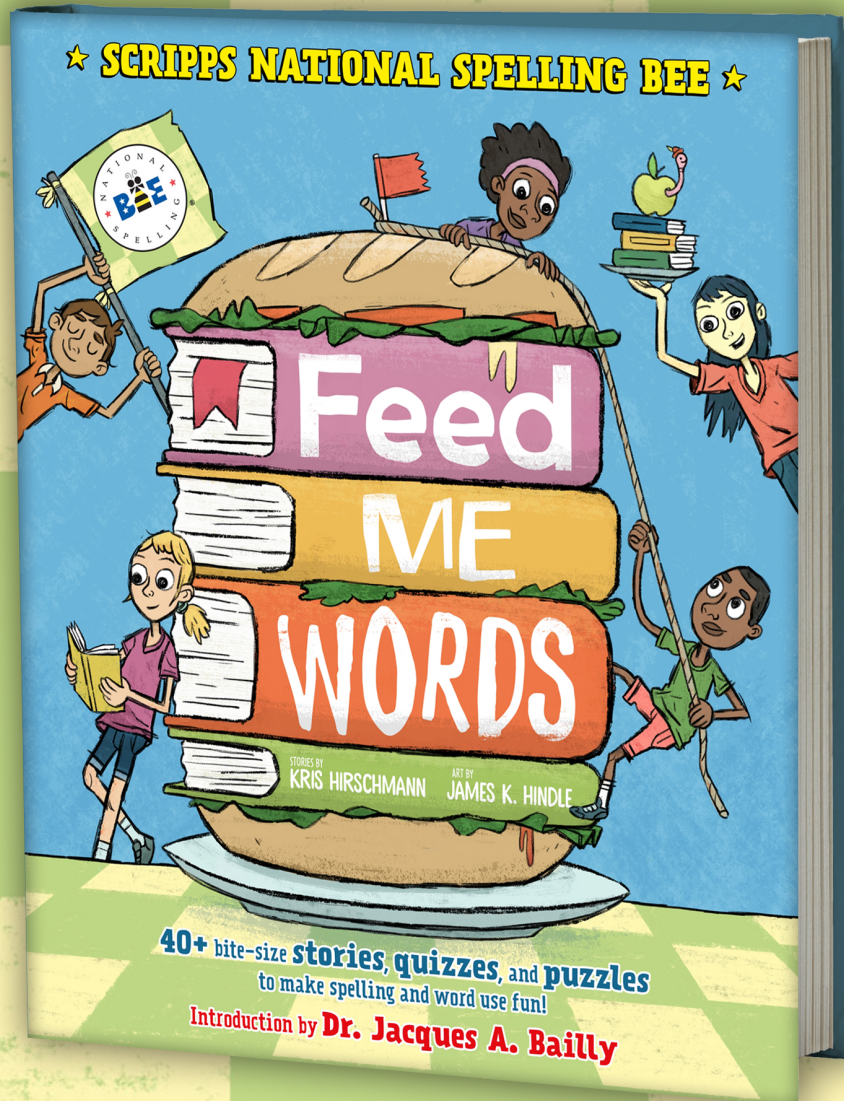


Feed Me Words Spelling Bee Party Guide

Get kids excited about spelling!



In this guide, you will find:

- A guide to hosting a spelling bee!
- Words Up! game instructions
- Reproducible puzzles
- An event sign
- Printable ribbons and participation certificate
- Word lists

Guide to Hosting a Spelling Bee!

This guide is based on the official rules for the Scripps National Spelling Bee! It's perfect for the age group for *Feed Me Words*, ages 6–10.

Traditional spelling bees have rounds that continue until there is only one winner left. These instructions are for a five-round bee that awards all players without declaring one overall winner.

The instructions below are for five rounds of spelling, but they can be adapted for any number of rounds.

What you need:

- Word lists for each round
 - The lists at the back of this guide indicate the difficulty level. Increase the difficulty with each new round.
- An official pronouncer

How to play:

- Assemble the participants at the front of the room
- Have the pronouncer announce that the speller has one try to spell the word correctly or they are out.
- Begin with the easiest word list.
- Instruct the pronouncer to define which word should be spelled if the word has one or more homonyms.
- Pronounce the word for the speller, and then offer a definition or use it in a sentence if the speller requests it.
- End the bee after five rounds!
- Hand out ribbons and certificates

Winner levels:

- All five rounds—Champion
- Four rounds—All-Star
- Everyone else—a participation certificate




Words Up! Game

This game is an adaption of the popular party game Heads Up! Pair players off into teams of two. The point of the game is to guess as many words correctly as possible in a set amount of time. The instructions below assume four rounds, so each child gets two turns as guesser and clue-giver, but the game can be played for as many rounds as time allows.

How to play:

- Supply each player with a stack of words and instruct them not to look at their words or show them to anyone else.
- Set a timer for one minute.
- Select a player to go first. This player should hold a word up on their forehead facing the audience.
- Have the player's teammate say clues to try to make the player guess the word.
- Instruct each team to keep track of how many words they get right in the one-minute period.
- Repeat as many times as possible during the one-minute period, keeping the same guesser and the same clue-giver.
- After the minute is up, switch roles so that the other player takes a turn guessing.

Rules:

- Use lots of clues! Here are some good clues:
 - A definition of the word
 - Synonyms
 - A sentence that uses the word "blank" where the actual word would go
 - Don't use the word in your clue!
 - If the participants are old enough, encourage them to avoid rhyming words as clues.
- 

At the end, tally which team guessed the most words correctly. The game can be played to win a prize or just for bragging rights!



Word Search

The word search puzzle below contains correctly spelled g and j words. Find all ten words. If you can't find a word, you might be spelling it incorrectly!

g versus j:

This word search puzzle contains the correctly spelled g and j words. Find all ten words. Remember, if you can't find a word, you might be spelling it incorrectly.



Search for the correct spelling of each word:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ninga, ninja | 6. obgett, object |
| 2. dangerous, danjerous | 7. magor, major |
| 3. ingure, injure | 8. engoy, enjoy |
| 4. bandage, bandaje | 9. giant, jiant |
| 5. garbage, garbaje | 10. energy, enerjy |

ninja
dangerous
injure
bandage
garbage
object
major
enjoy
giant
energy

Decode the Words!

Below are the pronunciation guides to some common spelling words. Can you spell the word correctly based on the information provided?

Pronunciation guide	Type of word	Definition	Spell it!
1. BREK-fust	noun	the first meal of the day	_____
2. JIG-ul	verb	to move with quick little shakes	_____
3. ree-MEM-bur	verb	to recall something you knew	_____
4. PIL-oh	noun	a stuffed cloth bag used to support your head while resting	_____
5. DIF-rent	adjective	not the same	_____
6. SUR-kul	noun	a perfectly round loop	_____
7. ee-NOR-mus	adjective	very large	_____
8. UH-vuhn	noun	the part of the stove used for roasting or baking	_____
9. HUN-drid	noun	a number equal to ten times ten	_____
10. suh-POHS	verb	to believe something is true	_____



answer key:
 1. breakfast, 2. jiggle,
 3. remember, 4. pillow,
 5. different, 6. circle,
 7. enormous, 8. oven,
 9. hundred, 10. suppose

Words in a Word!

How many smaller words can you make out of these longer words?

community

refrigerator

groceries

frequently

grandparents





Spelling Bee Certificate

This certificate is presented to

Child's name

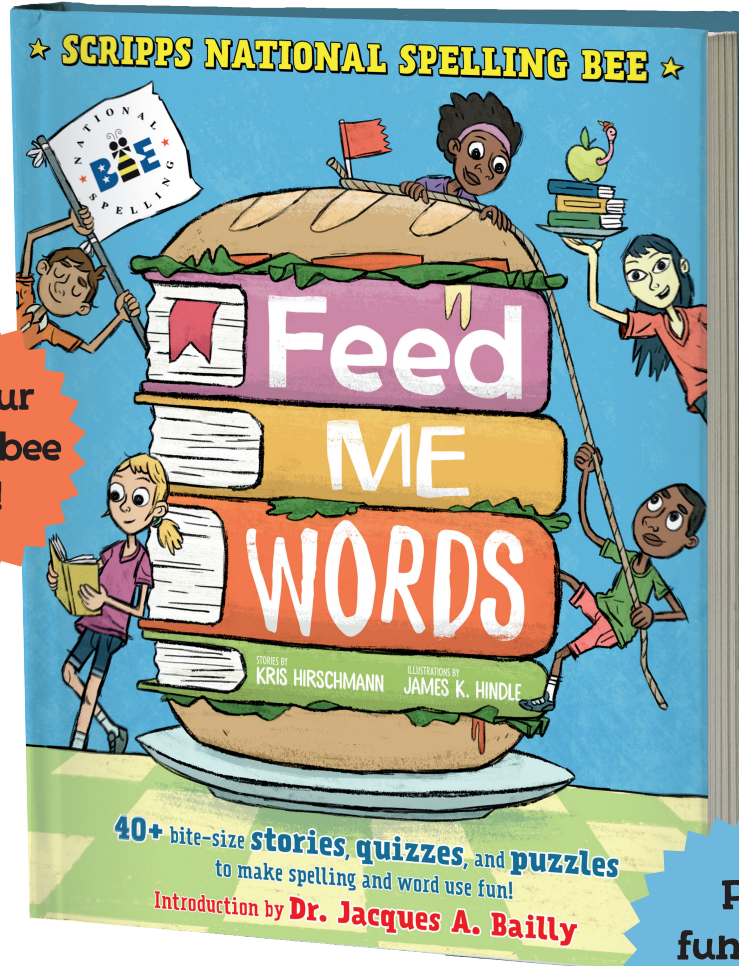
For participating in the

Spelling Bee!

Store name

Date

It's a Spelling Bee Party!



Test your
spelling bee
skills!

Play
fun word
games!

Date:

Time:

Location:



Scripps National Spelling Bee

Promotional List for *Feed Me Words*

First Grade Words:	p. 1
Second Grade Words:	p. 6
Third Grade Words:	p. 10
Fourth Grade Words:	p. 14
Fifth Grade Words:	p. 18
Sixth Grade Words:	p. 22
Seventh Grade Words:	p. 26
Eighth Grade Words:	p. 30

FIRST GRADE WORDS

1. **bat** (bat)
(noun) a usually wooden piece of sports equipment used to hit a ball.
Ever since Caiden got a bat and a glove for his sixth birthday, he has dreamed of becoming a professional baseball player.
2. **sock** (sahk)
(noun) a piece of clothing that covers the foot and is worn inside a shoe.
Dad searched the laundry room for the missing sock for 20 minutes before he gave up and wore a mismatched pair.
3. **yam** (yam)
(noun) a sweet potato with brown skin and usually orange flesh.
Jordan served his chicken with collard greens, rice and a baked yam.
4. **peep** (peep)
(noun) a weak, high sound like a chirp or a squeak.
Mrs. Owens told the girls at the slumber party that she'd have to put them in separate rooms if she heard one more peep out of them.

5. **candy** (KAN-dee)
(noun) a sweet food made with sugar and often flavoring (such as chocolate) and filling.
After the tour of the jelly bean factory, each student got to select one piece of candy to take home.
6. **pull** (puhl)
(verb) to hold onto something and move it toward yourself or toward the direction you are going.
Candace loaded her red wagon full of toys and began to pull it down the sidewalk.
7. **bark** (bahrk)
(verb) to make a short loud explosive sound (like a dog).
Beth let Windsor sleep on the couch so he wouldn't bark during the night.
8. **melt** (melt)
(verb) to change from a solid to a liquid because of heat.
It was so hot outside that Britney couldn't eat much of her snow cone before it started to melt.
9. **sky** (skahy)
(noun) the space surrounding the earth.
On nice days, Maddie likes to sit in the grass and find shapes in the clouds in the sky.
10. **lucky** (LUH-kee)
(adjective) having good fortune.
Before the spelling bee, Natalie made sure her lucky coin was in her pocket.
11. **smug** (smuhg)
(adjective) marked by belief in one's own superiority, virtue and respectability.
Nick's smug expression dropped when he heard he placed second in the science fair.
12. **vote** (voht)
(verb) to give a formal opinion in response to a proposed decision.
The whole class will vote on the winner of the drawing contest.
13. **truck** (truhk)
(noun) a vehicle built for moving things in its own frame.
Mark tied his canoe into the back of his truck and drove to the lake for the day.
14. **blob** (blahb)
(noun) a small drop or lump of something thick and wet.
Seb put a blob of toothpaste on his toothbrush and began to scrub his teeth.
15. **tank** (taynk)
(noun) a large container for holding liquid.
Bryce could sit for hours watching the sharks swim around in their tank at the aquarium.
16. **napkin** (NAP-kin)
(noun) a piece of fabric or paper used during a meal to wipe your lips or hands.
Before the holiday dinner at grandma and grandpa's house, mom reminded Ethan to put his napkin in his lap and keep his elbows off the table.
17. **good** (good)
(adjective) correct, proper or right.
The museum tour guide was impressed by the good behavior of Mrs. Garcia's class during their field trip.
18. **dress** (dres)
(verb) to put clothes on.
In the winter it is wise to dress in warm layers of clothing.
19. **store** (stohr)
(noun) a place where things are available to buy.
Cody went to the store to buy eggs and milk for the cake he was baking.

20. **apart** (uh-PAHRT)
(adverb) away from one another.
Reggie couldn't bear to be apart from his favorite stuffed bumblebee toy for too long.
21. **thing** (thing)
(noun) an object whose name is not said or not known.
Priya was offended when, instead of complimenting her new hair ribbon, Laurel asked, "What's that thing in your hair?"
22. **all-star** (AWL-stahr)
(adjective) made up of the best performers or participants.
Tracy was proud to be selected to play on the regional all-star team at the end of her volleyball league's season.
23. **five** (fahyv)
(adjective) being one more than four.
Mrs. Levi gave gold stickers to the five students who got perfect scores on the test.
24. **jelly** (JEL-ee)
(noun) a soft food made by boiling sugar and fruit juice.
Dante learned to make his own peanut butter and jelly sandwiches when he was in kindergarten.
25. **tiger** (TAHY-ger)
(noun) a large, wild cat that lives in Asia and usually has orange fur with black stripes.
During his trip to the zoo, Mitch was sad to learn that the world's tiger population is at an all-time low, with as few as 3,200 living in the wild.
26. **fuzzy** (FUH-zee)
(adjective) looking furry, soft or fluffy.
Marcel reached out to pet the fuzzy bunny his mom was holding.
27. **trace** (trays)
(verb) to copy something (such as a drawing) by putting a see-through piece of paper over it and following the lines.
Tiffany is teaching herself to draw, and likes to bring thin paper to the library and trace comics onto it.
28. **broom** (broom)
(noun) a brush on a long handle that is used for sweeping.
Matt got the broom and dustpan out of the closet to clean up the broken glass in the kitchen.
29. **frame** (fraym)
(noun) an open structure used for holding and supporting something.
Sarina placed the picture of her best friends in the frame and then hung it on her bedroom wall.
30. **hidden** (HID-in)
(adjective) out of sight : concealed.
Betty could not believe her little brother had found the secret location of her hidden diary.
31. **navy** (NAY-vee)
(noun) a dark blue with gray and purple tones.
The sailor costume for Mackenzie's tap dance recital is mostly navy with white stripes.
32. **glass** (glas)
(noun) a hard, brittle and usually transparent substance used to make windows, drinking vessels and other items.
Adi watched closely as the artist crafted the piece of molten glass into a beautiful vase.
33. **copycat** (KAHP-ee-kat)
(noun) a person who imitates or adopts another person's ideas, style or behavior.
When Jeannie and Miranda both wore the same dress to prom, they each accused the other of being a copycat.

34. **plus** (pluhs)
(preposition) increased by.
Miranda practiced her addition tables beginning with "one plus one is two."
35. **down** (doun)
(adverb) from a higher place to a lower place.
Standing at the top of the water slide, Colin looked down at his parents and waved.
36. **goldfish** (GOHLD-fish)
(noun) a small usually yellow or orange fish that is often kept in ponds or fish tanks.
After Sarah won a bright orange goldfish at the county fair, her mom took her to the pet store to buy a small fishbowl and some food.
37. **cheese** (cheez)
(noun) the curd of milk that has been pressed and ripened for use as a food.
Nico's favorite type of pizza has a simple tomato sauce and four types of cheese.
38. **problem** (PRAHB-luhm)
(noun) something that is a source of difficulty, trouble or worry.
The teacher told Jessa and Claudia that their talking during class was becoming a problem and he might have to separate them.
39. **cranny** (KRAN-ee)
(noun) a small space that is easy to overlook and is a likely place to hide something.
Mikayla searched every cranny in her bedroom for her missing necklace, and then realized it had been around her neck the whole time.
40. **grandma** (GRAN-mah)
(noun) the female parent of either of your parents.
Taye and Grace argued over whose grandma makes the best pancakes.
41. **patch** (pach)
(noun) a piece used to mend or cover a hole or a weak spot.
After Stuart tore the knee of his jeans, his mom helped him sew on a patch to cover the hole.
42. **erase** (ee-RAYS)
(verb) to remove written letters or figures by rubbing or scraping.
Ms. Taylor asked for a volunteer to erase all the writing from the whiteboard at the end of class.
43. **tuba** (TOO-buh)
(noun) a large, low-pitched brass musical instrument.
Tyler plays tuba in the marching band, even though the instrument seems to be almost as big as he is.
44. **curly** (KUR-lee)
(adjective) twisting into round or curved shapes.
Frieda usually wore her naturally curly hair in a high ponytail.
45. **soup** (soop)
(noun) a liquid food made with broth that often contains pieces of meat, fish, pasta or vegetables.
When Lena is feeling sick, vegetable noodle soup always makes her feel better.
46. **towel** (TOU-uhl)
(noun) a rectangular piece of absorbent cloth or paper for wiping or drying.
Jennifer dried her hair with a towel.
47. **only** (OHN-lee)
(adjective) alone in a class or category.
Ross sometimes wishes he wasn't an only child.
48. **sailor** (SAY-ler)
(noun) a person who works on the crew of a boat or ship.
Jaime could not decide whether to become a sailor on the deep blue sea or a soldier in the army.

49. **blue** (bloo)

(adjective) having the color of the clear sky or the deep sea.

After he drew a detailed pirate ship, Zach grabbed a blue crayon to color in the ocean.

50. **which** (wich)

(adjective) being what one or ones out of a group.

Maya had a hard time deciding which outfit to wear for the first day of school.

SECOND GRADE WORDS

51. **rare** (rayr)

(adjective) not occurring or appearing very often : unusual.

Misty possesses a rare talent for ballet dancing.

52. **pamper** (PAM-per)

(verb) to treat with a lot of care and attention.

Simone loves to pamper her puppy, Oliver, and gives him a treat every time they go for a walk.

53. **dojo** (DOH-joh)

(noun) a school for training in judo, karate or other martial arts.

Zander took karate classes at a local dojo three times a week.

54. **chair** (chayr)

(noun) a seat for one person that usually has four legs and a back.

Jessica loves to read books while snuggled under a blanket in her favorite chair.

55. **forget** (fur-GET)

(verb) to not be able to think of or remember.

As soon as Jet finished his first airplane ride, he said he would never forget it for the rest of his life.

56. **arch** (ahrch)

(noun) a typically curved structure that goes over the top of and supports an opening (as in a wall).

Kyle admired the stone arch in the wall surrounding the castle.

57. **bedrock** (BED-rahk)

(noun) the solid stone that is under the ground and soil.

Selena surprised her teacher by saying she knew bedrock would be solid and very hard to break in real life from playing Minecraft.

58. **sat** (SAT-in)

(noun) a smooth fabric with a shiny front and dull back.

For her birthday, Alondra gave her mother a pink robe made of satin.

59. **dizzy** (DIZ-ee)

(adjective) feeling like your head is spinning and you might fall.

Alia felt dizzy after riding the roller coaster.

60. **solo** (SOH-loh)

(noun) a piece of music played or sung by a single person.

Han was honored to be selected to sing the solo in his choir's version of "Cheerleader."

61. **passport** (PAS-pohrt)

(noun) an identification document that is issued to a citizen of a country that is used to allow the person to leave and come back to that country.

Before leaving for her flight to Paris, Annie checked her purse one more time to make sure she had her passport.

62. **habits** (HAB-itz)

(plural noun) normal repeated behaviors.

Celinda knew that if she wanted to get healthy, she would have to change both her eating and exercise habits.

63. **cream** (kreem)

(noun) the thick part of milk that contains butterfat.

Dad likes cream and sugar in his coffee, but Mom prefers to drink hers plain.

64. **regular** (REG-yuh-ler)

(adjective) not showing change in occurrence, practice or habit.

A regular school day for Andre begins at six in the morning when he hits the snooze button on his alarm and falls back asleep.

65. **x-ray** (EKS-ray)
(verb) to examine, treat or photograph with powerful invisible rays that make it possible to see inside things (such as the human body).
When Todd fell out of the tree, his mom took him to the emergency room where the staff could x-ray his arm to see if he had any broken bones.
66. **teacher** (TEE-cher)
(noun) a person who helps another learn a subject or a skill.
Felix's art teacher explained how to cut the block of clay using a wire tool.
67. **splashy** (SPLASH-ee)
(adjective) showy in a way that attracts attention.
The cheerleaders used bright markers and glitter to make splashy posters for the pep rally.
68. **Ping-Pong** (PING-pahng)
(trademark) a game played on a table with wooden paddles and a small plastic ball: table tennis.
Will practices Ping-Pong in his free time and dreams of someday playing in the Olympics.
69. **attic** (AT-ik)
(noun) a room or storage space just below the roof of a building.
When the weather turned colder, Micah climbed the ladder to the attic to get his winter coat out of storage.
70. **brunch** (bruhnch)
(noun) a meal served usually in the late morning.
Mrs. Salazar fixed a special French toast brunch late Sunday morning to celebrate Jose's good report card.
71. **hallway** (HAHL-way)
(noun) the area inside the entrance of a building.
Valentina and Emily always meet in the school hallway between classes and chat until the next bell rings.
72. **truth** (trooth)
(noun) the real state of things : fact.
Mom asked Bradley to please tell her the truth about how the lamp ended up broken.
73. **quack** (kwak)
(noun) the sound a duck makes or an imitation of it.
As a joke, Joy's older brother very patiently explained to her that a duck says "meow" and a cat says "quack."
74. **connect** (kuh-NEKT)
(verb) to join, fasten or link (two or more) things together.
Leon made sure to connect the hose tightly to the faucet to prevent leaking.
75. **newbie** (NOO-bee)
(noun) a person who has recently started a particular activity: a beginner.
Frankie, a newbie at playing basketball, asked his coach a lot of good questions.
76. **husband** (HUZ-buhnd)
(noun) a married man.
Eric prides himself on being a good husband and father.
77. **April** (AY-pruhl)
(noun) the fourth month of the year.
Afternoon rain showers often happen during the month of April.
78. **exam** (ig-ZAM)
(noun) a test given by a teacher to show how much a student has learned over a period of time.
The students in Mr. Henry's English class organized a study group to prepare for the final exam.
79. **reward** (ri-WAWRD)
(noun) something that is given for a service provided or an achievement reached.
Angelica got a sticker as a reward for behaving at the dentist's office.

80. **caramel** (KAR-uh-mel)

(noun) a light brown color.

Ida chose to paint her bedroom caramel with white borders, because the color reminded her of coffee with cream.

81. **trademark** (TRAYD-mahrk)

(noun) a name or symbol that is used to identify a maker's products and that can legally only be used by its owner.

The word escalator was originally a trademark but has since become a generic word.

82. **velcro** (VEL-kroh)

(trademark) – used for a closure made from fabric with small hooks that sticks to another piece of the same fabric.

The toddler's sneakers fastened with velcro instead of shoelaces.

83. **atlas** (AT-luhs)

(noun) a book of maps.

Jonah loves to take his grandpa's old atlas off the shelf and flip through the pages, dreaming of the places he'll travel someday.

84. **motto** (MAH-toh)

(noun) a short phrase or sentence that expresses a guiding principle for a person or group.

Julie's personal motto is "Actions speak louder than words."

85. **frothy** (FRAH-thee)

(adjective) full of foam or light bubbles.

Camilla likes to stand on the wet beach and let the frothy waves tickle her feet.

86. **puddle** (PUH-duhl)

(noun) a small, shallow pool of water and especially of muddy or dirty water.

After the rain stopped, Luke ran outside with the goal of stomping in every puddle on his street.

87. **zilch** (zilch)

(noun) nothing.

Cam searched his pockets for quarters for the vending machine and came up with zilch.

88. **length** (lenkth)

(noun) the distance from end to end.

Carla asked Angie if she wanted to race down the entire length of the soccer field.

89. **canopy** (KAN-uh-pee)

(noun) a covering usually for shelter or protection.

After the long walk through the festival, Malik rested from the heat under the large striped canopy.

90. **surefire** (SHUR-fahyr)

(adjective) certain to succeed : dependable.

A surprise hug is a surefire way to make Grandpa smile.

91. **tractor** (TRAK-ter)

(noun) a usually four-wheeled vehicle used mainly on farms to pull or drive equipment.

Kenny plowed the field using his tractor.

92. **jersey** (JER-zee)

(noun) a soft knitted fabric used for making clothing.

Becky prefers jersey dresses for traveling, because she can pack them tightly and they don't wrinkle too much.

93. **sofa** (SOH-fuh)

(noun) a couch usually with arms and a back that is often able to be made into a bed.

Siri shooed the cat off the sofa before sitting down with her needlepoint.

94. **likable** (LAHY-kuh-buhl)

(adjective) having pleasant qualities : easy to enjoy.

Gabe's favorite TV show is about a grumpy detective and his likable sidekick.

95. **hinge** (hinj)
(noun) a jointed piece on which a swinging part (like a door or a lid) turns.
The hinge stopped creaking after Tony oiled it.

96. **dozen** (DUH-zin)
(noun) a group of 12.
Carl took a dozen freshly baked cookies to his next-door neighbor.

97. **people** (PEEP-uhl)
(plural noun) human beings in general.
Mom encouraged Darius to ignore what people say and to be himself.

98. **future** (FYOO-cher)
(noun) time that is to come.
Zoe asked her dad if he thought there would be flying cars in the future.

99. **cough** (kahf)
(verb) to force air from the lungs suddenly with a loud noise.
Grady doesn't like going down to the basement because the dust always makes him cough.

100. **balm** (bahm)
(noun) a healing ointment.
Erica bought some lip balm to soothe her chapped lips.

THIRD GRADE WORDS

101. **gusto** (GUS-toh)

(noun) enthusiastic enjoyment or delight.

Vanya's favorite food is pizza, which she eats with gusto whenever she gets the chance.

102. **marlin** (MAHR-lin)

(noun) a big fish that lives in the ocean and that people catch for sport.

The doctor removed his prize marlin from the waiting room wall because the fish's long snout frightened many of his young patients.

103. **o'clock** (uh-KLAHK)

(adverb) according to the clock.

Class starts at eight o'clock sharp.

104. **upshot** (UHP-shaht)

(noun) outcome.

The soccer team's practice schedule was rigorous, but the upshot was a trophy in the tournament.

105. **barter** (BAHR-ter)

(verb) to trade goods or services for other things rather than using money.

The Johnsons barter their homegrown tomatoes for their neighbor's corn each summer.

106. **hefty** (HEF-tee)

(adjective) impressively large.

Little Jolene served herself a hefty portion of mashed potatoes.

107. **glimmer** (GLIM-er)

(noun) a small amount or degree : a faint trace.

When the doctor said he would remove her cast a week early, Josie felt a glimmer of hope that she might play in the championship game after all.

108. **jackpot** (JAK-paht)

(noun) an unexpected success or reward.

Trevor hit the jackpot at the library when he found two new books by his favorite author.

109. **warning** (WAWR-ning)

(noun) a notice, bulletin or signal that serves to caution of the approach of danger.

When Rosie got to the beach, she was surprised to see a warning about high surf posted near the edge of the water.

110. **sonar** (SOH-nahr)

(noun) a device used for finding underwater objects by using reflected sound waves.

The shipwreck hunter used a sonar to locate a ship on the ocean floor near the Florida Keys.

111. **garlic** (GAHR-lik)

(noun) the bulb of a plant related to the onion that has a strong smell and taste, is composed of smaller bulbs called cloves, and is used in cooking.

Freya added an extra clove of garlic and some crushed red peppers to the spaghetti sauce.

112. **forum** (FOHR-uhm)

(noun) a place where open discussion can happen.

Trina values her favorite pop culture website as a forum to share her opinions about television shows and movies.

113. **plaza** (PLA-zuh)

(noun) a public square in a city or town.

The summer festival was held under the stars in the plaza.

114. **silent** (SAHY-lent)

(adjective) not making noise : completely quiet.

Joe looked out at the silent audience before introducing the guest speaker.

115. **domino** (DAH-mi-noh)
(noun) a flat rectangular block the face of which is divided into two equal parts that are blank or bear from one to six dots, and that is used to play a game.
As a prank, Grandpa hid a domino before asking Billy if he'd like to play.
116. **naysayer** (NAY-say-er)
(noun) one who denies, refuses or opposes.
Tripp told Gina to quit being such a naysayer and get on the bus.
117. **around** (uh-ROUND)
(adverb) approximately, about.
Matilda goes to school at around the same time every day.
118. **glance** (glants)
(noun) a quick look.
Helen took a glance at the lacy green dress as she hurried past the window display.
119. **curries** (KUR-eez)
(plural noun) foods that are seasoned with a blend of ground spices.
Instead of ordering their favorite noodle dish, Fiona and Charles decided to try two different chicken curries.
120. **layover** (LAY-oh-ver)
(noun) a temporary stop in a journey.
Christina had a two-hour layover before her flight to London.
121. **splendid** (SPLEN-did)
(adjective) excellent, praiseworthy.
Ms. Fitzwilliam told the class that they had done a splendid job on their geography projects.
122. **random** (RAN-duhm)
(adjective) lacking or seeming to lack a regular plan, purpose or pattern.
Lara's shelves were neatly organized, except the one that held a random assortment of knickknacks and some origami animals she made in art class.
123. **zinger** (ZING-er)
(noun) a quick and witty comment that criticizes or insults someone.
The comedian responded to the heckler with a zinger that had everyone in the audience laughing.
124. **Band-Aid** (BAND-ayd)
(trademark) a small bandage.
Ryan cleaned his cut and covered it with a Band-Aid from the medicine cabinet.
125. **eyebrow** (AHY-brou)
(noun) the arch or ridge over the eye, or the covering of hair growing on it.
Chester was jealous of Winnie's ability to raise one eyebrow at a time.
126. **atomic** (uh-TAH-mik)
(adjective) of or relating to the smallest particles of an element.
The atomic structure is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons.
127. **native** (NAY-tiv)
(adjective) born in a particular place or country.
Although she lives in Dallas, McKenna is a native New Yorker.
128. **watchdog** (WAHCH-dahg)
(noun) a dog that is trained to guard property.
Whenever a stranger knocks on the door, Nicole's fluffy little terrier turns into a viciously barking watchdog.
129. **dearly** (DEER-lee)
(adverb) with affection : fondly.
Margot loved her cat Fuzzball dearly, but she wished he wouldn't shed all over her favorite black sweater.

130. **clutch** (kluch)
(verb) to hold onto something tightly with your hand.
Little Blake likes to clutch his raisins in his fist before gobbling them up.
131. **polar** (POH-ler)
(adjective) of, relating to or near the north pole or the south pole.
One of Ben's goals is to someday go on a polar journey to Antarctica to see Emperor penguins in their natural habitat.
132. **impostor** (im-PAHS-ter)
(noun) a person who tricks others by pretending to be someone else.
In the fairy tale, the ball was disrupted when one of the visiting princes was revealed to be an impostor with no royal connections.
133. **tirade** (TAHY-rayd)
(noun) a long speech marked by harsh language : rant.
The grumpy woman screamed a tirade of protest whenever children made joyful noises outside her window.
134. **field** (feeld)
(noun) an area, category or division of work or study.
After extensive reading and a trip to Greece, Hugo considered himself an expert in the field of Greek mythology.
135. **postpone** (POHST-pohn)
(verb) to hold back to a later time : defer, delay.
Although he knew it wasn't a wise decision, Felix decided to postpone doing his chores.
136. **ocean** (OH-shun)
(noun) the salt water that covers nearly three fourths of the surface of the earth.
Scientists estimate that only about five percent of the ocean has been explored.
137. **parade** (puh-RAYD)
(noun) a public procession : the movement of people or things in order.
The annual Thanksgiving Day parade featured many new floats and balloons.
138. **coward** (KOU-erd)
(noun) someone who is easily intimidated or frightened.
By letting the tarantula walk up her arm, Vanessa proved to the whole class that she was no coward.
139. **error** (AYR-er)
(noun) an act or statement that is not correct.
The chef's little error with the peppers had half the restaurant's patrons screaming for water.
140. **owlishly** (OU-lish-lee)
(adverb) in a manner resembling or suggesting an owl.
Maribel looked owlishly at the stacks of books beside her bed.
141. **barrel** (BAYR-uhl)
(noun) a round container that usually has curved sides, that is taller than it is wide, and that has a flat top and bottom.
Kyle couldn't help but laugh at the image that came to his mind when his mom said their vacation would be more fun than a barrel of monkeys.
142. **kiwi** (KEE-wee)
(noun) a bird from New Zealand that cannot fly and that has weak wings and a long bill.
An unusual feature of the kiwi is that its nostrils are located at the tip rather than at the base of its long bill.
143. **beagle** (BEE-guhl)
(noun) a small hunting dog with short legs and smooth fur that is often black, brown and white.
Vivienne took Snoopy, her pet beagle, for a quick walk before lunch.

144. **acre** (AY-ker)

(noun) any of various units of land area.

Uncle Clarence planted peanuts on one acre of his farm this past spring.

145. **bawl** (BAHL)

(verb) cry out loudly and without restraint : yell.

The rancher knows from experience that his calves will bawl if a rustler enters the pen.

146. **euro** (YUR-oh)

(noun) the common notes and coins used by most countries of the European Union.

Named in 1995 and introduced in 1999, the euro didn't enter circulation as paper currency until 2002.

147. **tomorrow** (tuh-MAH-roh)

(adverb) on or for the day after today.

Patrice intends to start reading her new book tomorrow.

148. **wrinkle** (REEN-kuhl)

(noun) a slight fold formed on a surface of a smooth substance : crease.

Angus irons all his clothes, but when he put on his green shirt this morning there was still a wrinkle on the sleeve.

149. **crumb** (kruhm)

(noun) a tiny piece of food.

When Evan was finished with his oatmeal cookie, not a single crumb remained on his plate.

150. **dough** (doh)

(noun) a mixture of flour and other ingredients that is kneaded or rolled and then baked.

Simon kneaded the dough on the counter before placing it in a covered bowl to rise.

FOURTH GRADE WORDS

151. **rattler** (RAT-ler)

(noun) a New World pit viper that has a series of horned interlocking joints at the end of the tail which make short sharp noises when vibrated.

While he was out hiking with his friends, Kevin saw three deer, an indigo bunting, and a large rattler sunning itself on a rock.

152. **medley** (MED-lee)

(noun) a performance blending together a series of songs or other musical pieces.

The symphony orchestra performed a medley of popular holiday songs.

153. **difficult** (DIF-uh-kuhlt)

(adjective) hard to do : not easy.

Milo thought the most difficult chore on his list was mowing the lawn.

154. **flattery** (FLAT-er-ee)

(noun) praise that is excessive or not sincere.

Despite Olivia's flattery, her mom still refused to be swayed.

155. **drench** (drench)

(verb) to make completely wet.

Elaine was worried the rain would drench her new dress, so she put on a raincoat.

156. **bonkers** (BAHN-kerz)

(adjective) as if broken in mind.

Geoff declared that if he didn't get ice cream in the next ten minutes, he might just go bonkers.

157. **seldom** (SEL-duhm)

(adverb) not often.

The math teacher is very patient, seldom displaying any signs of frustration.

158. **mustang** (MUS-tang)

(noun) the small strong wild horse of western North America descended from horses brought in by the Spaniards.

Veronica's father explained that a wild mustang would not be a good house pet.

159. **fringe** (frinj)

(noun) a decorative border of hanging threads or strips.

Jody's leather coat has fringe on the back and sleeves.

160. **calico** (KAL-i-koh)

(noun) a blotched or spotted animal.

Morgan owns four cats: three tabbies and a calico named Patches.

161. **mutiny** (MYOO-tin-ee)

(noun) refusal to obey authority or orders.

Captain Bligh, unable to suppress the mutiny, was set adrift in a rowboat.

162. **blossom** (BLAH-suhm)

(noun) the usually colorful flower of a seed plant.

Harriet plucked a blossom from the crabapple tree in her backyard and tucked it behind her ear.

163. **magma** (MAG-muh)

(noun) hot liquid rock below the earth's surface.

Many geothermal hot spots have magma underneath them.

164. **snippet** (SNIP-it)

(noun) a small part, piece or thing; specifically : a brief quotable passage.

Lisa cut a snippet from the news article to include in her scrapbook.

165. **grumbling** (GRUHM-bling)

(verb) complaining in a low voice.

The class started grumbling when Mrs. Griffin announced a pop quiz.

166. **mineral** (MIN-er-uhl)

(noun) a substance (such as diamond, gold or quartz) that is naturally formed and is not of plant or animal origin.

Each time her class visits the natural history museum, Zelda spends as much time as she can looking at the beautiful crystals in the mineral collection.

167. **scarlet** (SKAHR-let)

(noun) any of various bright reds.

Robyn planted so many flowers that her garden was a sea of scarlet and purple all summer long.

168. **granola** (gruh-NOH-luh)

(noun) rolled oats mixed with other ingredients (such as brown sugar, raisins, coconut and nuts) and eaten for breakfast or as a snack.

Graham's favorite breakfast is homemade granola topped with fresh blueberries.

169. **umpire** (UHM-pahyr)

(noun) an official in a sport who rules on the plays.

The coach objected when the umpire ejected the player for unsportsmanlike conduct.

170. **Americana** (uh-mayr-i-KAH-nuh)

(plural noun) materials concerning or characteristic of America.

Aunt Gladys has an impressive collection of Americana that includes a road sign from Route 66, two original Norman Rockwell illustrations and a set of 1950s postcards from national parks.

171. **nimble** (NIM-buhl)

(adjective) marked by quick light movement : agile.

Jack's nimble fingers moved quickly up and down the piano as he practiced his scales.

172. **trinket** (TRING-kit)

(noun) a small ornament (as a jewel or ring).

Katie examined the trinket from the gumball machine.

173. **shoehorn** (SHOO-hohn)

(verb) to force into a small, narrow or insufficient space : squeeze.

Lewis, Mac and Mikey tried unsuccessfully to shoehorn themselves into a bumper car designed to seat two people.

174. **aloha** (uh-LOH-hah)

(noun) love, affection, kindness — often used to express greeting or farewell.

The first thing Samuel does when he gets home from school is say aloha to his baby sister.

175. **pedigree** (PED-uh-gree)

(noun) a list showing the line of ancestors for a person or animal.

Jackson examined the racehorse's pedigree closely before making his purchase offer.

176. **hubbub** (HUHB-uhb)

(noun) a noisy confusion of sound.

In the hubbub after the concert, Bronwen did not notice the pickpocket who took her wallet.

177. **several** (SEV-ruhl)

(adjective) being more than two in number but not very many.

Tito spent several weeks working on his research paper.

178. **galaxy** (GAL-uhk-see)

(noun) one of billions of large systems of stars that make up the universe.

Our solar system is in the galaxy known as the "Milky Way."

179. **torrent** (TAWR-uhnt)
(noun) a raging flood or outpouring.
After he sent report cards home, Mr. MacDonald received a torrent of calls from concerned parents.
180. **announcer** (uh-NOUN-ser)
(noun) a person who introduces television or radio programs and gives information.
The game show contestant waited nervously for the announcer to introduce her.
181. **beverage** (BEV-rij)
(noun) a liquid for drinking.
Chai is a delicious beverage made of black tea mixed with honey, spices and milk.
182. **waist** (wayst)
(noun) the part of the body between the chest and hips.
Jane wanted to grow her hair so long that it would hang past her waist.
183. **valiant** (VAL-ee-uhnt)
(adjective) showing courage : brave
The monument was dedicated to the memory of the valiant warrior.
184. **thigh** (thahy)
(noun) the part of the leg from the hip to the knee.
Damian had to miss practice because of an injury to his left thigh.
185. **everglades** (EV-er-glaysd)
(plural noun) swampy grasslands at least seasonally covered by slowly moving water.
One of Queenie's favorite shows features a man who wrestles with alligators in what looks like everglades.
186. **summary** (SUHM-er-ee)
(noun) a short restatement of the main points.
James forgot to read the book on turtles before visiting the aquarium, so he asked his brother to give him a summary instead.
187. **atrium** (AY-tree-uhm)
(noun) a square hall from which other rooms open and which is often used as a sitting room.
Douglas bought a new armchair and two large ferns to decorate his atrium.
188. **truce** (troos)
(noun) an agreement between opponents to stop fighting for a period of time.
After months of fighting, the countries finally agreed to a truce.
189. **masterpiece** (MAS-ter-pees)
(noun) a supreme intellectual or artistic achievement ; specifically : a work that marks the high point of a person's creativity.
Although she was proud of all of her charcoal sketches, Emme felt that the self-portrait was her masterpiece.
190. **emerald** (EM-er-uhld)
(noun) a highly prized gemstone of rich green color.
Beth's grandfather has a lovely unmounted emerald that he plans to give to her for a graduation present.
191. **nonfiction** (nahn-FIK-shuhn)
(noun) writing that is about facts or real events (rather than novels or stories).
A history buff, Theo spends most of his library time in the nonfiction section.
192. **platoon** (pluh-TOON)
(noun) a unit of soldiers consisting of two or more squads led by a lieutenant.
The lieutenant sent scouts into the jungle and followed them with the rest of the platoon.
193. **junior** (JOON-yer)
(adjective) designed for or done by young people, especially adolescents.
Dustin is a goaltender on a junior hockey team, and he hopes to play in the NHL one day.

194. **kangaroo** (KANG-uh-roo)

(noun) a marsupial from Australia that moves by hopping on its strong rear legs.

A red kangaroo usually lives with a migrating group called a "mob."

195. **excuse** (eks-KYOOS)

(noun) a reason given to justify a fault, mistake or defect.

Savannah didn't have a good excuse for being late for school again.

196. **astronaut** (AS-truh-nawt)

(noun) a traveler in interplanetary space.

On June 16, 1963, Valentina Tereshkova became the first female astronaut to travel into space.

197. **lyrics** (LIR-iks)

(plural noun) the words of a song.

Katia spent the entire weekend memorizing the lyrics of the new Taylor Swift song.

198. **breadwinner** (BRED-win-er)

(noun) a family member whose wages pay for the household's expenses.

Even before Mr. Davis suffered a leg injury that prevented him from working, Mrs. Davis was the breadwinner for the family.

199. **worrywart** (WER-ee-wawrt)

(noun) a person who worries too much or who worries for no reason.

Erin tries not to fret about everything, but being a worrywart is just part of her personality.

200. **cymbals** (SIM-buhls)

(plural noun) large brass plates that make a clashing sound when struck together or hit with a drumstick.

The villain timed his shot to coincide with the clash of the cymbals.

FIFTH GRADE WORDS

201. **dispel** (dis-PEL)

(verb) clear away : make something go away.

Dr. McKellar's explanation of the surgical procedure did not dispel his patient's fear.

202. **phrasing** (FRAY-zing)

(noun) style of expression : wording.

Jakob was confused by the phrasing of the instructions.

203. **coffee** (KAHF-ee)

(noun) a drink made from the roasted and ground seeds of certain trees or shrubs that have cherrylike fruits.

If Griff drinks coffee after dinner, he will stay awake until dawn.

204. **dwindled** (DWIN-duhd)

(verb) became steadily less : diminished in size, amount or quality.

Conversation in the classroom slowly dwindled to nothing as Mrs. Hudson just stood and stared at her students.

205. **median** (MEE-dee-uhn)

(noun) a value that falls in the middle of a list of values arranged from smallest to largest, or which is the average of the two middle values if there is no one middle number.

The median of the set {8, 10, 14, 36} is 12.

206. **soprano** (suh-PRAN-oh)

(noun) the highest voice part in four-part harmony.

Violet sings soprano in her church choir.

207. **tropical** (TRAH-pi-kuhl)

(adjective) of, relating to, occurring in or used in the region near the equator.

Diana's cruise took her to several tropical islands.

208. **catalog** (KAT-uh-lahg)

(noun) a pamphlet or book that contains a list of items arranged systematically often with other related matter.

Timothy flipped through the museum's catalog to find more information on his favorite painting.

209. **lactose** (LAK-tohs)

(noun) a type of sugar that is found in milk.

Sean cannot easily digest lactose, but he can still enjoy pizza as long as it's made with vegan cheese.

210. **diploma** (di-PLOH-muh)

(noun) a document that records that a person has completed a course or graduated from a school.

Abdul framed his university diploma and hung it on the wall of his office.

211. **smidge** (smij)

(noun) a small amount.

Louis asked his mother for just a smidge more gravy on his biscuits.

212. **tarnish** (TAHR-nish)

(verb) to become dull, discolored or stained in appearance.

Silverware will tarnish if it isn't polished frequently.

213. **fondant** (FAHN-duhnt)

(noun) a creamy sugar preparation that is used as a basis for candies or icings.

Duff carefully smoothed the fondant over the cake.

214. **cyberspace** (SAHY-ber-spays)

(noun) the online world of computer networks and the Internet.

Tina was surprised to learn that the game she played with her friends in cyberspace was also a board game.

215. **prowess** (PROU-es)

(noun) extraordinary ability : excellence.

Francisco was named team captain because of his athletic prowess on the court, but also because of his ability to motivate his teammates.

216. **measly** (MEEZ-lee)
(adjective) contemptibly small.

Holden complained that he needed more than one measly helping of macaroni and cheese.

217. **origin** (AWR-i-jin)
(noun) ancestry : parentage.

Gary says his origin is from coal mining country, but he never mentions that his grandfather owned the mine.

218. **trellis** (TREL-is)

(noun) a frame made of crossing pieces of wood that is used as a screen or as a support for climbing plants.

Elizabeth's favorite spot in the backyard is the trellis covered in morning glory vines.

219. **autumn** (AW-tuhm)

(noun) the season comprising the months of September, October and November — called also “fall.”

Autumn is Maggie's favorite season of the year.

220. **variety** (vuh-RAHY-i-tee)

(noun) the quality or state of having numerous forms or types.

The florist had a wide variety of flowers on display.

221. **moxie** (MAHK-see)

(noun) audacity, nerve.

Mrs. Kapadia couldn't believe her students had the moxie to ask for more recess time.

222. **parable** (PAR-uh-buhl)

(noun) a short story that teaches a moral or religious lesson.

Ms. Brown used an ancient parable to illustrate the concept of leadership to her class.

223. **chemistry** (KEM-is-tree)

(noun) a science that deals with the composition, structure and properties of substances and transformations that they undergo.

In his chemistry class, Mr. Lerner is teaching his students how to read the periodic table of elements.

224. **splurge** (splerj)

(verb) to indulge in some unusual activity, expense, pleasure or luxury.

After studying hard for all of her finals, Kendra decided to splurge on a day at the spa as a reward.

225. **balderdash** (BAWL-der-dash)

(noun) nonsense : empty talk or discourse.

The diners, realizing that the people at the next table were eavesdropping, launched into balderdash.

226. **hodgepodge** (HAHJ-pahj)

(noun) a mixture or medley of different things.

Eddie's pantry is a hodgepodge of canned fruits and vegetables, dried pasta, and half-eaten packages of cookies.

227. **swollen** (SWOH-luhn)

(adjective) distended or puffed up, as by disease or injury.

Craig suspected that his swollen, painful thumb was in fact broken.

228. **diagonal** (dahy-AG-uh-nuhl)

(adjective) running across from corner to corner.

Chris prefers the tile floor with the diagonal pattern.

229. **superlative** (soo-PER-luh-tiv)

(adjective) surpassing all others.

Austin's superlative skill as a violinist makes him the clear choice for concertmaster.

230. **macaw** (muh-KAW)
(noun) a large long-tailed parrot that has bright, showy feathers and lives in Central and South America.
In the background of the painting, Charlie spotted a macaw on a golden perch.
231. **Victorian** (vik-TOHR-ee-uhn)
(adjective) relating to or typical of the art, letters or taste during Queen Victoria's reign.
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a famous Victorian novel.
232. **fulfilling** (fuhl-FIL-ing)
(verb) carrying out or accomplishing.
Manuel is fulfilling his mother's request that he clean his room before the weekend.
233. **columnist** (KAWL-uhm-nist)
(noun) a person who writes a regular newspaper feature or conducts a radio or television program similar to a feature.
Tara is the sports columnist for her high school newspaper, so it's part of her job to attend all the games.
234. **bewilder** (bee-WIL-der)
(verb) to confuse.
The rules of chess bewilder Magnus, but he likes to try to play anyway.
235. **hammock** (HAM-uhk)
(noun) a swinging couch or bed usually made of netting or canvas and hanging by cords from supports at each end.
John enjoys swinging in his hammock and listening to the birds.
236. **squander** (SKWAHN-der)
(verb) to spend extravagantly or foolishly : throw away.
Amy deposited her birthday money into her bank account so she wasn't tempted to squander it away.
237. **curfew** (KER-fyoo)
(noun) the hour at which persons (such as juveniles, military personnel, or other specified types) must be off the streets or at which businesses or places of assembly must be closed.
Megan and all her friends have a curfew of 9:00 p.m. on weeknights.
238. **absurd** (ab-SERD)
(adjective) extremely silly, foolish or unreasonable : completely ridiculous.
Nora refused to play the game her little brother invented, saying the rules were too absurd.
239. **hoity-toity** (HOI-tee-TOI-tee)
(adjective) affecting superiority : haughty and patronizing.
Taryn tries not to affect a hoity-toity manner and boss her brother around, but sometimes it just happens.
240. **whiff** (hwif)
(noun) an inhalation of odor, smoke, gas or vapor.
The faintest whiff of cigarette smoke makes Fran sneeze.
241. **nurture** (NER-cher)
(verb) to further the development of : promote the growth of : foster.
Suki knew it was unhealthy to nurture a grudge, but she couldn't seem to help it.
242. **vicinity** (vi-SIN-uh-tee)
(noun) a surrounding area or district.
In the vicinity of Wanda's apartment there are four coffee shops and three bookstores.
243. **wharf** (hwawrf)
(noun) a structure built at the water's shore so that ships can load and unload cargo and passengers.
As the freighter docked at the wharf, workers were waiting to unload its cargo.
244. **eerily** (EER-i-lee)
(adverb) mysteriously or weirdly.
Main Street was eerily quiet for hours after the big thunderstorm.

245. **lavender** (LAV-uhn-der)

(noun) a fragrant mint plant with narrow leaves and spikes of lilac-purple flowers.

Lavender does not require much water or attention, and it can bring both color and fragrance to a garden.

246. **gauze** (gawz)

(noun) a loosely woven cotton fabric used to bandage wounds.

After the procedure, the nurses quickly dressed the wound with gauze.

247. **mirthful** (MERTH-ful)

(adjective) full of gladness or merriment.

The stand-up comedian quickly put his audience in a mirthful mood.

248. **beret** (buh-RAY)

(noun) a soft flat hat that is usually woolen and has no visor.

The painter's beret was a bit tattered and moth-eaten.

249. **evaporation** (ee-vap-uh-RAY-shuhn)

(noun) the change by which a liquid is turned into a gas or a substance that consists of very small drops mixed with the air.

The Mediterranean Sea loses much water through evaporation, leaving behind extra-salty water that sinks to the bottom.

250. **vigorously** (VIG-uh-ruhs-lee)

(adverb) forcefully, actively or energetically.

Jesse vigorously objected to the referendum.

SIXTH GRADE WORDS

251. **boycott** (BOI-kawt)

(verb) combine against someone or something in a policy of absence of relations for economic or political reasons.

The president announced that the country would boycott its neighbor until the political prisoners were released.

252. **impulse** (IM-puhls)

(noun) a sudden spontaneous desire to do something.

Jorge had difficulty resisting the impulse to eat another cookie.

253. **winsome** (WIN-suhm)

(adjective) causing joy or pleasure : agreeable, pleasant.

The little tyke's winsome smile won him many friends.

254. **alternate** (AWL-ter-nayt)

(verb) take or do in turns.

Joyce and Benjamin alternate performing lines of the poem for the poetry contest at school.

255. **ottoman** (AW-tuh-muhn)

(noun) an overstuffed footstool.

Daniel spilled orange juice all over the ottoman.

256. **entertain** (en-ter-TAYN)

(verb) to cause the time to pass pleasantly : amuse.

Zara hoped her tap dance routine would entertain her younger sisters.

257. **anorak** (AN-uh-rak)

(noun) a hooded jacket or pullover made of heavy windproof fabric.

Geraldine bought a purple anorak for her backpacking trip.

258. **documentary** (dawk-yuh-MEN-tuh-ree)

(noun) a film or television presentation that is factual.

A documentary about the destruction of rainforests is at the top of Jeremiah's queue of movies to watch.

259. **jargon** (JAHR-guhn)

(noun) the technical language of specialists or workers in a particular activity or area of study.

Anna was sure that the computer programmers were speaking English, but their jargon made it impossible for her to understand what they were saying.

260. **gratis** (GRA-tis)

(adverb) without charge : free.

Some restaurants no longer provide water gratis.

261. **sympathy** (SIM-puh-thee)

(noun) the feeling of being sensitive to or affected by someone else's emotions, experiences or especially sorrows.

Andy sent a card to his teacher to express his sympathy for the loss of her dog.

262. **paragon** (PAR-uh-gawn)

(noun) a model of excellence or perfection.

Magazines described the new engine as a paragon of efficiency.

263. **festooned** (fes-TOOND)

(verb) suspended in a decorative chain hanging typically in a curve between two points.

Trees in New Orleans are often festooned with beads long after Mardi Gras festivities are over.

264. **tonsils** (TAWN-suhlz)

(plural noun) a pair of masses of spongy tissue that lie one on each side of the throat.

After months of repeated strep throat infections, Tilly finally had her tonsils removed.

265. **mogul** (MOH-guhl)
(noun) a dominant person in a particular business or field.
In an interview, the business mogul credited her success to luck and hard work.
266. **udon** (OO-dawn)
(noun) a Japanese noodle made from wheat flour.
Kelly's favorite comfort food is a big bowl of udon and vegetables in a spicy broth.
267. **frequently** (FREE-kwent-lee)
(adverb) at short intervals.
In order to make browned butter, you must be patient and check the butter frequently to ensure it does not turn from brown to burnt.
268. **pomposity** (pawm-PAW-suh-tee)
(noun) a self-important demeanor, speech or action.
Although he had much power, the leader exhibited no trace of pomposity.
269. **marathon** (MAR-uh-thawn)
(noun) a footrace that is usually 26.2 miles in length.
Ernie's goal is to become a successful long-distance runner and win at least one major marathon.
270. **polemic** (puh-LEM-ik)
(adjective) of, relating to or of the nature of a controversial discussion or argument.
Try as he might, Rupert could not prevent the conversation from turning into a polemic debate.
271. **casserole** (KAS-uh-rohl)
(noun) a type of food cooked and served in a dish made of earthenware, glass or metal usually having a cover.
Laura's favorite meal is her mother's tuna noodle casserole.
272. **platinum** (PLAT-uh-nuhm)
(adjective) of, relating to, or made of a heavy, expensive silver metallic element that is difficult to melt and is often used in electronic devices and jewelry.
Lydia inherited a platinum ring and a pair of diamond earrings from her grandmother.
273. **mundane** (muhn-DAYN)
(adjective) characterized by human affairs, concerns, and activities that are often practical, immediate, temporary and ordinary.
Penelope volunteered for the mundane task of folding her family's laundry each week.
274. **alpaca** (al-PAK-uh)
(noun) a South American animal like a llama with fine long woolly hair.
The petting zoo featured four goats, an alpaca, a pony and three lambs.
275. **billiards** (BIL-yerds)
(plural noun) any of several games played on a table by hitting balls into one another or into pockets using a long stick.
Ashley enjoys playing billiards in her free time.
276. **cyclone** (SAHY-klohn)
(noun) a storm with very high winds that rotate around a center of low atmospheric pressure.
In 2008 a devastating cyclone in Myanmar killed nearly 140,000 people.
277. **Scrooge** (skrooj)
(noun) a person that hates to spend money.
Devon was a Scrooge who would rather be cold in the winter than pay to turn on the heat.
278. **genteel** (jen-TEEL)
(adjective) not vulgar or rude : polite.
Despite his genteel manner, Senator Smith could be a ruthless opponent.

279. **collude** (kuh-LOOD)
(verb) to connive with another : conspire, plot.
Leah will collude with Desmond to defeat the other candidates in the school elections.
280. **guardian** (GAHR-dee-uhn)
(noun) a person who is legally appointed to the care of another person or another person's property.
To go on the field trip, Layla needed a permission slip signed by her legal guardian.
281. **mosaic** (moh-ZAY-ik)
(adjective) of or relating to a colored surface pattern or picture made of inlaid tile, marble or glass.
Bryan snapped a photo of the gorgeous mosaic floor in the hotel lobby.
282. **personnel** (per-suh-NEL)
(plural noun) individuals of a particular (as professional or occupational) group.
The Secretary of Defense called for a meeting with the highest-ranking military personnel.
283. **tapioca** (tap-ee-OH-kuh)
(noun) a preparation of cassava starch processed and used as a thickening agent in liquid foods, such as pudding, soups or juicy pies.
Sam's recipe for blueberry pie calls for two tablespoons of quick-cooking tapioca.
284. **electrode** (uh-LEK-trohd)
(noun) a conductor used to establish electrical contact with a nonmetallic portion of a circuit.
The electrode attached to the patient's chest was connected to a monitor that recorded his heart's rhythms.
285. **modular** (MAHJ-uh-ler)
(adjective) capable of being easily joined to or arranged with other parts or units.
Clay bought a modular sofa so it would fit perfectly in his living room.
286. **quagmire** (KWAG-mahyr)
(noun) a complex situation that is hard to get out of.
Russell found himself in a quagmire when each of his two best friends asked him to take sides in their push-up contest.
287. **enunciate** (ee-NUN-see-ayt)
(verb) to pronounce words or sounds clearly.
Ozzie doesn't enunciate perfectly, but he is only three years old.
288. **melodramatic** (mel-uh-drah-MAT-ik)
(adjective) extremely or overly emotional.
Kendall later admitted that the tantrum he threw over his missing red sock was a little melodramatic.
289. **epoxy** (i-PAHK-see)
(noun) any of various sticky, flexible resins that usually become rigid when heated, are resistant to chemicals, and are often used in coatings and adhesives.
Melanie reattached the handle of the serving dish with epoxy.
290. **chortle** (CHOHR-tuhl)
(noun) a sound expressing pleasure or joy.
The whole class let out a hearty chortle when Mr. Hendricks said they'd be released early on the last day of school.
291. **WYSIWYG** (WIZ-ee-wig)
(noun) a display on a computer that shows the exact appearance of a printed document.
The desktop publishing program's feature of WYSIWYG has no allure for Justin, who has formatted his club's newsletter for several years using codes.
292. **yurt** (yert)
(noun) a circular domed tent of skins or felt used by Mongol nomads of Siberia.
The yurt originally had a fire pit in the middle and a hole in the ceiling for smoke to escape.

293. **banquet** (BANG-kwit)

(noun) an elaborate meal attended by many people usually to celebrate a special event.

After the speech tournament, the competitors gathered to celebrate at the awards banquet.

294. **escarpment** (es-KARP-muhnt)

(noun) a long cliff or steep slope separating two flat or slightly sloped areas.

From the top of the escarpment, Peter had a great view of both baseball fields.

295. **zealous** (ZEL-uhs)

(adjective) filled with passionate support for a person or a cause.

John-Paul is a zealous supporter of the presidential candidate.

296. **décor** (day-KOHR)

(noun) arrangement of accessories in interior ornamentation.

The décor of Summer's room reflects her love of horses.

297. **revelation** (rev-uh-LAY-shuhn)

(noun) something that is revealed : disclosure.

Cullen shocked his parents with the revelation that he actually enjoyed broccoli.

298. **vague** (vayg)

(adjective) not clearly expressed.

Mr. Armstrong's directions for the assignment were so vague that the class had to ask him to explain again.

299. **cumulus** (KYOO-myoo-luhs)

(noun) a cloud form with a flat base and rounded outlines that often looks like a mountain.

The fluffy cumulus reminded Ashley of cotton candy.

300. **montage** (MAHN-tahzh)

(noun) a quick sequence of images in a film or television program that develop a single theme, suggest a state of mind or bridge a time lapse.

The program's opening credit sequence is a montage of white beaches, swaying palm trees, racing boats and attractive sunbathers.

SEVENTH GRADE WORDS

301. **query** (KWIR-ee)

(noun) a request for information.

Stan's query regarded the bank's hours of operation on Saturdays.

302. **maximum** (MAKS-uh-muhm)

(noun) the greatest quantity or value attainable in a given case.

Each question on the test is worth a maximum of eight points.

303. **territory** (TAYR-i-tawr-ee)

(noun) a geographical area belonging to or controlled by a political authority.

A dispute over territory between Michigan and Ohio led to the 1835 Toledo War.

304. **nationalism** (NASH-uh-nuhl-iz-uhm)

(noun) a feeling characterized by an exaltation of one country above all others, and an emphasis on loyalty to and the promotion of one country as opposed to other countries.

Nationalism is often cited as one of the causative factors of international hostilities.

305. **latency** (LAY-tuhn-see)

(noun) the state or period of living and developing in a host without producing symptoms : incubation period.

The latency of Uncle Arthur's Addison's disease lasted until nine days before he died.

306. **obscure** (uhb-SKYOOR)

(adjective) difficult to understand : not clear.

The idea the chapter was trying to convey was expressed in an unnecessarily obscure way.

307. **Gemini** (JEM-uh-nahy)

(plural noun) the third sign of the zodiac.

Gemini is Latin for "twins" and is often symbolized in written form as the Roman numeral for two.

308. **fundamental** (fuhn-duh-MEN-tuhl)

(adjective) basic : underlying.

The ability to recognize and interpret symbols is fundamental to the skill of reading.

309. **badger** (BAJ-er)

(verb) harass or pester someone in an attempt to confuse, annoy or wear down.

Judge Jones has little patience with prosecutors who badger witnesses.

310. **alfresco** (al-FRES-koh)

(adjective) open-air.

Everyone looks forward to the alfresco party that the Smiths hold every Derby Day.

311. **sustainable** (suhs-TAYN-uh-buhl)

(adjective) capable of lasting for a long time without interruption, weakening, or losing in power or quality.

Engineers are looking at the Bay of Fundy's high tides as a possible source of sustainable energy.

312. **tarmac** (TAHR-mak)

(noun) a road or runway made of asphalt.

Neil's suitcase was damaged beyond repair when it fell from the plane's cargo compartment to the tarmac.

313. **approximate** (uh-PRAHKS-uh-muht)

(adjective) near to correctness or accuracy : nearly exact.

The approximate distance between the two rest stops is 50 miles.

314. **hypnotic** (HIP-NAH-tik)

(adjective) tending to produce sleep.

Etta found that listening to thunderstorms had a hypnotic effect on her.

315. **tranquil** (TRANG-kwil)

(adjective) free from disturbance or turmoil : quiet, peaceful.

Eloise spent a tranquil afternoon hiking in the woods.

316. **synthetic** (sin-THET-ik)
(adjective) produced by artificial processes : man-made.
To reduce calories, the sugar content of some foods is replaced by synthetic sweeteners.
317. **organelle** (ohr-guh-NEL)
(noun) a specialized part of a cell performing functions like the organs of many-celled animals.
The mitochondrion, an organelle found in many cells, is sometimes described as a "cellular power plant" because it generates most of the cell's supply of chemical energy.
318. **maverick** (MAV-rik)
(noun) a member of any group who refuses to follow the rules or traditions of the group.
The rest of the teachers considered Ms. Finney to be a maverick because she invited her students to call her by her first name.
319. **infrastructure** (IN-fruh-struk-cher)
(noun) the underlying foundation or basic framework (as of an organization or a system).
The middle schoolers spent a week of social studies class playing a computer game in which they coordinated the taxation, zoning, public services and infrastructure of a city.
320. **caftan** (KAF-tan)
(noun) an ankle-length coatlike garment with very long sleeves.
All of the band members were colorfully dressed, but the lead singer, who was wearing an elaborately striped caftan, stood out the most.
321. **résumé** (REZ-uh-may)
(noun) a brief account of one's education and professional experience.
Ferdinand realized he had forgotten to update his résumé with his summer job at the Snack Shack.
322. **cylindrical** (sil-IN-drik-uhl)
(adjective) relating to or shaped like a tube.
The cylindrical caterpillar inched its way across the broad leaf.
323. **hubris** (HYOO-bris)
(noun) arrogance.
Nicolette sometimes found it difficult to avoid hubris when she discussed her achievements.
324. **pathogen** (PATH-uh-jen)
(noun) a specific cause of disease (such as a type of bacteria or virus).
The plant scientist is investigating the pathogen that is spreading a disease in grape harvests in Northern California.
325. **carnitas** (kahr-NEE-tahs)
(plural noun) small pieces of meat (especially pork) that are fried or roasted until crisp.
Addison looked over the menu before selecting tacos filled with carnitas and spicy salsa.
326. **stagflation** (stag-FLAY-shuhn)
(noun) continual increases in the costs of goods and services combined with low demand for those goods and services and relatively high unemployment.
Many worried that the recent economic downturn would lead to a period of stagflation.
327. **esoteric** (es-oh-TAYR-ik)
(adjective) difficult to understand.
Phil found the article on metaphysics too esoteric.
328. **pinnacle** (PIN-uh-kuhl)
(noun) a high top of a hill or mountain.
The clouds obscured the pinnacle from the view of those in the valley below.
329. **molasses** (muh-LAS-is)
(noun) thick brown syrup made from raw sugar.
Mollie always adds molasses to beans before baking them.

330. **contentious** (kuhn-TEN-shuhs)
(adjective) marked by a wearisome tendency to disputes.
The members of the group were so contentious that Mrs. Taylor doubted any cooperative learning could take place.
331. **acoustic** (uh-KOO-stik)
(adjective) of or relating to sound or to the sense of hearing.
Seals and sea lions have a wider acoustic range than dolphins and porpoises.
332. **supine** (suh-PAHYN)
(adjective) lying on the back or with the face upward.
Hunter's dog stayed supine while getting her belly rubbed.
333. **tenement** (TEN-uh-muhnt)
(noun) a single room or set of rooms for use by one resident or family : an apartment.
Polly grew up in a tenement on the north side of the city.
334. **philharmonic** (fil-er-MAHN-ik)
(noun) a musical concert or musical organization (as a society or orchestra).
The philharmonic celebrated the Fourth of July with a program of patriotic music.
335. **quid pro quo** (kwid-proh-KWOH)
(noun) something that is given to or done for you in return for something you have given to or done for someone else.
Lacy made Paul lunch as a quid pro quo for helping her paint the living room.
336. **iambic** (ahy-YAM-bik)
(adjective) relating to or consisting of a unit of rhythm usually of one unstressed syllable followed by one stressed syllable.
Shakespeare's sonnets are predominantly written in iambic pentameter.
337. **legislature** (LEJ-is-lay-cher)
(noun) an organized group of people with the authority to make or change laws.
Ellen served as a page for the legislature last year.
338. **spectacles** (SPEK-tuh-kuhlz)
(plural noun) glasses.
Mary spent a long time looking at the display of spectacles in the museum.
339. **methodology** (meth-uh-DAHL-uh-jee)
(noun) a set of methods, procedures and rules employed by a science, art or discipline.
Macklin hopes to study music therapy and its methodology when he attends college.
340. **umbrage** (UHM-brij)
(noun) displeasure : resentment : annoyance.
Guillermo took great umbrage at the newspaper's review of his new film.
341. **diametrically** (dahy-uh-MEH-trik-lee)
(adverb) completely : utterly.
The debaters held diametrically opposed viewpoints.
342. **commandeer** (kah-muhn-DEER)
(verb) to take arbitrary or forcible possession of.
Arwen felt it necessary to commandeer the TV remote from her sister.
343. **proprietary** (pruh-PRAHY-uh-tayr-ee)
(adjective) made and marketed by a person or persons having the exclusive right to manufacture and sell.
The company's computer system uses both free and proprietary software.
344. **Celsius** (SEL-see-uhs)
(adjective) relating to the international thermometric scale on which 0 is the freezing point and 100 is the boiling point of water.
Normal human body temperature is 37 degrees Celsius.

345. **migraine** (MAHY-grayn)

(noun) a severe headache that usually affects one side of the head, is often accompanied by nausea, and is followed by sleep.

Karen's doctor found out that her migraine was caused by a food allergy.

346. **cartouches** (kahr-TOOSH-iz)

(plural noun) oval or oblong figures (as on ancient Egyptian monuments) enclosing a sovereign's name.

During the unit on Ancient Egypt, Mr. Greene used an online tool to generate cartouches featuring each of his students' names.

347. **resilience** (ruh-ZIL-yuhnts)

(noun) the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.

Vera showed her resilience by recovering quickly from her skiing accident.

348. **pancetta** (pan-CHET-uh)

(noun) unsmoked bacon used in Italian cuisine.

Pancetta is cured with salt rather than smoked.

349. **braille** (brayl)

(noun) a system of writing for the blind that uses letters represented by raised dots.

Many books and magazines are printed in braille for use by the visually impaired.

350. **gibbous** (JIB-uhs)

(adjective) seen with more than half but not all of the visible surface lit up — used of a moon or planet.

Sonya took a long, dreamy walk under the bright gibbous moon.

EIGHTH GRADE WORDS

351. **germane** (jer-MAYN)

(adjective) relating to a subject in an appropriate way : pertinent.

Judge Beacon ruled that the plaintiff's past record was not germane to the current case.

352. **augment** (AWG-ment)

(verb) enlarge or increase in size, amount or degree.

The recent heavy rainfall will probably augment the creek's water level to that of a one-hundred-year flood.

353. **serpentine** (SER-puhn-tahyn)

(adjective) winding or turning one way and another.

Many San Francisco tourists love to drive the famous steep and serpentine Lombard Street.

354. **jurisdiction** (joor-is-DIK-shuhn)

(noun) the area within which authority may be exercised.

The country's jurisdiction includes its territorial waters along the coast.

355. **languish** (LANG-wish)

(verb) to lose strength or animation : fade.

Because of the ban on watering, the gardener's plants will languish in the drought.

356. **acetone** (AS-uh-tohn)

(noun) a volatile fragrant flammable liquid used chiefly as a solvent.

The simplest ketone is acetone, a liquid that is used mainly as a solvent for organic compounds.

357. **plaintiff** (PLAYN-tif)

(noun) one who commences a personal action suit or lawsuit to obtain a remedy for an injury to one's rights.

The plaintiff was suing the hospital for negligence because he developed a bacterial infection after surgery.

358. **reciprocate** (ree-SIP-ruh-kayt)

(verb) return in kind or degree : repay.

Mrs. Schneider told her children that people who reciprocate greetings immediately are using good manners.

359. **laceration** (las-uh-RAY-shuhn)

(noun) a wound made by tearing or rending roughly.

Forty stitches were required to close the laceration in Jeremy's scalp.

360. **inclement** (in-KLEM-uhnt)

(adjective) of weather: harsh, rough or stormy.

Stevie's soccer game was postponed due to the inclement weather.

361. **generosity** (jen-uh-RAHS-uh-tee)

(noun) the quality of being willing to give money and other valuable things to others.

The generosity of the opera company's patrons enabled it to operate for another season.

362. **arboreal** (ahr-BOHR-ee-uhl)

(adjective) inhabiting or frequenting trees.

The arboreal fauna of Madagascar are endangered by logging.

363. **ramifications** (ram-uh-fi-KAY-shuhnz)

(plural noun) resulting developments : consequences.

Mrs. Miller warned Adrienne that there would be long-term ramifications if she chose not to clean her room.

364. **excursion** (eks-KER-zhuhn)

(noun) a usually brief trip for pleasure.

Dad took the family on a one-day excursion to Boston to see the Red Sox play.

365. **olfactory** (awl-FAK-tuh-ree)

(adjective) of, relating to or connected with the sense of smell.

Humans have relatively weak olfactory abilities compared with many other animals.

366. **adhesion** (ad-HEE-zhuhn)
(noun) steady or firm attachment to a person, party, principle or idea : adherence.
To continue riding the school bus each day, Janelle had to demonstrate adhesion to the safety rules.
367. **par excellence** (pahr-ek-suh-LAHNTS)
(adjective) being the best of its kind.
Of all the boys in the middle school cooking class, Aaron was singled out as the pastry chef par excellence for his innovative coconut peanut cookies.
368. **shoji** (SHOH-jee)
(noun) a paper screen serving as a wall, partition or sliding door.
Kayoko bought a beautifully painted shoji for her mother.
369. **ostensibly** (aws-TEN-suh-blee)
(adverb) to all outward appearances.
Ostensibly, Brent needed the computer to help him with his homework, but he really wanted it so he could play video games.
370. **appositive** (uh-PAW-zuh-tiv)
(adjective) relating to a grammatical construction where one noun or noun phrase follows another noun or noun phrase but refers to the same person or thing.
In the phrase "my brother John," the words "brother" and "John" are appositive.
371. **soirée** (swah-RAY)
(noun) an evening party or reception.
When the band's new album was released, the record company sponsored a soirée to celebrate the occasion.
372. **effusive** (uh-FYOO-siv)
(adjective) expressing unrestrained emotion.
Troy was bowled over by the effusive greeting of his Labrador retriever.
373. **impervious** (im-PER-vee-uhs)
(adjective) not allowing entrance or passage through : impenetrable.
Ted covered the woodpile with a tarp that was impervious to water.
374. **Sanskrit** (SANZ-krit)
(noun) an ancient language that is the classical language of India and of Hinduism.
As part of her studies in ancient Indian history, Opal was learning to read Sanskrit.
375. **espadrille** (ES-puh-dril)
(noun) a sandal with a fabric upper and a flexible often rope sole.
Melinda put on her other espadrille and headed for the boardwalk.
376. **patrician** (puh-TRISH-uhn)
(adjective) of, relating to or characteristic of gentle or noble birth or of breeding and cultivation.
Escorting Cassie to her debutante ball is a patrician experience Rob will never forget.
377. **estuary** (ES-choo-ayr-ee)
(noun) a water passage where the tide meets the current of a stream.
Boaters using small vessels without motorized power were warned not to travel the estuary.
378. **frigate** (FRIG-uht)
(noun) a warship that is smaller than a cruiser and larger than a destroyer.
The frigate was part of a group of supporting ships tasked with protecting the aircraft carrier.
379. **commodious** (kuh-MOH-dee-uhs)
(adjective) large or roomy and convenient.
Leo and his family rented a modest but commodious villa in Spain.
380. **machination** (mak-uh-NAY-shuhn)
(noun) a scheme or subtle maneuver intended to accomplish some end.
The risky presidential machination led to impeachment.

381. **quasar** (KWAY-zahr)
(noun) a bright celestial object that resembles a star, is extremely distant from earth and has a huge energy output.
A quasar can emit up to 100 times the energy output of the entire Milky Way.
382. **corollary** (KOHR-uh-layr-ee)
(noun) a proposition that follows one just demonstrated and that requires no additional proof.
After proving the theorem, Mr. Barnes showed how the corollary logically followed.
383. **inimical** (in-IM-i-kuhl)
(adjective) viewing with disfavor: hostile.
Nila is inimical to any proposal involving an increase in city taxes.
384. **garrulous** (GAR-uh-luhs)
(adjective) loquacious : talkative.
Although she had been a shy child, Amanda turned into quite a garrulous teenager.
385. **tarantula** (tuh-RAN-chuh-luh)
(noun) a large hairy spider that is capable of biting but is not significantly poisonous to humans.
Alexander's friend tried in vain to convince him to get a pet tarantula.
386. **mazel tov** (MAH-zuhl-tawv)
(interjection) — used among Jewish people to express congratulations.
Emily's entire family gathered to wish her mazel tov for her eighth birthday.
387. **esplanade** (ES-pluh-nahd)
(noun) a level open stretch of paved or grassy ground often designed for walking or driving.
Carole decided to go for a stroll on the esplanade before dinner.
388. **smorgasbord** (SMOHR-guhz-bohrd)
(noun) a buffet offering a variety of foods and dishes.
Anita's smorgasbord included turkey, smoked salmon and an elaborate display of cheeses.
389. **mawkish** (MAW-kish)
(adjective) falsely or immaturely sentimental.
Though universally berated by reviewers as mawkish, the movie grossed over \$40 million its opening weekend.
390. **temerity** (tuh-MAYR-uh-tee)
(noun) unreasonable or foolhardy contempt of danger or opposition.
The private with the temerity to speak up against the sergeant's bullying was assigned to KP indefinitely.
391. **nascent** (NAY-sent)
(adjective) emerging : beginning to exist.
The Boston Tea Party revealed nascent revolutionary tendencies among the American colonists.
392. **phoenix** (FEE-niks)
(noun) a legendary bird that is consumed in fire by its own act and then rises from its own ashes.
The phoenix is a prominent symbol on the flag and seal of the city of San Francisco.
393. **buoyancy** (BOI-uhnt-see)
(noun) the tendency to float on the surface of a liquid or in a fluid.
The boat's previous buoyancy was destroyed by a leak.
394. **melee** (MAY-lay)
(noun) a confused fight, contest or struggle between individuals.
The soccer match turned into a melee after angry fans stormed the field.
395. **ciao** (chou)
(interjection) — used conventionally as an utterance at meeting or parting.
"Ciao!" called the server as he handed Sarah a menu.

396. **schnitzel** (SHNIT-suhl)

(noun) a seasoned and garnished veal cutlet.

The Bavarian restaurant's menu included sauerbraten, sausages and schnitzel.

397. **porcelain** (POHR-suh-lin)

(noun) a hard, white, delicate ceramic substance that is fired at a high temperature, and is used especially for table and ornamental goods.

Some old houses have doorknobs made of porcelain.

398. **evanescent** (ev-uh-NES-uhnt)

(adjective) lasting a very short time : fleeting.

In Franklin D. Roosevelt's first inaugural address, he stated that "The joy and moral stimulation of work is often forgotten in the mad chase of evanescent profits."

399. **acquiesce** (ak-wee-ES)

(verb) to accept something or comply with something passively or by not arguing.

Because he hates to argue, Stephen tends to acquiesce in most situations involving conflict.

400. **pharaoh** (FAYR-oh)

(noun) a ruler of ancient Egypt.

After the death of the last pharaoh, Egypt became a Roman province.