

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #1

1. abate
to lessen, diminish, to mitigate, to ease back
The pioneers often had to wait for the flood waters of the Missouri River to abate before attempting to cross.
2. axiom
a self-evident truth, an established principle
“The whole is greater than the parts” is an axiom.
3. candid
open, frank, outspoken, unbiased, honest
She asked the drama critic for a candid evaluation of her performance.
4. conjecture
v. to suppose, theorize, to guess
n. an educated guess, a supposition
The professor asked for factual proof, not just conjecture, from her students.
5. deluxe
elaborate, elegant, of especially good quality
With our grand prize, we were able to stay in a deluxe suite at the hotel.
6. discord
disharmony, lack of agreement, dissention, strife
The discord between the two groups was evident to all who had to listen to their constant bickering.
7. feign
to pretend, dissemble, to make a false show
The clever murderer feigned insanity during his trial.
8. gallant
brave, intrepid, courageous, chivalrous
The movie star’s gallant manners had the ladies swooning at his feet.
9. grotesque
having distortions or incongruities in shape or appearance, bizarre
The avant garde interior designer put the grotesque statue in the entry.
10. illustrious
renowned, brilliant, celebrated, distinguished
The successful diplomat retired after an illustrious career in the Mid-East.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #2

1. ignominious –
infamous, shameful, scandalous, dishonorable
The disgraced diplomat returned home after an ignominious turn of events.
2. incidentally
casually, without intention, accidentally
parenthetically, an aside to the main point
The accident was only incidentally related to the weather conditions.
3. infringe
to hinder or impair, to violate or break
His mother felt that playing sports would infringe upon his study time.
4. innate
inborn, inherent, native, inbred
The desire to survive is an innate characteristic in humans.
5. instigate
provoke, incite, encourage, stimulate
The group was arrested for trying to instigate a riot at the rock concert.
6. locale
a specific place, spot or site
The locale for the 1994 World Cup final was in Pasadena, California.
7. palatial
large, ornate, stately or magnificent, belonging in a palace
The new home built on the bluff wasn't just grand—it was positively palatial.
8. prattle
to utter foolishly, to prate, to babble
The three-year-old was likely to prattle on forever about his new bike.
9. ricochet
to rebound or skip along a surface
The bullet was bound to ricochet off the iron surface.
10. skittish
shy, easily frightened, timorous
The colt was skittish around noisy children.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #3

1. abject
worthless, low, without hope or regard
The researchers were shocked to see the abject poverty that seemed to encompass the entire population of the village.
2. apprehend
to take or seize; to understand with the mind
The warrant gave them permission to apprehend the suspect.
3. autonomy
self-government
Tired of the authoritarian teacher, the students were asking for more autonomy in the classroom.
4. cadence
a fall or decline, a flow of rhythm, an intonation
The cadence in the wedding march is slow and stately.
5. cliché
noun an expression or idea that has become trite, overused, or unimaginative
Using a cliché shows a lack of new and original ideas.
6. diffident
lack of self-confidence, bashful, modest, humble
Asked about her piano recital, the shy girl's attitude was diffident.
7. drastic
severe, harsh, extreme
After standard treatments failed, they had to take drastic measures to treat the infection.
8. falter
stumble, teeter, to lose strength, move uncertainly
His horse began to falter when the track got muddy.
9. garrulous
talkative, loquacious, prating with repetition
We hesitated to ask about her trip because she had a reputation for being garrulous in her enthusiasm.
10. hackneyed
adjective describes an expression or idea that has become trite, overused, or unimaginative
“Boy Meets Girl” stories can become hackneyed if they do not have new twists in the plot.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #4

1. absolve
to release from obligation, acquit, pardon
The judge decided to absolve the driver of the car of any wrongdoing after hearing the testimony of the witnesses.
2. arbitrary
not governed by principle, despotic, dictatorial
The school administration's abrupt decision to cancel the dance seemed to be arbitrary.
3. aver
to declare with confidence, affirm, assert, avow
He struck his fist on the table and said, "I aver that my son is telling the truth."
4. calculation
computation, forethought, prudence, reckoning
The calculation of weight being carried by the train proved to be in error, and the trestle bridge collapsed.
5. cognizant
aware of, having knowledge of, informed
When made cognizant of the facts, the judge absolved the man of any wrongdoing.
6. cosmopolitan
belonging to the world, not local or national; sophisticated
The cosmopolitan atmosphere of the World's Fair added to the excitement.
7. digress
to get off the track, to deviate
Sometimes teachers will digress from their original lesson plans.
8. obstinate
stubborn, dogged, mulish, not easily subdued
In spite of protests, they were obstinate about serving only healthful foods at the dance.
9. poignant
heartbreaking, keen, pointed
The cross by the side of the road was a poignant reminder of what happens when alcohol is mixed with automobiles.
10. revocable
able to be taken back, reversible
The contract was immediately revocable if the delivery was delayed even a day.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #5

1. durable
sturdy, enduring, lasting, permanent
The material used to upholster the chair was not durable and looked worn within months.
2. farcical
belonging to an exaggerated comedy, absurd, ludicrous
We were surprised to discover the play was farcical rather than serious.
3. gaudy
showy, garish, glittering, tawdry
Though the decor in the restaurant was gaudy, it could not disguise the cracks and peeling paint on the walls.
4. haggard
worn-out looking, gaunt, tired
The woman looked haggard after staying up all night with sick children.
5. incise
to cut into with a sharp tool, engrave, carve
The doctor will incise the inflamed area in order to drain the infection.
6. integrate
to mix, to unify or make complete, to bring together
They wanted to integrate the old sports program into the new Park Department.
7. manifest
to make clear, plain or obvious, evident
If he has measles, it will manifest itself with spots.
8. misgivings
serious doubts, apprehensions, mistrusts
We had misgivings about traveling over the pass in winter.
9. obtuse
not sharp, slow to understand, dull
The directions were clear on how to weed the garden, but she wanted to get out of the dreaded chore and was acting obtuse on purpose.
10. poise
n. carriage, bearing, dignity of manner
v. to suspend, hover, to weigh mentally
She showed extreme poise when the attorney questioned her, answering every question calmly.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #6

Words missed spelling lists!

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #7

1. abstain
to keep away from, to refrain, to take no action
After learning the dangers of alcohol abuse, she made the decision to abstain from drinking any alcoholic beverages.
2. ascribe
to attribute to
He can ascribe his writing style to the type of books he read while growing up.
3. avert
to turn away, to prevent
Luckily, he was in time to avert a major disaster at the oil spill site.
4. cajole
coax, wheedle
It is not possible to cajole her from her bad mood today.
5. dilemma
a predicament, a choice between two unpleasant alternatives
She was in a dilemma. Should she tell her mother what happened and perhaps be grounded? Or should she keep quiet and face worse punishments if her mom found out?
6. elation
great joy, delight, high spirits
He felt great elation when he earned enough points for a top grade in reading.
7. escalate
to raise, to grow, to rise on a moving step
Building a new type of bomb will only escalate the international arms race.
8. ferociously
savagely, fiercely, wildly
The mother bear was ferociously protecting her cub from the hapless humans.
9. gauntlet
a large glove; in medieval times used to challenge another to a duel
The falconer used a leather gauntlet when perching the birds on his hand.
10. haven
a place of safety, a shelter, a harbor
The ship was lucky to reach a safe haven during the storm.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #8

1. acclaim
v. to applaud, to give vocal approval
n. approval, applause
She won worldwide acclaim for her work in medical research.
2. assassin
hired or delegated killer
The jury could not convict the assassin because the prosecution could not provide an eye witness to his crimes.
3. avid
enthusiastic, greedy
She was an avid reader of Agatha Christie mysteries, going through a book a week.
4. incognito
in disguise, using a false name
The president of the company decided to work incognito at one of his plants to see what it was like for a regular worker there.
5. intercept
to cut off, to seize before arrival at an intended destination
The Coast Guard intercepted the drug shipment before it arrived in U.S. waters.
6. lull
v. to calm or soothe, to ease or mitigate
n. a calm spot, a short period of quiet
There was a lull in the dining area at the summer camp between lunch and dinner.
7. mimic
to imitate, to copy closely
The boy learned to mimic the correct swimming stroke from watching the Olympics.
8. obvious
clear, apparent, self-evident
It was obvious he was lost because he kept coming across the same large tree in the path.
9. ogre
in folklore, a man-eating giant; a cruel, hideous or mean man
An ogre was a villain in many fairy tales.
10. ponderous
bulky, heavy, dull, unwieldy
Pachyderms led the ponderous procession down the street.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #9

1. capacious
spacious, roomy, capable of holding much
The accommodations could be described as capacious—we were able to fit the whole team in one hotel room!
2. collaborate
work together on, cooperate
Instead of working independently, the researchers decided to collaborate on the paper.
3. covetous
envious, eager to obtain, greedy
He gave more than one covetous look at my spectacular collection of baseball cards.
4. diminish
decrease, grow smaller, reduce
Ignoring the mess will not diminish the amount of work needed to clean it up.
5. fictitious
not real, not factual, imaginary
A prankster gave the paper a fictitious account of the game; imagine their embarrassment when the real facts came out!
6. genial
good-natured, friendly, cordial
We were given a genial welcome by the gregarious owner of the gallery.
7. indomitable
not easily defeated or discouraged
Her indomitable spirit helped her recover from the accident.
8. lurid
sensational, vivid in a shocking way
The lurid headlines got the shoppers to buy the tabloid paper.
9. mollify
pacify, soften, mitigate, moderate
After the mistake at her bank, the manager tried to mollify the woman with a cup of coffee.
10. scintillating
sparkling; brilliant or witty
We enjoyed a scintillating conversation with the brilliant author.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #10

1. acquiesce
to give in to gracefully, accede, yield
Although we think we should have won, we will acquiesce to the will of the majority.
2. assiduous
diligent, unremitting, persevering
She was assiduous in her quest for perfection on her recital.
3. barbarously
in an uncivilized manner, savagely
The sea lion was barbarously slaughtered by an angry fisherman.
4. casual
relaxed, informal
The best part of the dinner was the casual and fun atmosphere at the table.
5. copious
abundant, plentiful, overflowing
There are copious treasures of knowledge to be found in books.
6. cynic
one who questions the sincerity or goodness of others
The cynic ruined the inauguration address for me with all her muttered negative comments.
7. dingy
soiled, sullied, not bright or clean
The dingy upholstery showed even more after the room was painted.
8. odious
unpleasant, hateful, offensive
The burning garbage had an odious aroma.
9. perceptible
able to be sensed or seen
There was a perceptible feeling of excitement at the rally.
10. portly
stout or obese but with a dignified manner.
The Senator was described as *portly* by his campaign manager and as *fat* by his opponent.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #11

1. ecstasy
great joy, rapture, elation
The teens of the 60s went into ecstasy when the Beatles visited Seattle.
2. equilibrium
state of balance between two conflicting forces or desires
It is of vital importance for a tightrope walker to maintain her equilibrium.
3. figurative
metaphorical, using figures of speech; represented by a figure; symbolic; art using human or animal figures
The Amelia Bedelia books have many examples of figurative language that is taken literally.
4. geology
study of the Earth's crust and the various layers beneath it
We wanted to take a geology class because much of the work was going to be done in the mountains on a field trip.
5. hectic
frantic, hurried, haste
Christmas time can be hectic for some people if they haven't learned to relax and enjoy the season in a simple manner.
6. indulgent
kind or lenient, often to excess
The indulgent mother smiled kindly at her child while he explored the back of the television.
7. intimidate
to overawe, to scare, to make afraid
Don't let a fast-talking salesperson to intimidate you into making a poor decision.
8. ominous
threatening, sinister, menacing
The black clouds had such an ominous look we hurried home to avoid the storm.
9. potency
power, strength, stored power
Check the expiration date on medicine to make sure it has not lost its potency.
10. potentate
one with great power, a ruler or monarch
The potentate was not an indulgent ruler.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #12

Words missed spelling lists!

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #13

1. adversary
opponent, enemy, antagonist
The team from Puyallup will be a worthy adversary for the North Kitsap team.
2. benevolence
charitableness, kindheartedness
The destitute man was overwhelmed by the benevolence of the whole community.
3. chagrin
embarrassment, humiliation
Her chagrin came from her tendency to mix up words when answering a question in class.
4. complacent
self-satisfied, smug
Satisfied he knew all the answers, he left the testing area with a complacent grin on his face.
5. crevasse
a deep crack or fissure, as in a glacier
They crossed the ice crevasse using only one rope and a dozen pitons.
6. erroneous
false, mistaken, wrong
He left for his trip to the Bahamas with erroneous information as to time and date of departure. No wonder he missed his flight!
7. flaunt
to make a showy, proud, defiant or impudent display
The high school student was chagrined when she found out that she had been trying to flaunt her knowledge of Italian in front of a native of Rome.
8. glibly
smoothly, in a slippery manner
The child lied glibly when asked what had happened to the candy.
9. hoi polloi
common people, usually used contemptuously
During the regency period in England, one did not want to be part of the hoi polloi.
10. omnivorous
taking in anything; eating both plants and animals
The goat is characterized as an omnivorous animal.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #14

1. advocate
n. one who pleads the cause of another, defender
v. to plead in favor of, to defend or support
The committee advocated that all cyclists wear protective headgear.
2. ascetic
n. one who lives with rigorous self-denial for religious purposes
a. rigid, severe, austere
After a few months, the ascetic lifestyle in the commune began to wear thin.
3. auditor
a hearer, one who listens, one who judges or audits accounts or judicial proceedings
The auditor was checking the account for errors in bookkeeping.
4. biographical
pertaining to a person's life
We were asked to write a biographical account of a Pacific Rim political figure.
5. charlatan
a quack, imposter, a fraud
Pretending to be a medical expert, the charlatan was hawking his cancer cure at the fair.
6. complement
quota, required number, full amount (*not* compliment)
The school had already received its full complement of textbooks.
7. discrepancy
difference, contradictory error, disagreement
One major discrepancy in the accounts caused the auditor to search for other errors.
8. gloating
smiling scornfully, saying "I told you so"
His gloating about winning the election was almost more than the losing candidate could bear gracefully.
9. homicide
the killing of another person, a manslayer
The homicide detective was anxious to solve the apparent murder case.
10. ingenious
clever, resourceful, skillful
The ingenious design of the straw bridge won first prize at the Science Olympics.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #15

1. aggressive
bold, quarrelsome, going to the attack
His aggressive stance should have forewarned us that trouble was coming.
2. agility
nimbleness, skillfulness, in a coordinated manner
She showed amazing agility on the parallel bars.
3. auspices
patronage, protection, sponsorship
The Fourth of July concert was presented for free under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce.
4. biped
n. an animal having only two feet
a. two-footed
Sasquatch is supposed to be a biped, so he shouldn't leave four different footprints.
5. imminent
about to happen, impending
If you continue to lean so far over the barricade, you are in imminent danger of falling.
6. introvert
v. to turn in or direct inward
n. one who directs his attention to himself; a loner
An introvert might need help to feel comfortable in a group.
7. meander
to wind or turn, to wander aimlessly
We had all afternoon with nothing to do so we decided to meander by the river and watch the sun on the water.
8. mottled
covered with blotches of different shades of color
The mottled effect on the vase was achieved by using several different glazes before the firing.
9. pervade
to permeate, to pass through, to be diffused throughout
The holiday atmosphere seems to pervade the mall all through December.
10. premiere
the first performance, the leading lady
We were able to see the premiere showing of the new Disney film.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #16

1. chide
to scold, rebuke, to find fault
His mother would chide him in front of others when he forgot his table manners.
2. comprehensively
completely, thoroughly, all inclusively
Her report on Venezuela was comprehensively done and got an A+ from the teacher.
3. defile
v. to make dirty, to pollute or contaminate, to taint
n. a narrow, long valley or mountain pass
We need to be aware of how toxic waste can defile our oceans and rivers.
4. disheveled
disarranged, untidy, messed up
From his disheveled appearance we could tell he had slept in his clothes.
5. exasperated
irritated, annoyed, provoked, nettled
He was exasperated when he could not find his addition error.
6. fortitude
strength, courage, patient endurance
The team showed great fortitude when playing against the State Champs.
7. immune
exempt from, protected from something harmful
If your immune system breaks down, you will not be able to fight off disease.
8. innovation
a new twist on something, a novelty
His innovation in treatment remained unproven and caused much dissention among the hospital's medical staff.
9. laconic
tight-lipped, curt, terse
Her laconic responses made her seem uninterested; it was difficult to carry on a conversation.
10. medieval
belonging to the Middle Ages
The rare medieval unicorn tapestry was on display in the museum.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #17

1. amble
to walk at a leisurely pace
It was relaxing to amble through the woods with my dog.
2. autocracy
absolute authority by one person; dictatorship
Government by autocracy is not popular with those who are used to a democracy.
3. bizarre
strange, extreme, exotic, grotesque
The bizarre chain of events left us nervous about what would happen next.
4. checkmate –
to leave without a possibility of victory; in chess, to win by trapping the other player's king
After many years of losing to my father, it was exciting to finally place his king in checkmate.
5. condolences
expression of sympathy for another's grief
We sent our condolences to the family when their mother died.
6. deplore
verb to lament, be sorry about, to be regretful, mourn
I deplore the amount of prodding it sometimes seems to take to get a person to do what is only right.
7. mystic
 - a. beyond human comprehension, mysterious
 - n. one who believes in or practices mysticismAt the fair there was a mystic who claimed to be able to read your mind.
8. orthodox
conforming to the usual beliefs or practices
The teacher did not always use an orthodox method for challenging the students to think on their own.
9. plaintive
adj. lamenting, expressing sorrow or grief, sad
Her plaintive voice was enough to make you start to cry.
10. presume
to take for granted, to suppose, to take liberties
I presume that you will not mind if I borrow your book for a month or so.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #18

Words missed spelling lists!

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #19

1. discriminating
able to make or see fine distinctions, discerning; treating differently based on prejudices
The man was accused of discriminating between rich and poor when he priced his repair services.
2. exorcise
to expel or cast out evil spirits by a religious or magical ceremony
In Salem they tried to exorcise “evil spirits” by burning people at the stake.
3. fossil
the hardened remains with traces of plant or animal life, something preserved in rock form
The dinosaur fossil was found by a farmer plowing a field.
4. inquisitive
inclined to seek answers, curious, prying
He was very inquisitive about how I was able to make money on the stock market.
5. legitimate
legal, allowed by law or custom
She was the only child of the king, so her claim to the crown of England was certainly legitimate.
6. melodramatic
sensational, emotional, overly dramatic
Never one to be plain or simple, she treated the class to a melodramatic explanation of why her report was not ready.
7. nocturnal
done or happening at night, functioning at night
It is unusual to see a nocturnal animal in broad daylight.
8. oscillate
to swing back and forth, to vacillate
We need a large fan that will oscillate so the entire apartment can be cooled.
9. planetary
having to do with planets, terrestrial
The planetary map was obviously not from our solar system.
10. priority
most important, taking precedence
Dad said, “Homework is a priority in this house.”

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #20

1. amends
alters, corrects errors, improves
He was sentenced to 100 hours of community service work in order to make amends for the damage he caused at the park.
2. broach
to bring up, to approach
It is sometimes awkward to broach the subject of money with someone who owes you wages but doesn't want to pay you.
3. cite
to quote, to call upon officially, to name
You will be asked to cite your sources of information for your report.
4. confide
to share as a secret, to discuss in private
When things aren't going well, we need someone in whom we can confide.
5. dialogue
conversation, the passages of talk in a story
Through the author's clever use of dialogue the scene of the town meeting presented many characters and a wide variety of ideas.
6. disrupt
break apart, to split up
People being noisy in the halls can disrupt the learning process of the students in the classrooms.
7. exploitation
the act of turning or using something or someone for personal gain
The sales company lost its license because of its continued exploitation of underage employees.
8. frenzied
wildly excited, frantic
We could tell this was a real emergency because of all the frenzied activity.
9. grueling
torturing, exhausting
We took a grueling hike up the steep mountainside in order to rescue the injured condor.
10. site
a location, a piece of land
The site for the building was purchased from the city.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #21

1. appraisal
evaluation, estimate of worth
The bank's appraisal of the value of the new house was surprisingly low.
2. eerie
creepy, weird, uncanny
The old house was covered with vines which made eerie noises as they slid along the windowpanes.
3. exhort
to urge onward, to give advice, to warn
A pep talk before a test is supposed to exhort you to do your best work.
4. impute
to lay the responsibility or blame for; to credit to a person or cause
The judge will not impute your crime to ignorance but rather to carelessness.
5. insatiable
impossible to satisfy, greedy, unappeasable
Since he has an insatiable appetite for chocolate, they got him a three-pound Hershey's bar for his birthday.
6. laudable
praiseworthy, commendable, worthy of applause
Her quick thinking and efficient actions during the crisis were laudable.
7. merge
to join together, to be combined or taken over
The small utility companies were trying to merge into one large company in order to decrease operating expenses.
8. nimbly
spryly, with agility, quickly, lightly
The trapeze artist moved nimbly over the wire while skipping rope.
9. ostracize
to exile, banish by popular decision, to exclude
It would be silly to ostracize someone from our circle of friends because we don't like the way they comb their hair.
10. quixotic
extravagantly chivalrous, impractical, foolish
College freshmen often have quixotic ideas on how to change the world into a perfect place to live.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #22

1. brusque
abrupt, blunt, rude
When asked about his estranged children, the old man's answers were brusque.
2. chiroprapist (kuh-**rop**-ud-ist)
a foot doctor, one who treats ailments of the foot
I went to a chiroprapist because I had a wart on my foot.
3. connive
plot, scheme, to cooperate secretly in mischief
We will need to connive together if we want to get the teacher to postpone the math test.
4. didactic
intended to be morally instructive, too much inclined to teach others, preachy
Her didactic speech on smoking was repetitive and boring.
5. erudite
scholarly, learned, intelligent
The erudite lecture about space travel impressed us with the speaker's deep grasp of his subject and had many of us wanting to become astronauts.
6. extort
to get by force, to blackmail
The school bully tried to extort money from me by threatening to beat me up.
7. futile
hopeless, useless, in vain
Her attempt to shovel water with a pitchfork was futile.
8. guise
a deceiving appearance, a different identity
The little boy's big smile was a guise to convince his mother that he was innocent.
9. listless
spiritless, indifference, weariness
Her listless attitude gave her mother a clue that she was not feeling well.
10. novice
beginner, one who is unskilled at something
I should be in a class for novice jugglers because I am struggling so hard in the intermediate class.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #23

1. esoteric –
taught only to a select few, characterized by secrecy; private, not for general knowledge
Some organizations have esoteric rituals so their members can feel superior to other people.
2. inalienable
that which can not be taken from a person or transferred to another
The Declaration of Independence speaks about our inalienable rights that we are born with and no one can take away.
3. insidious
lying in wait, wily; characterized by treachery
The insidious gossip instigated by her chief rival ruined her chances to be hired.
4. meditative
inclined to close and serious thought, contemplative
When Mom is in a meditative mood, she doesn't hear or answer questions quickly.
5. promenade
n. a leisurely walk to display one's finery; a public place for walking
v. to walk about for exercise or show
The promenade deck on the ship could have been the site for a Paris fashion show.
6. propriety
quality of being proper, fitting or suitable
You need to rethink the propriety of wearing shorts to a formal wedding.
7. ravage
cause violent destruction, ruin, lay waste to
The swarm of locusts are certain to ravage the wheat crop.
8. seethe
to boil, to be violently agitated or disturbed
Dad begins to seethe every time he sees my messy room.
9. servile
humbly yielding or submissive, cringing
His servile attitude gave him a reputation for being cowardly.
10. tawny
brownish-yellow, tan
The lion had a tawny coat.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #24

Words missed spelling lists!

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #25

1. prospective
expected, anticipated, likely
After compiling his research, he was able to give a prospective account of the computer industry in the year 2020.
2. protagonist
leading character in a drama or novel (the person you are “pro” or “for”)
In this story the protagonist was young, handsome and adventurous.
3. realm
province of royalty; a domain, sphere, or department
That she could become a famous physicist is not beyond the realm of possibilities.
4. sinister
threatening harm or evil, wicked, dishonest
The gathering dark clouds on the horizon had a sinister appearance.
5. swan song
the last performance, the final creative work before death
Richie Valens did not realize that at age 17 his rendition of “La Bamba” would be his swan song.
6. terse
concise, to the point, brief, succinct
She managed to write a terse plot summary of no more than 150 words.
7. transcend
to go beyond, to overstep, to exceed
The miraculous rescue story seems to transcend belief.
8. transfigure
to change the outward appearance or form
An ice storm can transfigure an urban empty lot into a fairyland.
9. trivial
unimportant, trifling, commonplace
Arguing about whose turn it was to turn off the TV seemed trivial to those surrounded by the squabbling children.
10. turbulent
wildly irregular motion, disturbance, disorderly
The flight from Alaska was more turbulent than usual and made us all nervous.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #26

1. pugnacious
disposed to fighting; combative, quarrelsome
His pugnacious attitude when discussing baseball made us wary of giving an opposing opinion.
2. pulverize
to grind into a powder, to crush or destroy completely
A mortar and pestle can be used to pulverize dried herbs.
3. quaint
curious, old-fashioned, fanciful, whimsical
Leaving an anonymous bouquet at the door is a quaint May Day custom.
4. refute
disprove, prove false by evidence or argument
His testimony was refuted by the presentation of evidence from expert witnesses.
5. regime
a political or social system, a course of treatment
His new health regime included drinking water, eating fruits and vegetables, and exercising every day.
6. rejuvenate
to make young again, to bring back youthful appearance
Products that claim to rejuvenate the skin are available in almost any drug store.
7. renounce
to disown, forsake, cast off, to give up a claim to; to give up a habit
In some religious orders you are required to renounce all of your worldly goods before you may join.
8. repartee
witty dialogue, quick, witty conversation
It was fun to listen to the repartee between the talk show host and the author.
9. stereotype
fixed notion, character or pattern; without individuality or originality
We need to be careful not to affix a stereotype to a person because of their physical appearance.
10. supercilious
disdainful, contemptuous, arrogant, haughty
Her supercilious attitude when discussing the entertainment made us feel gauche.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #27

1. repel
to drive back, to ward off, to oppose, reject
The smell of the pulp mills was enough to repel the least sensitive noses.
2. reprimand
v. to scold, to reprove or rebuke
n. a scolding; a formal or public rebuke
The governor delivered the reprimand to those congressional aides who used the public mail system for personal business.
3. requisite
required, necessary, essential, indispensable
You need to earn the requisite number of credits or you will not graduate.
4. spurn
to treat with contempt, to scorn, to show disdain
The strong-willed child might spurn any attempts by others to show him an easier way to accomplish a task.
5. stamina
endurance, staying power, resistance to fatigue
To play a long, fast game, a soccer player needs stamina as well as ball skills.
6. subsequent
directly following, to follow at a later time
The victory was subsequent to many hours of practice and hard work by the team.
7. sundry
various, miscellaneous, diverse
We stopped at the drugstore to purchase the sundry items we needed to complete our list of school supplies.
8. unflinchingly
not yielding or shrinking back, steadfast
He stood unflinchingly in the line of fire in order to protect his family from harm.
9. ungracious
rude, discourteous, impolite
Her ungracious reception made us hurry through the interview so we could leave.
10. valiant
brave, courageous, strong
The valiant effort by the defense was the key to winning the game.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #28

1. egotist
a person who is self-centered or conceited
You could tell she was an egotist by the way her every sentence started with “I.”
2. siblings
brother(s) and/or sister(s)
He hated hearing how well his siblings had done when they were in high school.
3. subside
to become quiet, to cease, to abate, decline, sink
We waited for the crowd around the newlyweds to subside before we offered our congratulations.
4. surmise
to imagine, to give an educated guess, conjecture
I can surmise from all of your excuses that you didn’t get your homework done.
5. surmount
to be on top of, to exceed, to overcome
She finally surmounted her fear of fractions and could now do her work quickly.
6. syndicate
n. a group organized to further an undertaking such as investments or marketing
v. to form a group for sharing a common interest such as syndicated newspapers
Many comics in the newspaper are bought by more than one syndicate.
7. terra firma
solid earth, a secure foothold, dry land
After the turbulent flight it was good to get back onto good old terra firma.
8. unseemly
indecent, unbecoming, improper, unfit, indecorous
Unseemly behavior can be extremely embarrassing for those who witness it.
9. unscrupulous
not restrained by ideas of right and wrong, without morals
The attorney’s unscrupulous dealings meant he lost the right to practice law.
10. vehemently
heatedly, fervently, emotionally, intensely
In danger of being kicked off the team, he vehemently denied that he ever took any kind of steroids.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #29

1. epitaph
an inscription on a monument to honor the dead
It was interesting to read the epitaph on George Washington's grave.
2. hors d'oeuvres
appetizers, usually served with drinks
The shrimp hors d'oeuvres were excellent, and people ate the last of them quickly before going in to dinner.
3. negotiable
able to be transferred (as in a check from one party to another); an item that can be used as a bargaining point
He left the negotiable bonds in the safe so no one else could cash them.
4. table d'hote
a common table for guests at a hotel; a complete meal for one price
We ordered the table d'hote special which started with soup and ended with dessert.
5. tantalizing
tempting, enticing, teasing, taunting
There was a tantalizing aroma of fresh bread in the house.
6. transient
adj. fleeting, not permanent, temporary
n. a tramp or hobo, a wanderer, a nomad
The anger she felt over missing the field trip was transient, and she soon regained her good humor.
7. versatile
competent in many things; able to be used in several ways
The black blazer was a versatile addition to her wardrobe.
8. volatile
evaporating rapidly, therefore causing explosions; changeable, fickle
The volatile mixture was handled carefully by the scientist.
9. voluntary
brought about by one's free will, unconstrained
Participation in the after-school reading program is entirely voluntary.
10. vulnerable
capable of being hurt, open to attack
I felt vulnerable when I was alone in an unfamiliar neighborhood.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #30

Words missed spelling lists!

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #31

1. aviary
a cage or enclosure for breeding or keeping birds
We saw many exotic birds at the Woodland Park Zoo aviary.
2. circumstantial
relating to but not essential, incidental; full of particular detail
You cannot easily convict someone only on circumstantial evidence. It's easier with an eye witness.
3. controversial
debatable, disputable
You can always find someone willing to argue with you about controversial subjects such as politics.
4. cuisine
the manner of preparing food, the style of cooking
The new restaurant had a wonderful Italian cuisine that included all types of pastas and sauces.
5. depict
to paint or portray, to describe, to represent
The bold colors in the painting were used to depict feelings of rage and frustration.
6. embellish
to adorn, beautify, to add to
He decided to embellish his story to make the rescue seem more daring.
7. iridescence
lit from within, show of colors as in a prism
Unfortunately, the iridescence in the puddle came from spilled oil.
8. procrastinate
to put off, delay, postpone
If you procrastinate and do not get your reading points in on time, you will miss recess.
9. succulent
full of juice; interesting, not dry or dull
The cactus family is a succulent plant because of the juice contained in its tissues.
10. susceptible
easily influenced or affected by something
Young children seem to be susceptible to every virus that passes through an area.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #32

1. abysmal
bottomless, immeasurable, unfathomable
It took an abysmal length of time to get medical help after the accident.
2. apropos
suited to the occasion, but not limited to the subject under discussion
Apropos of our discussion yesterday, I have collected some interesting statistics.
3. aria
a melody in an opera, usually a solo
The aria was sung by Beverly Sills, the great operatic singer.
4. holocaust
complete, great, or widespread destruction; entire destruction by fire
A holocaust can be caused by a conflagration of nature or by man's inhumanity to man.
5. irrelevant
not relating to the subject, not pertinent
It is irrelevant to tell me about your math homework if I ask about your spelling!
6. misanthrope
one who hates or distrusts humankind
Because of the ways society had mistreated him, he had good reasons to be a misanthrope.
7. neurosis
functional disorder of the nervous system; any psychic or mental disorder
The psychiatrist diagnosed his patient's neurosis as hydrophobia.
8. persistent
refusing to relent, stubborn, persevering
His persistent refusal to give up helped him solve the computer's programming error.
9. tumultuous
noisy, turbulent, agitated, greatly disturbed
The tumultuous din made it hard to hear the keynote speaker at the convention.
10. vicarious
enjoyed or experienced through imagined participation in another's actual experience
She got a vicarious thrill watching the bungee jumpers. It certainly wasn't something she planned to do herself!

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #33

1. centennial
one hundred years; celebration of a 100 year anniversary
Most people do not live to celebrate their centennial birthday.
2. demagogue
a person who stirs up emotions in others in order to gain power and achieve selfish ends
We do not need a demagogue as our representative in Congress.
3. escapade
a breaking loose from restraint, a prank or wild adventure
The teens thought putting Jell-O in the fountain at the Silverdale Mall was a harmless escapade, but it got them in trouble with the police.
4. innocuous
harmless, ineffective, innocent
The small amount of contaminants in the well water was considered to be innocuous.
5. laity
church workers who are not ordained clergy
The laity in the church decided on the expenditures for the clergy.
6. quay
a pier or wharf
Although fishing from the beach was permitted, we were not allowed to fish from the end of the quay.
7. satiate
fill up, to satisfy
Our teacher hopes we will never satiate our desire for knowledge.
8. vilify
to use slanderous language about someone, to defame
She tried to vilify my reputation because she was jealous.
9. wainscoting
a wood paneling on the lower part of the walls
The renters had painted the wainscoting a dark brown to cover the scratches in the wood from people kicking against it.
10. zephyr
the west wind, a soft, gentle breeze
The zephyr gently steered our sailboat along the shoreline.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #34

1. apartheid
South Africa’s policy of racial segregation (pronounced “apart hate” in their language!)
Apartheid was practiced in South Africa for many years before the different ethnic groups achieved political equality.
2. bayou
a marshy inlet or outlet of a lake or river; a backwater
We got lost while canoeing on the bayou near my aunt’s house in Louisiana.
3. castigate
to correct by punishing; to rebuke or criticize
He didn’t need to castigate me in front of all my friends after I had already apologized!
4. dross
impure matter; the scum formed on the surface of metals during processing
After skimming off the dross, she poured the purified silver into the form to make a cup.
5. ennui
weariness resulting from inactivity; “cosmic boredom”
I have so many plans for my summer vacation—I certainly do not plan to suffer from ennui!
6. fidget
to be restless, nervous or uneasy
Please sit still and do not fidget.
7. glacial
like ice; cold and hard; of ice or glaciers
She gave me a glacial stare every time I started to fidget, hoping to freeze me in my seat.
8. hallucinate
to wander in the mind; to rave or see imaginary objects
The medicine they gave the child for the infection made him hallucinate; he cried when he thought he saw monsters in the closet.
9. intuition
immediate knowing of something without the conscious use of reasoning; instantaneous apprehension
He had an intuition about engines even though he was young and had never had any formal instruction.
10. judiciary
system of law courts; pertaining to law courts and their functions
We studied the judiciary system before taking a field trip to the court house.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #35

1. kiosk
a small open structure used as a newsstand, bandstand; a small open entrance to something such as a park or subway
To get out of the rain, we stood inside the kiosk by the zoo entrance.
2. lexicon
a dictionary, especially of an ancient language or a special vocabulary
Unable to find the word in the Webster's, we looked it up in a scientific lexicon.
3. negligible
something that can be disregarded because it is small or unimportant
The small loss of inventory had a negligible effect on the company's overall profit.
4. ordnance
artillery; weapons and ammunition used in warfare, or equipment and supplies used in servicing them
We explored what was left of the ordnance rooms at Fort Ward, climbing on the gun mounts that remained there.
5. picturesque
having a wild or natural scenic beauty; striking
When we visited a picturesque Native American village in New Mexico, we couldn't resist taking many photographs.
6. quorum
the minimum number of members required to vote (one more than half)
It did not look like the school board was going to have a quorum present to vote.
7. recompense
repayment; something given to make up for a loss; compensation
\$500.00 was not adequate recompense for the damage done to his car.
8. Sasquatch – huge, hairy, man-like creature with long arms, reputed to live in the mountains of northwestern North America
We heard many campfire tales about Sasquatch sightings.
9. tenacious
persistent; holding fast or firmly; adhesive
Afraid of falling, she kept a tenacious hold on the limb of the tree.
10. usurp
to take by force or without right; seizure of power
The military leaders tried to usurp the authority of the president, hoping to take over the government.

Early America—VOCABULARY/SPELLING #36

Words missed spelling lists!