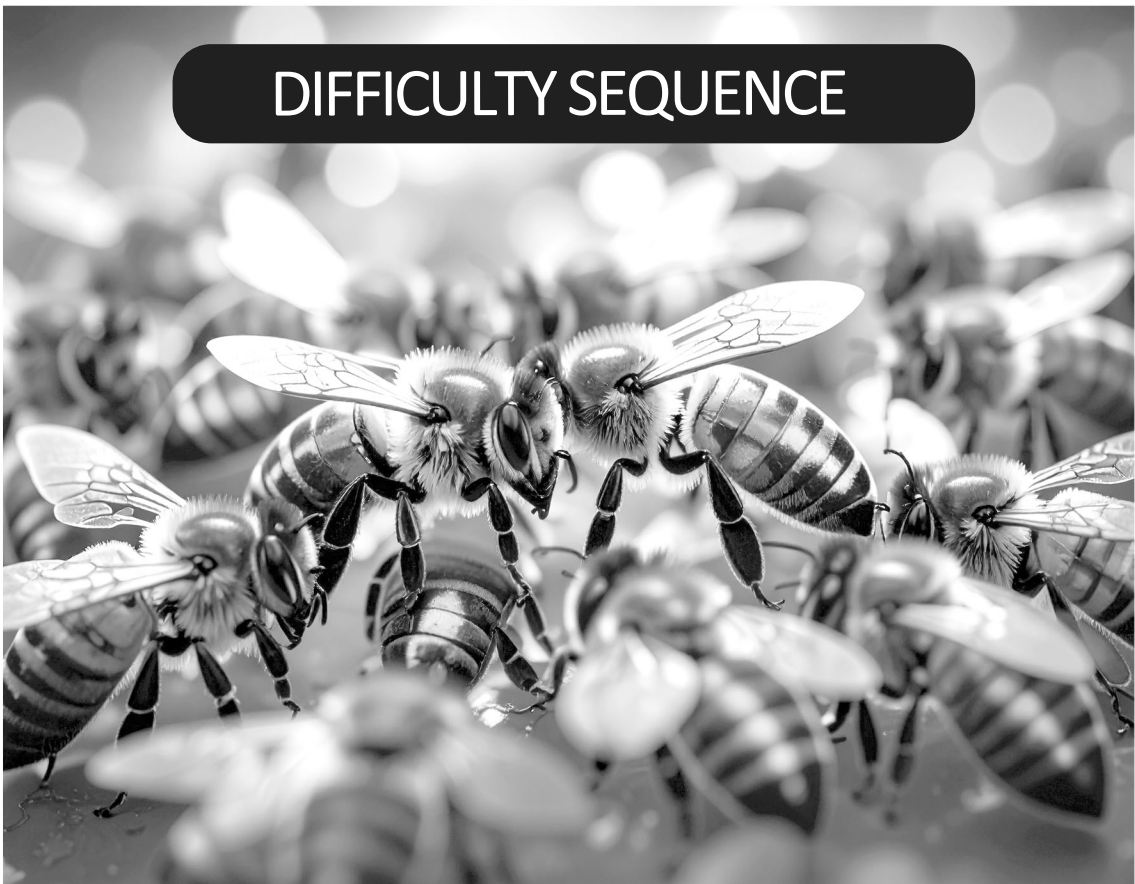




Educating the leaders of tomorrow

SPELLING & VOCABULARY COMPLEMENT

DIFFICULTY SEQUENCE



High School 2025-26



UIL Spelling Complement™

Alphabetical Sequence 2025-2026

Compiled by
Linda Tarrant

Edited by
Beth Bryant

Copyright © 2025 by Hexco Academic. All rights reserved. Reproduction or translation of any part of this work beyond that permitted by Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 *United States Copyright Act* without the permission of the copyright owner is unlawful. The purchaser of this product is responsible for adhering to the law that prohibits the sharing or reselling of copyrighted material with anyone. This precludes sharing with coaches or students from other schools via mail, fax, email, or simply “passing along.” Hexco materials may not be posted online. Exception/permission for photocopies granted by Hexco Academic is only applicable for *Practice Packets*, which may be copied expressly for the purchaser’s group or classroom at the same physical location. Figure (cover): Image generated using Adobe Firefly from the prompt swarm of twinkling colorful bees.

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

HEXCO ACADEMIC

www.hexco.com

P.O. Box 199 • Hunt, Texas 78024

Phone: 830.367.3825 • Fax: 830.367.3824

Email: hexco@hexco.com

IF YOU LIKE THIS PRODUCT, WE ALSO RECOMMEND

UIL Spelling Practice Packets • UIL Spelling eMentor & Tests • U Notes

Spelling Rules Book • Vocab Mentor & Tests • Etyma Mentor, Etyma Notes

UIL Spelling Complement Difficulty 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.

• **wraith** <RAYTH>

n / ghost or specter; shadow; doppelganger

When the superstitious girl saw a --- out her window, in the exact likeness of her father, she feared for him.

Ety: Unk orig

• **soupçon** <soop.SAWN> or <SOOP.sahn>

n / trace, a small amount

A --- of envy crept into the actor's voice when he congratulated his cohort on getting the coveted part.

Note: Cedilla reqd on 'c'

• **serval** <SUHR.vuhl> or <suhr.VAL>

n / African wildcat with a tawny coat having black spots and rings

Also called the Bush Cat, a --- is an orange and black, spotted, doglike cat that inhabits grassy areas.

Ety: Fr fr Port - lobo cerval (lynx/deerlike wolf) fr LL fr L - cervus/-i (deer/stag) Note: Hom: servile

• **twaddle** <TWAHD.uhl>

n, v / idle chatter

Conversation at the water cooler seemed to be predominantly --- and idle gossip about other employees.

Ety: Prob fr twattle dial variant of tattle (talk idly/prattle) fr ME fr OE

• **redux** <ree.DUHKS>

adj / returned

The small circus billed itself as "Barnum & Bailey ---," indicating it was a return of that great circus.• **gimmel** <GIM.uhl> or <JIM.uhl>

n / ring with 2 interlocking rings; linkage allowing a part to rotate within another

The antique Celtic ring was actually a ---, and the twisted pieces came apart as two separate rings.

Ety: ME - gemeles (twins) fr OFr fr L - geminus/-i (twin)

• **zebu** <ZEE.booo> or <ZEE.byoo>

n / Asian ox used as a domestic animal

The engraving showed a ---, a humped species of ox domesticated from ancient times in India and China.• **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.• **prequel** <PREE.kwuhl>

n / writing or dramatic work taking place before a preexisting work

After his best-seller, the author wrote a --- to give better background leading up to the original work.• **Nablus** <NAB.luhs>

n / city in Israel that is a bit north of Jerusalem

An ancient Canaanite town, --- was the original home of Jacob according to Biblical stories.

Note: Also Nabulus only <NAB.uh.luhs>; always capitalized

• **prelude** <PRAY.lood> or <PRAY.lyood> <PREL.lood>

<PREE.lyood>

n, v / introductory action or performance; furnish as an introduction

The pianist played a short fugue as a --- to the lengthy piece that he was going to play.• **triable** <TRII.uh.buhl>

adj / able to be taken to court

After listening to details, the attorney said it was a --- case, but outcome was not predictable.• **stellar** <STEL.uhr>

adj / of or relating to stars; outstanding

The evening was bright with --- light twinkling from a million stars above us.• **pervade** <puhr.VAYD>

v / spread throughout

Fear seemed to --- the village when the distant drums were heard, and the dread was evident in all.• **chagrin** <shuh.GRIN>

n, v / mental distress

Much to Dorothy's ---, the school bus departed without her while she was searching for her math text.

Ety: Fr - chagrainier (distress) fr OFr - graim (sorrowful/gloomy) fr Gk

• **ambit** <AM.bit>

n / outside boundary

The peasants' hovels were outside the --- of the manor, and these were virtually unprotected.• • **aquifer** <AK.wuh.fuhr>

n / segment of rock filled with sand and gravel through which water moves

The geologist traced water from the spring through an underground --- until it was deposited in the river.

Ety: NL fr L - aqua/-ae (water) + Fr fr L - fero/ferre/tuli/latus (bear/carry)

• **jobbery** <JAHB.uh.ree>

n / corruption by some government official

The unscrupulous judge stained the honor of his seat by his --- and intrigues.• **zinnia (Z)** <ZIN.ee.uh>

n / flowering plant with showy, colorful blooms; genus of same

Granny always has cut flowers on the table, and my favorite is a pink --- with its ruffled petals.

Ety: Ger botanist/physicist - Johann G. Zinn (d.1759) Note: Capitalized for genus

• **shofar** <SHOH.fahr> or <SHOH.fuhr>

n / ram's horn trumpet used in Jewish religious ceremonies

The --- sounded at the end of Yom Kippur, and Abe marveled at the clear sound of the ram's horn trumpet.

Ety: Heb - sopar (ram's horn) Note: Hom: chauffeur

indeterminable <in.di.TUR.muh.nuh.buhl>

adj / impossible to measure or define

*The autopsy revealed only --- traces of drugs, and they ruled out an overdose as the cause of death.***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.***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.***irrecusable** <ir.ee.KYOO.zuh.buhl>

adj / not capable of being rejected, not subject to exception

*The prosecutor claimed that the evidence was --- proof of the defendant's guilt.***word processing** <wurd.PRAHS.es.ing> or

<wurd.PROH.ses.ing>

n / editing or creating of documents or texts using a computer

*Angela's skills at --- enabled her to write, edit, and print an entire book using her home computer.***extortioner** <ik.STAWR.shuhn.uhr>

n / one who takes something, especially money, from an unwilling person

*The politician paid the --- a million dollars so that he wouldn't tell the public about his sordid past.***disinterred** <dis.in.TUHRD>

v / exhumed, removed from a grave; disclosed, brought to the public's attention

The detective insisted the remains of the victim had to be --- to ascertain DNA to solve the mysterious death.• **multilateral** <muhl.ti.LAT.uhr.uhl>

adj / having many sides; involving three or more parties

*The --- trade agreements involved not just Mexico and the United States, but also several other nations.**Ety: ME fr OFr fr L - multus/-a/-um (much/many) + lateralis/-is/-e (on the side) fr latus/-eris (side)***proclivities** <proh.KLIV.i.teez>

n / natural inclinations, predispositions

*"I wish your --- were to studying and discipline rather than recklessness and mischief," noted the headmaster.***televangelist** <tel.i.VAN.juh.list>

n / person who regularly conducts religious programs on TV

*When he could no longer attend church, Gramps watched one --- or another every Sunday morning.***pronouncement** <pruh.NOWNS.muhnt>

n / declaration of opinion or judgment formally issued

*After the minister's --- that Mary and John were now man and wife, John kissed his bride.***Wilderness Road** <WIL.duhr.nis.rohd>

n / main route for westward migration in America

*For vacation we explored the --- that had been blazed largely by Daniel Boone in 1775 from Virginia westward.**Note: Always capitalized***unimpeachable** <uhn.im.PEECH.uh.buhl>

adj / irreproachable, blameless

*The politician had an --- reputation, and it was a shock to all when he was caught in the middle of the scam.***rabble-rouser** <RAB.uhl.row.zuhr>

n / leader who stirs up others to mischief

*Branded a --- for leading a strike at the shoe company, Mr. Jester couldn't get a job anywhere else in town.***undersecretary** <uhn.duhr.SEK.ruh.tehr.ee>

n / assistance directly under a high cabinet official

The --- of the treasury reported directly to the head of the department and was effectively second in command.• **counterfactual** <kown.tuhr.FAK.choo.uhl>

adj / expressing what might occur under different conditions, not actual occurrences

*If Joel were here, we would choose a different course, is a --- statement.**Ety: ME fr OFr fr L - contra (against) + L - factum/-i (deed) fr facio/-ere/feci/factus (do/drive/make)***admissibility** <ad.mis.uh.BIL.i.tee>

n / state of being allowable or worthy of being accepted

*The attorney questioned the --- of the evidence since it had been obtained by illegal wiretaps.***indecisiveness** <in.di.SII.siv.nis>

n / state of being irresolute or inconclusive

Bev's --- often caused her to freeze when faced with two options, unable to pick one of the two.• **phantasmagoria** <fan.taz.muh.GAWR.ee.uh>

n / fantastic imagery especially as seen in dreams or fever

*Waking from fevered sleep, Jill remembered the --- and tried to find some link between the haphazard images.**Ety: Fr fr L - phantasma/-ae (ghost) fr Gk - phantazein (bring to mind) + Gk - ageirein (assemble)***infallibility** <in.fal.uh.BIL.i.tee>

n / state of not being subject to making errors

*The professor's --- was not questioned since he had never been found in error on a judgment call in his area.***individuation** <in.duh.vij.oo.AY.shuhn>

n / act or process of rendering unique existence as opposed to that of a group

His mother encouraged his --- and allowed him to grow in his own way to becoming his own person.