

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 1

1. alliteration  
putting together two or more words which start with the same sound  
Abundant use of alliteration is almost always annoying.
2. anecdote  
a short account of something interesting or funny that happened in the past  
She told a humorous anecdote regarding her grandparents' dog.
3. culminate  
to reach a climax or highest point  
Hopefully, all his training will culminate in his being chosen for the team.
4. denouement  
the outcome, solution, the final revelation  
The denouement did not come until the last paragraph of the book.
5. deus ex machina  
in writing, any sudden, unlikely event used by a writer to solve a problem and end the story  
The deus ex machina in science fiction can seem very plausible.
6. dialect  
colloquial speech, a regional language or way of speaking  
The dialect in Uncle Tom's Cabin was very hard to read because I haven't had much experience with this type of dialect.
7. dramatic illusion  
the willing suspension of disbelief; the brief assumption that a fictional event is real  
The dramatic illusion created by *Jurassic Park* had me believing I could see a live dinosaur.
8. flashback  
an interruption in the chronological plot sequence which shows an earlier event  
The use of flashbacks can be confusing if the story is not well-written.
9. foreshadowing  
hints about what is to come; a plot device to create suspense and anticipation  
A good mystery writer's use of foreshadowing throughout the story that will culminate in a believable but exciting climax and denouement.
10. genre  
a type or category of writing or other works of art  
Adventure, fantasy, historical fiction and biographies are some of the different literary genres.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 2

1. botanist  
one who studies plant life  
The botanist was amazed at the color of the hybrid rose.
2. cataract  
large waterfall; heavy downpour; opacity of the eye, causing partial or total blindness  
Portaging around some smaller rapids, we could hear the cataract long before we could see it.
3. doughty (doubt-ee)  
brave, valiant, eminent, noble  
The doughty hero in fairy tales is likely to be a prince.
4. foray  
a sudden or irregular military advance, invasion, or raid  
The successful foray into enemy territory won the young officer a field promotion.
5. forging  
shaping of metal by hammering; pushing onward  
The blacksmith is forging a new set of shoes for the horse.
6. kayaks  
canoes which are completely covered except for an opening in the middle for the paddlers or kayakers to sit  
Our friends took their kayaks on a trip through the Queen Charlotte Islands.
7. limbo  
a place of oblivion (neither heaven nor hell); temporary suspension  
I was between jobs and felt like I was living in limbo.
8. nomadic  
wandering, not having a permanent residence  
He lived a nomadic life in Europe for a year after he left college.
9. roil  
to churn up; to make muddy by stirring  
He felt his stomach roil as the time for the test drew near.
10. sojourn  
to dwell for a time, a longish visit  
The doctor prescribed a long sojourn in a hot, dry climate to cure my asthma.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 3

1. almanac  
a book containing useful information on weather, tide tables, holidays, etc., published annually  
We looked in the almanac to determine when low tide would be.
2. computations  
mathematical numberings or reckonings to arrive at an answer  
Our computations were incorrect and our simulated rocket missed its target.
3. foul  
offensive, dirty, disgusting, unfair, out of bounds  
The referee ruled that the ball was over the line and therefore it was foul.
4. latitude  
freedom from narrow restrictions;  
a region considered with reference to its distance north or south of the equator  
The teacher allowed some latitude when we were designing the posters for the Open House.
5. longitude  
a region considered with reference to its position east or west of Greenwich, England, measured in degrees and running from pole to pole  
Navigators use degrees of longitude to compute locations.
6. meridian  
any imaginary circle through the earth that includes the poles  
The Prime Meridian runs through Greenwich in England.
7. slate  
a thin-layered, hard, fine-grained rock; a list of proposed candidates;  
a small, hand-held blackboard  
The children in the old schoolhouse wrote their answer on a slate.
8. slew  
turn or swing around a fixed point  
The car slewed over the center line because of ice.
9. swagger  
to strut arrogantly, to boast or brag  
The bully liked to swagger across the playground.
10. zenith  
the high point, culmination, peak, summit  
The sun is at its zenith at noon.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 4

1. authorities  
those in command or in charge;  
persons with credibility in specific areas of knowledge  
In order to prove her point in the debate, she went to the library to research the authorities.
2. cower  
back away from in fear, cringe  
The dog cowered under the bed during the storm.
3. crone  
an old ewe; an old withered woman  
The children were unkind to the hunchbacked crone who lived in the neighborhood.
4. crotchety  
cantankerous, crabby, full of peculiar whims  
The crotchety man yelled at the children when they played ball near his house.
5. gourd  
a plant belonging to the squash family;  
the dried, hollowed-out shell of a squash-like plant  
They used a gourd to dip water from the stream.
6. gratify  
please, satisfy  
The teacher was gratified to see all her students graduate.
7. hearth  
the floor of a fireplace which often extends out into the room  
We gathered close to the hearth during the last cold spell.
8. heiress  
a female who is expected to inherit great wealth  
All the young men swarmed around the heiress and ignored the other young ladies at the party.
9. passion  
extreme, compelling emotions; the object of any strong desire or fondness  
His passion for buying electronic gadgets led to financial problems.
10. thatch  
a roof or roofing of straw, rushes, palm leaves, etc.;  
the material for this type of roof; to apply this type of roof  
They replaced the thatch on the cottage at the lake.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 5

1. aerial  
placed in the air, high, lofty, elevated  
The car's aerial had been broken by the falling branch.
2. conservation  
preservation from loss, decay or injury  
Through conservation, we shall save the rain forests.
3. debris  
scattered fragments, remains, rubbish  
The debris from the accident was scattered over the roadway.
4. embryonic  
in an early stage, undeveloped  
Negotiations to buy the property were in an embryonic stage.
5. forage  
to search for food or supplies; fodder for animals  
The horses were left to forage for food in the old field.
6. incubate  
keep in a favorable environment for development  
The eggs were incubating behind the stove in the kitchen.
7. membrane  
a thin layer or sheet used as a covering or lining  
The membrane that surrounds the heart is quite strong.
8. migratory  
roving, wandering, nomadic  
The field workers led a migratory life.
9. rupture  
break apart, burst  
The boy's appendix ruptured during surgery.
10. shanty  
a hut or shabby dwelling  
The hobo used the shanty underneath the railroad bridge.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 6

1. accelerate  
speed up, hasten, bring nearer in time  
Scientists believe exposure to the sun accelerates aging of the skin.
2. accent  
n. a stress of the voice on a certain syllable;  
a striking feature of an artistic composition  
v. to stress or emphasize  
The pillow added just the right color accent to the room.
3. maneuver  
to manage or plan skillfully, to manipulate  
They tried to maneuver the ship between the reefs.
4. massive  
huge, large, imposing, ponderous, weighty  
Cataloguing the books turned into a massive task.
5. orbiting  
circling of an object, such as a planet moving around the sun  
We couldn't see the comet that was orbiting our solar system.
6. reef  
n. a ridge of sand or rock lying near the surface of the water  
v. haul in on, cut down to size  
The coral reefs near Australia are a popular diving site.
7. rendezvous  
a previously appointed time and place for a meeting  
The rendezvous for the different scouting parties was set for sunrise on Wednesday.
8. revolt  
n. a rising up against some situation  
v. to rise up against  
The cause of the revolt was more than just lack of jobs.
9. secretive  
tendency to conceal, not to be open or frank  
The secretive way they were acting made me suspicious of them.
10. sullied - dirtied, soiled, tarnished, defiled  
She felt sullied after overhearing the dirty joke.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 7

1. abroad  
widely, with expansion, not confined to narrow limits; out of the country  
My sister went abroad to study art.
2. appease  
to calm, still, pacify, conciliate  
The snack appeased my hunger pains.
3. compact  
adj. dense, terse, taking little space  
n. contract between two parties, a small case  
v. to press closely together, to consolidate  
They made a compact to only trade with each other.
4. conspicuous  
easy to see, obvious, striking  
The red shirt was certainly conspicuous with the white background.
5. indifferent  
neutral, impartial, unconcerned, apathetic  
Her parents were not indifferent concerning her progress report from school.
6. peril  
danger, risk, jeopardy  
With all the rain, the dam was in peril.
7. simultaneously  
at the same time, in synchronization  
The synchronized swimmers dove simultaneously.
8. submit  
to yield or surrender, to defer to another; to offer one's own opinion, to suggest  
The architect had to submit the building plans to the county.
9. trifle  
n. something of little value; an English dessert  
v. to act or talk without seriousness; to toy with  
Please don't trifle with my affections.
10. verge  
the edge, the brink, a boundary  
He was on the verge of being through with his research paper.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 8

1. balk  
v. to delay or thwart, to obstruct  
n. anything left untouched; anything acting as an obstruction or hindrance  
I knew he was going to balk at my suggestion that he turn off the television and finish his homework.
2. blemish  
n. a spot, flaw, stain, defect, or shortcoming  
v. to mark with deformity, to mar, to sully  
The speeding ticket was the only blemish on her 30-year driving record.
3. cunning  
adj. skillful, clever, shrewd, pleasingly attractive  
n. knowledge, art skill, dexterity  
He displayed a cunning knowledge of rare baseball cards.
4. dappled  
marked with variegated spots, mottled  
The rain created a dappled effect on her silk shirt.
5. dissent  
v. to disagree, to differ from an established view  
n. a declaration of disagreement; a minority opinion  
The letter of dissent was sent to the Archbishop's office.
6. ledge  
a shelf or shelf-like projection  
She cowered beneath the ledge on the cliff to avoid the rockslide.
7. revel  
v. to make merry, to be festive, to take pleasure in  
n. merrymaking, boisterous festivity  
He seemed to revel in the competition for the team.
8. serene  
fair, clear, calm, undisturbed  
Her serene expression led us to speculate she was not the waif she cunningly portrayed.
9. speculate  
to contemplate or consider; to buy or sell with the intention of making quick money, to invest in a risky business venture  
I asked them not to speculate on the situation until they had more information.
10. waif  
a homeless child, a strayed animal found by chance that is without an owner  
The waif was found wandering by the river in the park.



## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 9

1. assert  
to declare with assurance, to insist on one's rights, to thrust oneself forward  
Shy people are often told that they need to assert themselves.
2. boor  
a rude, ill-mannered person  
Only a boor would express himself by making obscene remarks.
3. contempt  
a feeling toward something considered worthless or beneath notice; scorn, disregard  
He showed his contempt for the speaker by walking out before the presentation was finished.
4. dogged  
not giving in readily, persistent, stubborn  
His dogged pursuit of rock stardom gave him little time to do homework or chores.
5. foil  
v. to frustrate, to thwart, to balk  
n. a long, thin fencing sword; a thin sheet or leaf of a metallic substance  
The hero in the melodrama foiled the villain's plans.
6. forthright  
straightforward, direct, frank  
We appreciated the doctor's forthright approach when telling us about the treatment of the disease.
7. fracas (fray-cus)  
a noisy quarrel, a brawl, a disturbance  
The police were called because of the fracas in the stadium.
8. hamper  
n. a large basket, usually with a cover  
v. to shackle, to entangle, to impede progress  
Not having transportation would hamper the social life of many teenagers.
9. laminate  
to cover with thin layers, to press into a thin sheet or layer  
Teachers often laminate posters with plastic so they will last for more than one school year.
10. recluse  
one who lives alone, avoiding contact with other people; a hermit  
Living by himself in the wilderness, the recluse became friends with many wild animals.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 10

1. annihilate  
to reduce to nothing, to destroy absolutely  
Scientists hope to annihilate the disease with a new vaccine.
2. collateral  
anything of value that is pledged as additional security for a loan  
My parents used their house as collateral for my college loan.
3. consensus  
unanimity; general agreement especially in opinion  
The jury finally reached a consensus on the tenth day of deliberation.
4. finesse  
skill, craft, artfulness  
He played the game with great finesse and won despite his small size.
5. fuselage  
the body of an airplane without the wings and tail  
The investigators were amazed that the fuselage was still in one piece after the crash.
6. mar  
v. to make imperfect, to damage or spoil  
n. a blemish or disfigurement  
The scar did not mar her beauty but gave her an air of mystery.
7. rampant  
violent and uncontrollable, widespread, flourishing, unchecked  
The group tried to stop the rampant growth of pollution.
8. shiftless  
lacking the will to accomplish, inefficient, lazy  
No one wants other people to think they are shiftless.
9. tumult  
commotion, disturbance, great noise, uproar  
The tumult was tremendous when the school announced that there would be no Winter Break that year.
10. vendetta  
a feud in which one tries to get revenge; a seeking of vengeance  
The vigilante's vendetta against crime in the streets only succeeded in making matters worse.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 11

1. abashed  
disconcerted, ashamed, confused  
He was abashed when his lack of knowledge on the subject was pointed out.
2. comprehend  
understand, discern, grasp  
The score on your test will show us whether you comprehend the text material.
3. converse  
v. to associate, talk, commune, chat  
n. the opposite  
It is quite nice to hear the students converse in moderate decibels.
4. dispute  
v. to argue, disagree, debate  
n. strife, controversy, argument  
It turned out that the playground dispute was over a rumor heard in the bathroom.
5. gape  
yawn, stare at something wide-eyed  
She gaped as she watched the tornado race through the town.
6. impulse  
incentive, push, incitement, force, motive  
He had a sudden impulse to walk away from his friends and talk to the new student.
7. intruder  
one who thrusts in where he is not welcome, one who has no right to be where he is  
The intruder sneaked quietly through the house.
8. melancholy  
n. sadness, depression of spirits  
adj. gloomy, pensive  
A great melancholy had settled over the whole community after the defeat of their number one team.
9. soliloquy  
speech given in a drama expressing one's feelings to the audience; talking to oneself  
Alone on the stage, he soliloquized about the injustice of the court system.
10. vagrant  
a tramp, hobo, a rover, idle wanderer  
The vagrant came to the door hoping for a free meal.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 12

1. authentic  
real, genuine, authorized  
The letter telling me I had won the grand prize was authentic!
2. desolate  
forlorn, barren, uninhabited, miserable, lonely  
There are some desolate spots in eastern Washington.
3. emerge  
come forth, become visible, appear  
As I watched, the Loch Ness monster emerged from the lake.
4. errant  
deviating from a particular course, wandering; itinerant, rambling, roving  
The errant knight was having trouble finding a damsel in distress.
5. inflection  
a turn, bend or curve, a change in the pitch or tone of the voice  
Listening to the inflection of the speaker's voice is like reading between the lines.
6. malevolent  
evil; wishing harm or ill toward others  
The malevolent wind threatened to tear the rock climbers from their precarious perch.
7. menacing  
threatening harm or evil  
The large dog certainly looked menacing.
8. tamper  
meddle with, interfere, change from the original  
The police suspected the lock had been tampered with because of the scratch marks on the door.
9. twang  
a sharp, vibrating sound, a nasal-sounding speaking  
The release of the arrow made the bowstring twang loudly.
10. wheezily  
hard, breathy sounds, whistling sounds  
A person with allergies may breathe wheezily.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 13

1. antedating  
preceding, belonging to an earlier time, happening earlier  
Historians are discovering folktales that antedate written language.
2. literary  
dealing with literature, belonging to letters  
The literary discussions were fun and gained us points in reading.
3. luxuriant  
elaborate, ornate, richly appointed; lush, fertile, thickly growing  
Her luxuriant hair made her a candidate for shampoo commercials.
4. muse  
ponder, meditate, study in silence  
He mused about the future of his job as he read the latest government findings about environmental destruction.
5. patronizing  
showing kindness in a condescending manner (treating someone like a child)  
Her compliment was made so patronizingly that I felt insulted.
6. pensively  
in a thoughtful manner; with seriousness or a degree of melancholy  
He pensively considered career options now that he had failed the bar exam.
7. quiver  
v. to shimmy or shake with fear, to tremble  
n. a case for holding arrows  
Did you quiver with fear when the earthquake struck?
8. reluctance  
a feeling of not wanting to do or agree with someone; unwillingness  
I felt a great reluctance to go along with the crowd as they booed the speaker.
9. stimulating  
invigorating, exciting  
Stimulating conversation at bedtime does not make it easy to go to sleep.
10. testily  
fretfully, petulantly, in an irritated manner  
He replied rather testily when I told him that his book had not come in with the latest shipment.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 14

1. belligerently  
in a hostile or warlike manner  
The toddler belligerently faced his mom and said, “NO!”
2. exotic  
strangely beautiful, foreign; having charm of the unfamiliar  
The horticulturist was unduly proud of his exotic tree that came all the way from Tibet.
3. flamboyant  
bright, eye-catching, exotic; overdone  
Her flamboyant hat was bright red, had a broad rim drooping over one eye, and was embellished with lace and long feathers.
4. meddlesome  
inclined to interfere without right or propriety; bossy or nosy  
The meddlesome sixth grader wouldn't let the little kids play their version of four-square.
5. nauseating  
sickening, disgusting  
It was a nauseating experience listening to the lady describe all her surgeries in detail.
6. rangy  
long-limbed and long-bodied, slender  
The basketball player's build could be described as rangy.
7. staid  
sedate and reserved  
Her staid hat was small and dark with a narrow brim.
8. stolid  
not excitable, dull, impassive, expressionless  
The teacher felt challenged to replace the stolid look of her new student with an aspect of interest and excitement.
9. surge  
a large mass sweeping or swelling; a short sudden rush; a sudden increase  
We have a protector on our computer so a power surge will not damage the internal chips.
10. technique  
the method or procedure used in carrying out an operation of science, mechanics or artistry  
The football player took ballet lessons to improve his catching technique.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 15

1. anguished  
agonized, distressed, showing extreme pain  
Her anguished expression led us to believe the worst about her father's illness.
2. antitoxins  
serums developed to immunize against specific diseases  
The antitoxins provided by the government helped prevent the spread of anthrax to other ranches in the area.
3. dominate  
rule, govern; tower over  
The new 70-story building dominated the skyline.
4. dual  
two-fold, double, consisting of two  
Many words in our language have a dual meaning. For example, *bright* means two different things: *smart* and *shiny*.
5. intent
  - a. engrossed, fixed, earnest, intense
  - n. a purpose or objective

What do you think was the intent of the work stoppage?
6. maintain  
to continue, to keep or hold, to carry on; to uphold or defend, to support or affirm  
In order to maintain our level of expertise, we need to practice daily.
7. oasis  
a fertile place in the desert  
The camels did not want to leave the coolness of the oasis.
8. perturb  
to disturb greatly in mind, to throw into confusion  
The major earthquake and its aftershocks greatly perturbed the residents.
9. refuse
  - v. to decline, reject, disallow
  - n. rubbish, trash, garbage

The Supreme Court will probably refuse to hear the case because of a lack of evidence that a real loss occurred.
10. residential  
suitable for homes and living  
The residential atmosphere of the area was shattered by the new shopping center.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 16

1. affable  
adj. easy to approach, kindly, gracious  
It was an affable group that met to discuss the plans for the upcoming fundraiser.
2. brazen  
of brass, like brass in color; impudent, shameless, bold;  
having a harsh and piercing sound  
The brazen idol was found buried near the old temple.
3. cudgel  
n. a short, thick stick of wood used as a weapon  
v. to beat with a thick stick of wood  
She used the broken branch as a cudgel to protect herself from the angry dog.
4. incite  
to move to action, to stir up, to spur on  
The yelling crowd seemed to incite the boys to continue fighting.
5. morass  
a marsh, a bog, a piece of soft, wet ground  
I felt like I was sinking into a morass of undone projects.
6. plateau  
tableland, a mesa, an elevated tract that is relatively level.  
The graph showed a plateau in sales for the last few months.
7. quash  
to beat down, to crush, to subdue, to suppress  
The National Guard moved quickly to quash the rioting crowd.
8. reserved  
set apart, held back for a purpose or use; withdrawn in manner, reticent, restrained  
Until we got to know him, his reserved manner made him seem unfriendly.
9. scoff  
to scorn or show mocking contempt  
She used to scoff at warnings about wearing seatbelts until she was in an accident.
10. shifty  
given to deception, evasion or fraud; elusive; tricky  
The carnival concession operator was on the lookout for shifty characters who might try to cheat at the game.



## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 17

1. abet  
to help or assist, to sanction or aid (especially to help an enemy or criminal)  
You need to be aware that if you abet a criminal, you may also be charged with a crime.
2. assent  
n. agreement with a proposal, compliance, consent  
v. to approve, to yield or concede  
Her father's nod of assent was all she needed to start the process of buying a new car.
3. baffle  
v. to frustrate or balk by bewildering, to thwart  
n. an obstructing device such as a screen to hold back or turn aside a flow of liquids  
It was a great challenge to ask questions that could baffle the experts.
4. churlish  
rude, surly, sullen, uncivil  
A churlish attitude would keep you from being chosen to represent your team at a sportsmanship conference.
5. enlighten  
to give light to, to inform or give clarification to, to free from ignorance  
A speaker who survived the Holocaust enlightened us about the dangers of racial bigotry.
6. extravagance  
a going beyond reasonable limits, excessive expenditure, unreasonable excess  
Buying a new car every year would be considered an extravagance by many families.
7. frugal  
economical, not spending freely; sparingly provided; not costly or luxurious  
A frugal government is appreciated when they are spending our hard-earned dollars.
8. impoverished  
made poor, reduced to poverty, exhausted the strength of something  
Our extravagant spending impoverished us and now we will have to work many years to pay back all the money we owe.
9. jibe  
v. to sneer at, to taunt, to jeer, to scoff at  
n. a jeer, an expression of sarcastic scorn  
The bully would jibe at me because I was short and skinny.
10. recess  
n. a temporary withdrawal from or halting of work; secluded, withdrawn; a niche  
The students felt a recess was necessary if they were to complete the testing in one day.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 18

1. cacao  
the bean or seed from which cocoa and chocolate are made  
The cacao tree will only grow in tropical climates.
2. engrossed  
absorbed in, totally occupied, wholly attentive to  
He was so engrossed in the book that he did not notice when the bell rang.
3. extract  
v. to take out of, draw from, to take a part away  
n. an excerpt, a concentrated form  
The dentist wanted to extract only one wisdom tooth at a time.
4. flourishing  
thriving, blooming, at the peak of development  
The new espresso bar seemed to do a flourishing business.
5. fragrant  
sweet-smelling, aromatic  
We could smell the fragrant lilacs as soon as we entered the room.
6. froth  
something of a light, trifling nature; bubbles or foam  
She found that the marshmallows would ride on top of the froth on the hot cocoa.
7. ingenuity  
cleverness, originality  
The boys showed much ingenuity in their new kite design.
8. nourishment  
sustenance, nutriment, nutrition  
I read books for the nourishment of my mind.
9. persisted  
kept at, persevered, endured, refused to quit  
He persisted in his claim of innocence until the jury finally began to recheck the testimony.
10. wistfully  
pensively, thoughtfully, longingly  
She thought wistfully about her former friends and home.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 19

1. aimlessly  
without purpose, direction or goal, wandering  
They strolled aimlessly through the arboretum.
2. disposition  
method, distribution or arrangement; tendency; temperament, inclination or power to settle  
The disposition of the defunct company's assets displeased the creditors.
3. instinct  
an inborn tendency, a natural gift, bent or knack  
The instinct to survive is seen in the animal kingdom.
4. mousy  
drab, timid, quiet; characteristic of a mouse  
The mousy little man lurked in the shadow of the building.
5. optimism  
looking on the bright side; taking the most hopeful view of a situation (the glass is half full)  
The team's optimism seemed to be the deciding factor in the outcome of the season.
6. pension  
v. to pay off an employee  
n. a payment given for past services; a retirement  
Grandpa received his monthly pension check from the Teamsters' Union.
7. stealthily  
in a surreptitious or clandestine manner, sneakily  
The hunter approached the deer stealthily but it did no good because the animal's instincts made it aware of the danger.
8. vacant  
unoccupied, empty, void  
The vacant lot had become the neighborhood dumping ground.
9. wincing  
shrank back from, flinched, started back suddenly  
The lady winced in pain as the soccer ball hit her in the back.
10. wiry  
like wire in shape or substance; lean, sinewy, and strong  
The wrestler with the wiry build seemed to have the advantage over his opponent who was much heavier.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 20

1. abundance  
an overflowing amount, more than ample or sufficient  
There was an abundance of advice from the spectators as to how the child should be freed from the picket fence.
2. barricade  
to stop up a passage, obstruct, fortify to hinder the enemy  
The hijacker barricaded himself in the galley of the plane.
3. caribou  
any of several varieties of reindeer of North America  
The Eskimo hunted caribou for food as well as for the skin.
4. ebb  
to flow back, recede, return, wane, withdraw  
The sense of expectancy ebbed as the arrival time of the plane was again delayed.
5. gallery  
the cheapest seats in the theater; a long, narrow corridor or room; a displayed collection of art  
The students went to the gallery to view the new exhibit of wildlife paintings.
6. harpoon  
a spear with a line used to hunt large sea animals  
The harpoon caught the whale just behind the blow hole.
7. hew  
to chop with an axe, hack; form with an axe  
The park rangers hewed a passable trail through the deadfall in the ravine.
8. numb  
having no feeling; deadened; insensitive  
His arm felt numb after pitching his first no-hitter.
9. statistics  
numerical data that is assembled, classified, and tabulated into a usable form  
The statistics seemed to prove that the prevention program was successful.
10. warily  
in a cautious manner  
The hunter approached his prey warily even though he had a weapon.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 21

1. brandish  
to move or wave a weapon (or potential weapon) in a threatening manner  
The man was brandishing his rake in the air to scare the crows from the garden.
2. cravenly  
in a cowardly manner  
She hid cravenly in the corner while her mother was looking for the cause of the broken vase.
3. defiance  
n. open or bold resistance to authority, opposition (“No! I won’t!”)  
His continual defiance of the law resulted in a long jail term.
4. din  
noise; long, continuing clattering or rumbling sound  
The din from the loading dock made it almost impossible to hear the telephone until I closed the windows.
5. grandeur  
greatness, splendor, magnificence, nobility  
The grandeur of the palace was almost overpowering.
6. insolent  
adj. disrespectful of authority, impertinent, impudent (“Oh, yeah? Try to make me.”)  
An insolent attitude can get you in trouble even if you don’t actually “do” anything.
7. jubilation  
a rejoicing, a happy celebration  
The jubilation at the victory dinner was evident by all the excited voices.
8. rebellious  
adj. opposing any control, defiant, resisting authority  
The rebellious mob refused to disperse until the mayor came out to bargain with them.
9. resolution  
a determination or deciding opinion, a solution  
The resolution of the conflict between the two countries was not decided overnight.
10. retort  
to answer back in the same terms as the previous speaker, to reply in kind  
She retorted with a remark about bald heads when her co-workers teased her about having gray hairs.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 22

1. astral  
from the stars; a ghost-like double of the human body  
The astral ship entering the Earth's atmosphere created a display resembling a fireworks show.
2. auxiliary  
adj. helping, assisting, giving aid, supplementary  
n. an assisting group or organization  
The astronauts had trouble controlling the auxiliary arm outside the space shuttle.
3. claustrophobia  
fear of being confined in a small space  
A person with claustrophobia would not like to be assigned to a submarine voyage.
4. conspirators  
plotters, ones engaged in plotting a crime or secret action  
The conspirators gave away the secret because of all the whispering and note passing.
5. curfew  
a time limit for someone to be inside or off the street  
The teenagers were protesting the midnight curfew set by the city council.
6. fissure  
a narrow crack or cleft in a rock, a longitudinal opening  
The water entered the cave through the fissure in the rock.
7. seismographic  
indicated or reported instance of an earthquake  
The seismographic studies predicted a large earthquake in the near future.
8. stifle  
to hold back by force, suppress, arrest  
She stifled her laugh and started to choke violently.
9. stride  
v. to walk with long steps in a vigorous manner; "to take in stride" is to cope with easily  
n. a measure of the distance covered in a step; progress or advancement  
The coach measured the runner's stride in order to improve his technique.
10. synthetic  
something produced by chemical synthesis rather than natural origins; artificial  
They found that the baby was allergic to synthetic material, and so they had to dress him in all-cotton clothing.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 23

1. cacophony  
discordant sounds, a jarring mixture of words or noise  
The cacophony in the room reminded me of a chicken coop.
2. concave  
a hollow or curved surface such as the inner surface of a sphere  
The concave surface collected dew and created rainbows on the side of the building.
3. flaw  
n. a defect, a blemish, a faulty place  
v. to break or crack  
The flaw in the material was too big to cut around.
4. grapple  
n. a device for seizing or grasping, such as tongs  
v. to grip and hold, to come to grips (as in wrestling)  
The rescuers used a grapple to try and extricate the victim from the hole.
5. gullible  
easily fooled or duped, believing almost anything  
After being fooled by my brother's stories many times, I finally learned not to be so gullible.
6. hinder  
to keep back, to restrain, to get in the way of  
My help on the project seemed to hinder progress rather than being a help because I didn't know how to work with wood.
7. lanky  
awkwardly tall and lean, long and slender  
The lanky teenager looked awkward on the basketball court.
8. mellow  
softened and made gentle, not bitter, aged to ripeness  
The mellow colors in the room seemed to lull me to sleep.
9. plunge  
n. a dive or downward leap  
v. to thrust or dive into something suddenly  
I took a plunge in the cold water to help me wake up.
10. tranquil  
calm, free from disturbance, serene  
Liberty Bay's tranquil waters reflected the mountains and boats.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 24

1. artless  
natural, free of artificiality; without guile or cunning; innocent;  
uncultured, ignorant, lacking skill  
The preschooler's drawings were fresh and appealing, and he artlessly answered his admiring audience's questions.
2. cavity  
a hole or hollow place, a natural hollow place; a hole in a tooth caused by decay  
His abdominal cavity filled with fluid so the doctor had to operate to relieve the pressure.
3. clamber  
to climb over in a clumsy manner  
We had to clamber over the wet rocks in order to get to the beach.
4. convex  
having a surface that curves outward such as a lens or sphere  
The convex lens on the telescope was 30 inches in diameter.
5. crest  
n. a tuft on the top of an animal's head;  
an insignia of a family name used on silverware, note paper, etc.;  
the top or summit of something  
v. to reach the summit or ridge, to crown  
He was panting hard by the time he reached the crest of the hill.
6. gregarious  
sociable, enjoying the company of others; tending to move in groups  
Everyone flocked to the house parties given by the gregarious playwright.
7. jar  
n. a container with a large, cylindrical body  
v. to clash; to shake by sudden impact; to make a harsh, grating sound  
We were able to jar loose the crowbar by pounding on it with a hammer.
8. qualm  
a twinge of conscience; a feeling of uneasiness or doubt  
I only had a slight qualm about attending the formal affair.
9. spendthrift  
one who spends money carelessly or wastefully; a squanderer  
He was a spendthrift who spent all his family's money buying race cars.
10. squabble  
n. a noisy quarrel over a small matter, a brawl  
v. to wrangle over something trivial, to fight  
The two children seemed to squabble over every toy that was in the toy box.



## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 25

1. candor  
openness, frankness, sincerity of heart  
His candor in discussing the problem helped bring about a solution.
2. carp  
v. to find fault, especially without reason  
n. a large-scaled, fresh water fish  
It seemed as though my mother would always carp at me about the music I listened to.
3. detect  
to discover or find out, to expose  
It was hard for the jeweler to detect the flaw in the diamond.
4. dictatorial  
dogmatic, overbearing, ruling in an absolute manner  
The captain of the ship had a dictatorial attitude and most of the crew wanted to transfer to another ship.
5. disconsolate  
comfortless, hopeless, sorrowful  
She wandered the field disconsolately searching for her lost earring.
6. fascination  
a strong attraction, allure or charm, captivation  
From the time he was a toddler, he had a fascination with any type of machinery.
7. intact  
untouched, complete, undamaged, unimpaired  
She managed to get through her employment evaluation with her self-esteem still intact.
8. overbearing  
disregarding the wishes of others, arrogant, domineering  
His overbearing attitude made it difficult for his co-workers to be around him.
9. provisions  
stock of food or other supplies; preparations, arrangements, conditions  
The provisions of the contract seemed fair to both sides.
10. tyranny  
cruel and unjust use of power or authority; harsh, unjust government  
The slaves lived in fear because of the tyranny of their owner.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 26

1. abyss  
a bottomless pit, an immensity of time, space or depth  
The soap opera characters always seem to be in an abyss of total despair.
2. bachelor  
a man of any age who has not been married;  
any person who has received a baccalaureate degree (B.A. or B.S.)  
My uncle remained a bachelor until he was 75.
3. cafeteria  
an eating place where food is displayed on counters and customers serve themselves  
My parents like to take us to cafeteria restaurants because we will only take food that we like and many of them let us go back for more servings.
4. cellophane  
a thin, transparent material made of cellulose and used for moisture-proof wrapping  
My grandmother used waxed paper instead of cellophane to keep sandwiches from drying out.
5. cemetery  
a place set apart for burial, a graveyard  
Many people make a special visit to a cemetery on Memorial Day.
6. cordially  
warmly, affectionately, cheerfully  
We were cordially welcomed by our host for the weekend.
7. dirigible  
a motor-driven balloon with a cabin underneath, a blimp  
The most famous dirigible is the Hindenberg, which exploded when landing in the United States.
8. fallible  
capable of making errors; tending or likely to be incorrect  
Even Mrs. Kragen is fallible.
9. inertia  
a tendency to remain in a fixed condition, a disinclination to move or act  
Inertia kept me lying on the couch after I had eaten Thanksgiving dinner.
10. kerosene  
a thin, volatile oil used for fueling stoves and lamps, coal oil  
My mother is extremely nervous when the power is out and we have to use a kerosene heater.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 27

1. cinema  
a motion picture or a motion picture theater  
We went to the cinema to see the latest Star Trek production.
2. hurtle  
to move violently or swiftly, to move noisily with a crashing sound  
They saw the bottles and cans hurtle through the window of the passing car.
3. initial  
n. a beginning, as in the first letter of a name  
v. to write one's initials as a signature  
We were in on the initial planning session for the new school.
4. matinee  
an entertainment or performance held in the daytime, especially in the early afternoon  
We decided to go to a matinee performance of the new musical because the tickets were half price.
5. playwright  
one who writes plays, a dramatist  
Her goal was to be a successful playwright and have her plays performed on Broadway.
6. scenario  
an outline of a plot of a play or photoplay giving the scenes and stage directions;  
an outline for any proposed series of events, real or imagined  
The scenario presented by the prosecutor was dismissed because it was purely speculative.
7. sympathy  
sameness of feeling, harmony, accord  
We felt real sympathy for the people who became ill.
8. symphony  
harmony of sounds or color, an extended composition for full orchestra  
We went to hear a newly-discovered symphony by Mozart.
9. tournament  
a series of contests, usually for a championship, such as in chess, bridge or sports  
We were really excited to be able to win back-to-back championships at the local soccer tournament.
10. transfer  
to convey or send from one person, place or position to another;  
make over a legal title, right or ownership  
He transferred from the Portland office to the Poulsbo office but kept the same job title.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 28

1. accomplice  
one who aides or abets an unlawful or criminal act  
The little boy was aided by his accomplice, his younger brother, in the stealing of some cookies.
2. amateur  
one who pursues any study, art or sport without payment;  
a person who does something unskillfully  
The wallpaper was hung by an amateur, but looked like it had been done by a professional.
3. benign  
gentle, kind, favorable; not harmful  
What a relief to learn that the tumor was benign--she didn't have cancer after all!
4. elite  
the choice or most carefully selected part of a group  
It was an elite gathering of scientist and journalists that were invited to the unveiling of the newest passive solar energy complex.
5. etiquette  
manners or ceremonies established by convention as acceptable in society  
We had lessons in etiquette before we had the afternoon tea for our mothers.
6. gallivant  
to go about in search of excitement, to gad about  
We were cautioned not to gallivant through the museum.
7. genial  
showing warmth of disposition, amiable, cordial  
He was a genial host, and all of us felt very welcome at his house.
8. indomitable  
not easily discouraged or subdued, unyielding  
Her indomitable courage kept her alive until the rescuers were able to reach her.
9. intricate  
complicated, hard to follow, entangled, complex  
The intricate embroidery on the gown was all done by hand.
10. solace  
comfort in sorrow, misfortune, distress; that which furnishes comfort or consolation  
Finding solace in drugs or alcohol is short-term and self-defeating; the pain is still there—and sometimes worse!—after the “high” is gone.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 29

1. affect  
to produce an effect upon; to influence, impress, sway  
If you use “affect” as a verb meaning “influence” and “effect” as a noun meaning “something produced by an agent or cause,” you won’t run into much trouble with these words!
2. bolster  
n. a long, narrow cushion or pillow  
v. to support or hold up, to maintain with difficulty  
He whistled to bolster his courage as he walked through the dark.
3. coincide  
to occur simultaneously, to agree  
It was fortunate that our vacation plans would coincide with my mother’s family reunion.
4. elixir  
a medical compound, a remedy for all ailments, a magical potion  
The man told us the elixir he was selling would cure baldness.
5. fiat  
an authorization, or sanction, an order issued by legal authority  
The fiat gave them authority to search any home in the area.
6. garret  
a room just below the roof of a house, usually unfinished, a turret or watchtower  
My favorite place to hide was in the garret at my grandmother’s house.
7. honorarium  
a payment to a professional person for which no fee is set or can be legally obtained  
She used the honorarium from the commencement address to help the homeless.
8. malodorous  
having a bad smell or odor  
I did not enjoy the malodorous atmosphere in the crowded room.
9. redolent  
sweet-smelling, fragrant  
The room was redolent of lilacs and sunshine.
10. swatch  
a small piece of cloth or other material cut off to use as a sample  
The decorator gave us a swatch of the curtain material to see if it would match the carpet.

## Vocabulary and Spelling

### List 30

1. brevity  
shortness, succinctness, conciseness  
The brevity of the visit made us doubt that the doctor had time to completely review the tests.
2. diatribe  
a dispute, malicious criticism and/or abuse  
Her diatribe against the neighbors at the meeting made us all very uncomfortable.
3. discreet  
prudent, cautious, careful, wary; polite, courteous  
We needed to make discreet inquiries in order to find out if the company was reputable.
4. frenetic  
mad, frantic, frenzied  
It seems that the last few weeks of school go by at a frenetic pace.
5. inarticulate  
unable to speak, mute, not able to speak understandably or expressively  
I was so angry at her accusations that I became inarticulate and could not defend myself.
6. languid  
drooping, sluggish, dull, spiritless, faint, weak  
His languid pose did not motivate me to do my aerobic exercises.
7. nebulous  
unclear, vague, indefinite, cloudy, hazy  
The instructions were certainly nebulous as to which road we were to take from the freeway exit.
8. nonchalant  
lacking enthusiasm, not interested, casually indifferent, unconcerned  
His parents did not approve of his nonchalant attitude toward his school work.
9. obliterate  
to erase or wipe out, to demolish, to destroy all trace of  
The criminal tried hard to obliterate the evidence of a burglary.
10. placate  
to appease or pacify, to calm  
It did no good to try to placate the toddler with another toy after his truck broke.