- class with one starting every other month.

biometeorology <bii.oh.mee.tee.uh.RAHL.uh.jee>

n / study involving the relation between weather and living organisms

The --- expert explained many phenomena in living beings that were caused by temperature and humidity.

bioresearch <bii.oh.ruh.SURCH> or <bii.oh.REE.surch>

n / study of sciences dealing with life and living organisms

Dr. Ames felt that --- in stem cell work would be the key to curing some forms of cancer.

• **biostatistics** <bii.oh.stuh.TIS.tiks>

n / means and methods of collecting data about the human body and medical information

Studying the --- of whales, the scientist centered on life expectancy and health conditions.

Ety: Gk - bios (origin of life) + Ger fr NL fr Olt fr L - status/us (stand firm)

blastula <BLAS.chuh.luh>

n / stage of early development of an embryo

The pictorial depiction of an embryo's development spanned from the --- to a fully formed infant.

board-certified <bawrd.SUHR.tuh.fiid> or

<bohrd.SUHR.tuh.fiid> <BAWRD.suhr.tuh.fiid>

<BOHRD.suhr.tuh.fiid>

adj / having completed the process for official approval in an area of specialty

All of the doctors associated with the hospital are --- as well as the nursing staff.

• **bodhisattva** <boh.di.SUHT.vuh>

n / enlightened being in the Buddhist religion

A --- is an enlightened one who forgoes nirvana in order to help in saving others.

Ety: Skt - bodhisattva (one with enlightened being) fr bodhi (enlightenment) + sattva (being)

• **booboisie** <boob.wah.ZEE>

n / class of persons considered stupid or naive

The mob seemed to be a collection of the ---, and their intellectual level was null.

Ety: Sp - bobo (dope/booby bird) fr L - balbus/-a/-um (stammering) + Fr suff

• **bouleversement** <boo.luh.VEHR.suh.MAHN>

n / turning upside down, tumult

The French revolution produced a total --- of ideas, and the reversal had a positive effect on its history.

Ety: Fr fr MFr - bouleverser (overturn) fr Fr - boule (ball) + L - verso/-are (spin/turn/overturn)

braille (B) <BRAY.luhr>

n / machine used to type raised dots that are readable by the blind

The --- has a space bar and six keys, one for each dot in the system of writing for sight impaired.

daiquiri <DII.kuh.ree> or <DAK.uh.ree>

n / alcoholic beverage made with rum, lime juice and sugar

Everett thought the frozen --- tasted like lemonade, but his dad assured him that it was stronger than that.

Note: Capitalized for Cuban city

Daltonism (d) <DAWL.tuhn.iz.uhm>

n / color blindness

Bob's inherent defect in the perception of red and green was termed --- by his physician.

• **Damascus** <duh.MAS.kuhs>

n / ancient city and now capital of Syria

A Saracen stronghold during the Crusades, --- is now the capital of Syria.

Ety: MidEast geog name - Damascus (capital of Syria) Note: Always capitalized

darnel <DAHR.nuhl>

n / any of the weedy grasses of the genus Lolium

A noxious weed, --- contains a narcotic in its seeds that is dangerous to grazing animals.

dasyurid <DAS.i.yuh.riid>

n / meat-eating animal of Australia and nearby countries

The Tasmanian devil is --- that is about two feet long, but most are the size of a mouse.

de rigueur <duh.ree.GUHR>

adj / proper, correct according to etiquette

Mrs. Astor knew it was --- to reserve white shoes until Easter and a breach of fashion to wear them earlier.

dealate <dee.AY.layt>

adj / insect that has completed shedding of its wings

The biologist explained that after their mating flight, ants and termites shed their wings and become ---.

debauched <di.BAWCHD>

v / corrupted morally, debased

Toward the end of the Roman Empire, society had become ---, and this debasement led to its fall.

debriefing <dee.BREEF.ing>

n, v / session for officials to explain to agent or other not to reveal classified data

When Agent 009 returned, the --- session from his mission was short as he already knew the drill.

decalcomania <dee.kal.kuh.MAY.nee.uh> or

<dee.kal.kuh.MAY.nyuh>

n / art of transferring pictures from paper to glassware

The old glass was decorated using ---, which transferred a collage of pictures and gilt scrollwork to it.

decentralize <dee.SEN.truh.liiz>

v / redistribute functions from a main authority to regional authorities

Efforts were made to --- control of flood-relief aid by putting more power in the on-site task forces.

decoupage, découpage <day.koo.PAHZH>

n / decoration with paper cutouts

The artist worked on a ---, and we watched him apply a collage of pictures before varnishing the piece.

Note: Acute accent opt on 1st 'e'

decrypt <dee.KRIPT>

v, n / decode, decipher; message that has been decoded

Intercepting the encoded message, the specialist set about to --

- the enemy's communication.

de-escalate, deescalate <dee.ES.kuh.layt>

v / diminish the size or scope

Congress tried to --- the war in the Middle East, but it seemed impossible to reduce the hostilities.

deference <DEF.uhr.uhns> or <DEF.ruhs>

n / respectful regard for another's wishes

The butler displayed his --- for his distinguished employer by never questioning an order.

defibrillator <dee.FIB.ruh.lay.tuhr> or <dee.FII.bruh.lay.tuhr>

n / device to restore normal heart beat when rapid

contractions occur

Mr. Dill's --- monitored his heart rate and shocked it to restore normalcy when rapid contractions started.

deforestation <dee.fawr.uh.STAY.shuhn>

n / act of removing large stands of trees

Increasing --- threatened weather patterns, and environmentalists wanted removal of trees to be controlled.

degauss <dee.GOWS>

v / neutralize magnetism of steel ships against magnetic mines

The specialized electrical system will --- the steel warship and protect it from detonating magnetic mines.

dehumidify <dee.hyoo.MID.uh.fii>

v / remove moisture from the air

The florist was careful not to --- the greenhouse or the foliage would become limp and lifeless.

delimiter <di.LIM.uh.tuhr>

n / character marking the start or end of data

The file had quotation marks around each record, and a comma was used as a --- between records.

della Robbia <del.uh.ROH.bee.uh> or <DEL.lah.roh.byah>

<DEL.uh.roh.bee.uh> <del.lah.ROH.byah>

adj, n / referring to Italian artists of a particular 16th- and 17th-century family

The vase was terra-cotta glazed in --- blue, and the pale color was deeper and redder than forget-me-not.

Note: Always capitalized for Robbia

demagoguery <DEM.uh.gaw.guh.ree> or

<DEM.uh.gah.guh.ree>

n / act of seeking to gain personal power by extravagant claims

The --- of the incumbent was exposed by his opponent who recounted his personal gain made while in office.