

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

Junior General Level 1

army

(say **ah**-mee)

noun the part of a country's armed forces which is trained to fight on land:

She wants to join the army when she leaves school.

blend

(say blend)

verb To **blend** things is to mix or combine them:

Blend the butter and sugar, then add the eggs.

bowl

(say bohl)

noun a deep round dish, usually used for holding food:

Dom ate a big bowl of spaghetti.

brain

(say brayn)

noun the soft mass of nerve cells inside the skull, which controls feeling, thinking and movement:

An elephant's brain is four times larger than a human's.

break

(say brayk)

verb to separate into pieces, usually after falling:

That cup will break if you drop it.

carpet

(say **kah**-puht)

noun a thick, woven floor covering:

We have green carpet in the living room.

chart

(say chaht)

noun a map or plan:

We've got a chart on the wall showing all the stars that can be seen at different times of the year.

chess

(say chess)

noun a game played by two people, each with sixteen pieces, on a board marked with squares:

Liam likes playing chess.

cloak

(say klohk)

noun a sleeveless coat or cape which does up at your neck:

The villain's cloak was long and black.

control

(say kuhn-**trohl**)

verb If you **control** someone or something, you have power or influence over them:

The police officer had to control the traffic at the intersection.

crack

(say krak)

verb If you **crack** something, it divides so that there is a long, narrow break in it, although often it doesn't actually fall apart:

You'll crack the glass if you pour boiling water into it.

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crown

(say krown)

noun an ornament made of gold and jewels worn on the head of a king or queen:

The queen wore her crown to the ball.

cube

(say kyooohb)

noun a solid shape with six equal square sides:

Most dice are in the shape of a cube.

desk

(say desk)

noun a writing table, often with drawers or small spaces for papers:

Please put the books on my desk.

early

(say **er**-lee)

adjective at or near the beginning of something:

We set out in the early morning.

elf

(say elf)

noun a small being in fairytales who often plays tricks on people:

In the play, my brother was a very mischievous elf.

enjoy

(say en-**joy**)

verb If you **enjoy** something, you get pleasure from it:

I enjoy science fiction films.

fleet

(say fleet)

noun a large group of naval ships, usually under the command of one officer:

The French fleet was attacked by pirates.

fort

(say fawt)

noun a place like a castle, which is strongly built and armed against enemy attack:

The soldiers were safe inside the fort, but could not leave it without being attacked.

glass

(say glahs)

noun A **glass** is a container that you drink from, made of glass:

Alexander's mum offered me a glass of lemonade.

green

(say green)

adjective of the colour of the leaves of plants:

She wore a green dress, the same colour as her eyes.

hunt

(say hunt)

verb To **hunt** is to search:

Please help me hunt for my wallet.

label

(say **lay**-buhl)

noun a piece of paper or material put on something to show what it is, who owns it, or where it is going:

I lost my bag because it didn't have a label.

lion

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(say **luy**-uhn)

noun a large, honey-coloured member of the cat family, living in Africa and southern Asia:

The lion was sunning itself on a rock.

lose

(say loohz)

verb If you **lose** something, it is missing and you do not know where it is:

Try not to lose your umbrella again.

moss

(say mos)

noun a plant with very small leaves that grows in patches on rather wet ground, tree trunks or rocks:

We slipped on the moss growing on the rocks.

pain

(say payn)

noun a feeling of suffering or hurt:

He had a pain in the stomach and went to the doctor.

price

(say pruis)

noun the amount of money for which something is bought or sold:

Everything in the shop had its price written on it.

radio

(say **ray**-dee-oh)

noun the sending of electrical signals through the air to a set which receives them:

Radio was a sensation when it was first used.

rash

(say rash)

adjective If someone is **rash**, they act too quickly and without thinking:

Offering to paint the classroom was a bit rash -- we haven't got any paint!

real

(say reel)

adjective true or actual:

This story is even more exciting because you know it happened in real life.

robe

(say roh**b**)

noun a long loose gown worn by men or women:

The purple robe hanging from the king's shoulders dragged along the ground as he walked to the throne.

royal

(say **roy**-uhl)

adjective having to do with a king or queen:

People were excited by the royal wedding.

sari

(say **sah**-ree)

noun a long piece of cotton or silk material worn as a garment by Hindu women:

My grandmother looks beautiful in her sari.

seal

(say seel)

noun a sea animal with smooth fur, a long rounded body and large flippers:

The seal balanced a ball on its nose.

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shake

(say shayk)

verb If you **shake** something, you move it sharply backwards and forwards or up and down:

Shake the bottle before taking the medicine.

snore

(say snaw)

verb If you **snore**, you breathe with a loud rumbling noise while you are sleeping:

I'm going to sleep in a different tent because you snore!

sound

(say sownd)

noun **Sound** is what you can hear with your ears:

Our dog hates the sound of the vacuum cleaner.

sour

(say sow-uh)

adjective having an acid taste, such as that of lemons:

Add some sugar to the juice if you find it too sour.

speak

(say speak)

verb When you **speak**, you say words using your voice:

The room fell silent as she began to speak.

spine

(say spuyn)

noun the column of bones in the back:

Mum has hurt her spine and has to rest until it is better.

tact

(say takt)

noun a sense of the right time to do or say something:

He had the tact to leave her alone when she heard the news.

taper

(say tay-puh)

verb to gradually narrow or become thin at one end:

She wanted jeans that would taper in at the ankles.

taste

(say tayst)

noun flavour:

I love the sweet creamy taste of ice-cream.

thumb

(say thum)

noun the inner finger that is much shorter and thicker than the others:

She hit her thumb with the hammer.

torch

(say tawch)

noun A **torch** is a light which you carry around in your hand, with a battery to make it work:

Take a torch when you go camping so you can see at night.

trail

(say trayl)

noun a path or track, usually through the bush:

If you stay on the trail, you won't get lost.

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tube

(say tyoohb)

noun A **tube** is a long, thin, empty container, that gas or liquid can move through:

The patient was being fed through a tube.

twig

(say twig)

noun a small, thin branch of a tree:

When we were camping, we used a twig to stir our tea.

value

(say **val**-yooh)

noun the amount of money something is worth:

She asked the jeweller to tell her the value of the ring.

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Junior General Level 2

abode

(say uh-**bohd**)

noun the place where someone lives:

The cave was the abode of many different creatures.

advise

(say uhd-**vuyz**)

verb If you **advise** someone to do something, you tell them what you think they should do:

Can you advise me on what to buy him as a present?

agony

(say **ag**-uh-nee)

noun extreme, and generally prolonged, pain:

When I broke my leg, I was in agony.

alien

(say **ay**-lee-uhn)

noun in science fiction, a being from outer space:

In the book I am reading an alien flies to Earth in a spaceship.

alpine

(say **al**-puyn)

adjective having to do with high, mountainous country:

Alpine wildflowers are very delicate.

anteater

(say **ant**-eet-uh)

noun an animal with a long, sticky tongue which it uses to feed on ants:

We need an anteater to demolish the ant nest in our backyard.

anthem

(say **an**-thuhm)

noun An **anthem** is a song that you sing at important times or events:

Australia's national anthem is 'Advance Australia Fair'.

anywhere

(say **en**-ee-wair)

adverb You use **anywhere** when you are talking about a place in general, not a particular place:

Jason liked his mobile phone because he could use it anywhere.

argue

(say **ah**-gyooh)

verb If you **argue** with someone about something, you say things, often in an angry way, which show that you disagree with them:

The two brothers would argue for hours over who had first go on the trampoline.

arrow

(say **a**-roh)

noun a thin pointed piece of wood shot from a bow:

The arrow hit a tree, just inches from his head.

atlas

(say **at**-luhs)

noun a book of maps:

We looked in the atlas and saw that the Pacific Ocean was the largest ocean of all.

attach

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(say uh-**tach**)

verb If you **attach** one thing to something else, you add it or join it onto the main thing:

Use these screws to attach the handle to the door.

awful

(say **aw**-fuhl)

adjective very bad or unpleasant:

It took weeks to clean up the awful mess left by the flood.

balance

(say **bal**-uhns)

verb Two things **balance** if they both weigh the same:

If these two apples balance, the scales will be even.

bamboo

(say bam-**booh**)

noun a woody plant whose stem is sometimes used for making furniture:

We have a chair on our balcony made from bamboo.

barren

(say **ba**-ruhn)

adjective unable to produce crops:

The land was barren after so many years of drought.

bass

(say bayce)

adjective low in pitch:

Paul plays the bass guitar in our band.

beckon

(say **bek**-uhn)

verb to signal or wave to someone to come over to you:

The teacher tried to beckon her group to follow her.

believe

(say buh-**leev**)

verb If you **believe** something, you think it is true and correct:

Do you believe his story or do you think he has made it up?

birdlife

(say **berd**-luyf)

noun the range of birds living in their natural habitat:

There is quite a lot of birdlife in the park near our house.

bleat

(say bleet)

verb a noise like a soft cry:

The lamb began to bleat when its mother left.

blossom

(say **bloss**-uhm)

noun the flower of a plant, especially of a fruit tree:

The blossom of an orange tree smells really sweet.

board

(say bawd)

noun a group of people who are in charge of a business or organisation:

He was asked if he wanted to join the board of the club when he retired.

bounce

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(say bownce)

verb If you **bounce** a ball, you throw it against a surface to make it spring back towards you:

I'll bounce the ball against the wall, and you can catch it when it comes back.

breathe

(say breedh)

verb to take in and give out air:

While we were hiding we had to breathe very quietly.

broadcast

(say **brawd**-kahst)

verb To **broadcast** a program or message is to send it out by radio or television:

The news is broadcast at 7 p.m. each evening.

burrow

(say **bu**-roh)

noun a hole in the ground dug by an animal, to live and shelter in:

The wombat sleeps in a burrow during the day.

canal

(say kuh-**nal**)

noun an artificial river made for boats to travel along:

The farmers used the canal to send their produce to market.

canoe

(say kuh-**nooh**)

noun a light, narrow boat that you move by using paddles:

We paddled across the lake in a canoe.

canyon

(say **kan**-yuhn)

noun a deep valley with steep sides:

Everything at the bottom of the canyon looks very small.

cardboard

(say **kahd**-bawd)

noun a type of thick, stiff paper:

Molly made a birthday card out of coloured cardboard.

career

(say kuh-**rear**)

noun the job or profession in which you earn your living:

My sister wants a career in television.

cashew

(say **kash**-ooh)

noun a small, kidney-shaped nut that you can eat:

The cashew comes from a tree native to South America.

casting

(say **kah**-sting)

noun the selection of actors for a play, film, etc.:

The casting for the new film is being done entirely in Australia.

certain

(say **ser**-tuhn)

adjective having no doubt that something is so:

I'm certain my phone's on the desk somewhere.

charcoal

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(say **chah**-kohl)

noun partly burnt wood, which can be used for drawing:

We drew pictures with sticks of charcoal in our art class.

cheep

(say cheep)

verb A chicken **cheeps** when it makes weak, high sounds:

We could hear the baby bird cheep until its mother returned.

civil

(say **siv**-uhl)

adjective relating to the part of the law concerned with the private rights of individuals, as distinguished from criminal law:

The court case between the neighbours over the boundaries of their land was a civil matter

climate

(say **kluy**-muht)

noun the usual weather of a particular place:

The climate in Australia is generally quite warm and sunny.

cockroach

(say **kok**-rohch)

noun (plural **cockroaches**)

an insect, usually active at night, with a flattened body and long feelers, which is a common household pest:

Marie was horrified to see a big, black cockroach crawling up her leg!

concave

(say **kon**-kayv or kon-**kayv**)

adjective hollow and curved like the inside of a circle:

The concave mirrors in the sideshow made us look short and fat.

copper

(say **kop**-uh)

noun a fairly soft, reddish-brown metal:

Copper is used to make wire and pipes.

cornet

(say **kaw**-nuht)

noun a musical instrument like the trumpet, but smaller:

Luca plays the cornet in the school band.

costume

(say **koss**-tyoohm)

noun a set of clothes, especially to make you look like someone else or for a particular purpose:

Luke wore a Batman costume to the party.

cotton

(say **kot**-uhn)

noun a light material made from the soft, white hairs covering the seeds of the cotton plant:

Clothes made of cotton are comfortable to wear when it is very hot.

crease

(say kreece)

noun a sharp line or fold, especially in material or paper:

There was a large crease in his business shirt.

crumb

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(say krum)

noun a small piece of bread, cake or other dry food:

We watched as the ant struggled under the weight of a crumb.

crux

(say kruks)

noun the most important point:

Lack of training is the crux of our team's problems.

curfew

(say **ker**-fyoooh)

noun an order which says people are not allowed to be out on the streets after a certain time at night:

After the riots, there was a ten o'clock curfew.

curtain

(say **ker**-tuhn)

noun a piece of material hanging from a rod over a window:

Let's pull the curtain back so some light can come in.

custom

(say **kuss**-tuhm)

noun something that a community habitually does, usually passed down from one generation to another:

It is the custom in Australia to walk on the left-hand side of the footpath.

daring

(say **dair**-ring)

adjective bold and adventurous:

The book featured a daring explorer.

dartboard

(say **daht**-bawd)

noun the target in the game of darts, marked with circles, with a bullseye at the centre:

I'll never get a bullseye -- I can't even hit the dartboard.

dazzle

(say **daz**-uhl)

verb when a light shines in your eyes and stops you from seeing properly:

Bright headlights often dazzle me.

debate

(say duh-**bayt**)

noun a discussion, especially of a public question in an assembly:

The debate was lively and provoked quite a few heated arguments.

debt

(say det)

noun anything that you owe someone else:

He has paid back all his loans and does not have a single debt.

debut

(say **day**-byoooh or **day**-booh)

noun a first appearance in public, on stage, etc.:

She made her debut in the chorus of 'Swan Lake'.

deduce

(say duh-**dyooohs**)

verb to reach a decision by reasoning and considering all the facts known to you:

The police were able to deduce who the thief was.

delta

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(say **del**-tuh)

noun the flat rich land between outspreading river branches at the mouth of a river:
Mosquitoes abounded in the delta of muddy islands and waterways.

desert

(say **dez**-uht)

noun a sandy or stony place without enough rainfall to grow many plants:
It very rarely rains in the desert.

despair

(say duh-**spair**)

noun a feeling of hopelessness:
She looked with despair at the still smouldering remains of her home.

devoid

(say duh-**voyd**)

adjective If something is **devoid of** something, it is without it:
The park was completely devoid of trees.

disco

(say **dis**-koh)

noun a place or club where people dance to recorded music:
We all got dressed up for the annual school disco.

dismal

(say **diz**-muhl)

adjective Something that is **dismal** makes you feel gloomy:
The dismal weather made me want to stay in bed all day.

distance

(say **dis**-tuhns)

noun the length of a space:
She trained for the cross-country event by running a distance of five kilometres every day.

doe

(say doh)

noun the female of animals such as a deer, rabbit or kangaroo:
The doe was trying to protect her young from the hunters.

dollop

(say **dol**-uhp)

noun a shapeless lump; a blob:
She put a dollop of cream on her scone.

dormant

(say **daw**-muhnt)

adjective not active:
This volcano has been dormant for 800 years.

doubt

(say dowl)

noun a feeling of uncertainty or suspicion:
There is some doubt about her ability to finish the job.

downpour

(say **down**-paw)

noun a heavy fall of rain:
I was caught in the downpour on my way home from work.

eighty

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(say **ay**-tee)

noun, adjective **Eighty** is a number which you can write as 80:

There were eighty people at my aunt's wedding.

elephant

(say **el**-uh-fuhnt)

noun a very large animal of Africa or India, with a thick grey skin, a long trunk which can grasp and carry things, and long curved tusks:

We went to the zoo especially to see the new African elephant.

elite

(say uh-**leet**)

noun the group of people with the most money, power, and other advantages:

His single obsession was to be part of the elite, and he didn't care how he achieved it.

emblem

(say **em**-bluhm)

noun a badge or something that serves as a sign or symbol:

Our school emblem is an oak tree.

emerald

(say **em**-ruhld)

noun a valuable, bright green jewel:

The ring featured a single, brilliant emerald.

empire

(say **em**-puy-uh)

noun a group of countries ruled by an emperor or other powerful sovereign or government:

The British Empire was once very large.

empty

(say **emp**-tee)

adjective If something is **empty**, it doesn't contain anything:

In the morning she wheeled the empty garbage bin back into the yard.

engine

(say **en**-juhn)

noun a machine that changes energy from something like petrol or steam into movement:

Our car's engine stopped because we had run out of petrol.

enough

(say uh-**nuf**)

adjective If something is **enough**, it is all you need:

Is there enough milk for breakfast?

eraser

(say uh-**rayz**-uh or ee-**rayz**-uh)

noun An **eraser** is a small piece of soft rubber used to rub out pencil marks:

I have made a mistake. I need an eraser.

essay

(say **ess**-ay)

noun a short piece of writing about a particular subject:

We had to write a one-page essay about our favourite animal.

excess

(say **ek**-ses or uhk-ses)

noun an amount that is more than what is necessary or usual:

We have an excess of eggs, so please take some.

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exclaim

(say uhks-**klaym**)

verb To **exclaim** is to cry out suddenly:

We heard her exclaim 'Is the puppy really for me?'

expiry

(say ek-**spuy**-ree)

noun a coming to an end:

He intends to retire at the expiry of his present contract.

explode

(say uhk-**sploh**d)

verb to blow up or burst into pieces with a loud noise:

We watched the fireworks explode over the water and make a beautiful display of colours.

fanfare

(say **fan**-fair)

noun a short, loud piece of music usually played on trumpets:

They played a fanfare when the queen entered the room.

ferret

(say **fe**-ruht)

noun an animal with a long thin body used on farms to go down rabbit holes and chase out rabbits:

It's becoming more and more popular to keep a ferret as a pet.

festival

(say **fest**-uh-vuhl)

noun a celebration with performances of music and dance and other displays:

Our town has an annual jazz festival.

fir

(say fer)

noun a tree, like a traditional European Christmas tree, which has needle-like leaves and produces cones:

We collected the cones that had fallen off the huge fir in the storm.

fizzy

(say **fiz**-ee)

adjective If something is **fizzy**, it is full of tiny bubbles:

Pink lemonade is my favourite fizzy drink.

flea

(say flee)

noun a small wingless insect which moves by jumping and which sucks blood from animals:

A bite from a flea can make you very itchy.

flour

(say **flow**-uh)

noun a fine powder made from rice, wheat, or other grain and used in cooking:

Dad bought some flour to make pancakes.

fluent

(say **flooh**-uhnt)

adjective flowing smoothly and easily:

She speaks fluent French after living in Paris for a year.

fossil

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(say **foss**-uhl)

noun the remains of an animal or plant from long ago, preserved in rock:

We found a fern fossil in a cave.

fowl

(say fowl)

noun (plural **fowl** or **fowls**)

a bird kept for eating or for its eggs, such as a hen, duck, or turkey:

The old fowl had provided us with eggs for years.

fraud

(say frawd)

noun deliberate cheating or trickery:

The accountant was charged with fraud after cheating his clients out of their money.

fresco

(say **fress**-koh)

noun a painting done on a wall or ceiling:

The council hired an artist to paint a fresco on the ceiling of our new town hall.

fright

(say fruyt)

noun a sudden feeling of fear or shock:

The sudden noise gave us a fright.

funnel

(say **fun**-uhl)

noun an open-ended cone used for pouring liquid into a container with a narrow opening:

We didn't want to spill any water so we used a funnel to pour it into the bottle.

gecko

(say **gek**-oh)

noun a small lizard which is active at night, with special pads on its toes which help it stick to things:

We shone a torch up the tree and spotted a gecko high up the trunk.

germ

(say jerm)

noun a very tiny living thing which causes disease:

If you really want to see a germ, you will have to look through a microscope.

ghost

(say gohst)

noun the spirit of someone who has died, imagined as visiting living people:

My friend reckons he has seen a ghost but I don't believe him.

giraffe

(say juh-**rahf**)

noun an African animal with spots, a very long neck and long legs:

A giraffe can reach the leaves that other animals can't.

gnome

(say nohm)

noun a small being in fairytales, usually imagined as a little old man:

In pictures a gnome generally has a beard and a pointed hat.

governor

(say **guv**-uh-nuh)

noun the representative of the queen in an Australian state:

The Governor presented the prizes at our Presentation Night.

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grammar

(say **gram**-uh)

noun the parts of a language, such as sounds and words, and the way they are combined into phrases and sentences:

It's good to know about grammar when you study a foreign language.

gravity

(say **grav**-uh-tee)

noun **Gravity** is the strong force that pulls things or that makes them fall towards the earth:

If it wasn't for gravity, we would all be floating around.

guard

(say gahd)

verb If you **guard** someone or something, you protect them from harm or damage:

He has been assigned to guard the visiting ambassador.

gully

(say **gul**-ee)

noun a small valley:

Foxes have been seen in the gully behind our house.

gymnast

(say **jim**-nuhst)

noun someone specially trained and skilled in gymnastics:

She is the first Australian gymnast to win an Olympic medal.

harmony

(say **hah**-muh-nee)

noun a pleasant combination of musical notes sounding together:

The choir sang in perfect harmony.

hillock

(say **hil**-uhk)

noun a little hill:

Wild mushrooms grew all over the hillock.

human

(say **hyooh**-muhn)

noun a person:

Many of the animals deep in the jungle had never seen a human before.

husbandry

(say **huz**-buhn-dree)

noun the business of agriculture or farming:

She is studying animal husbandry as part of her agriculture degree.

injure

(say **in**-juh)

verb If something **injures** you, it causes you some harm:

Falling off your bike without a helmet can injure you badly.

irony

(say **uy**-ruh-nee)

noun a humorous way of speaking in which the real meaning is the opposite of what is said:

'Great!' she said with irony when she saw the muddy paw prints on her white skirt.

issue

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **ish**-ooh)

noun an important topic of discussion:

The issue of lifting water restrictions was raised at the town meeting.

jazz

(say jaz)

noun a type of music, first played by African Americans, with complex melodies and rhythms, often with the performers making up or varying the music as they play:

My parents enjoy listening to jazz CDs.

jellyfish

(say **jel**-ee-fish)

noun a soft-bodied sea animal, especially one with an umbrella-shaped body and long tentacles:

We could see a large jellyfish floating about in the water.

jetty

(say **jet**-ee)

noun a long structure, sticking out into a river or the sea, that boats or ships can be tied to:

We sat on the jetty and tried to catch some fish for dinner.

jovial

(say **joh**-vee-uhl)

adjective cheerful and friendly:

My uncle is always so jovial that it's hard to be sad around him.

judge

(say juj)

noun someone whose job is to hear and decide cases in a court of law:

The judge sentenced the criminal to a two-year prison term.

jukebox

(say **joohk**-boks)

noun a coin-operated machine that plays music or songs that you choose:

He put some coins into the jukebox and chose a song, and soon the music started.

jungle

(say **jung**-guhl)

noun the thick trees and plants which grow in warm, slightly wet, tropical conditions:

Monkeys love living in the jungle because they can swing on the vines.

justice

(say **jus**-tuhs)

noun the quality of being just and fair:

It is important to uphold justice in a society.

kickboard

(say **kik**-bawd)

noun a small board used to keep a swimmer afloat while practising kicking:

She uses a kickboard to strengthen her legs.

kiosk

(say **kee**-osk)

noun a small shop or stall which sells food and drink:

After our swim we walked up the beach to buy some drinks at the kiosk.

kneel

(say neel)

verb To **kneel** is to go down on your knees:

Could you please kneel down and see if my book is under the chair.

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laundry

(say **lawn**-dree)

noun a room in a house for washing clothes:

He took his wet football clothes straight to the laundry.

lawyer

(say **loy**-yuh)

noun someone whose work is to give advice about the law and to argue for people in law courts:

Their lawyer advised them to stop speaking to the media.

leapfrog

(say **leap**-frog)

noun a game in which one player leaps over another, who is bending over:

My little brothers love to play leapfrog.

leather

(say **ledh**-uh)

noun the skin of animals prepared by tanning, used to make such things as shoes and bags:

My sister is very proud of her new red leather boots.

leech

(say leech)

noun a small worm that sucks the blood of humans or animals:

We made the leech let go by putting salt on it.

legend

(say **lej**-uhnd)

noun a story that comes from long ago in the past and which is thought by many people to be at least partly true:

Many people know of the legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

length

(say length)

noun the measure of something from one end to the other:

The length of the pool is 50 metres.

livid

(say **liv**-uhd)

adjective If someone is **livid**, they are angry or enraged:

The mother was livid when she saw the broken vase.

loyal

(say **loy**-uhl)

adjective Someone is **loyal** when they do not change in their friendship, support or love for someone or something:

A dog is a loyal companion.

lute

(say looht)

noun an old-fashioned musical instrument with strings like a guitar:

William was very good at playing string instruments -- he could even play the lute.

maggot

(say **mag**-uht)

noun the small, white grub which turns into a fly or other similar insect, often found on decaying flesh or food:

Pablo threw his apple away when he found a maggot in it.

magic

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(say **maj**-ik)

noun a power which some people believe can make things happen that would normally be impossible:

The way she never misses a shot is like magic.

mangrove

(say **mang**-grohv)

noun area where trees grow on mud flats:

The mangrove supports a huge diversity of animal life.

maypole

(say **may**-pohl)

noun a high pole, decorated with flowers or ribbons, used in the past for dancing:

The children danced around the maypole.

media

(say **mee**-dee-uh)

plural noun the means of communication, including radio, television, newspapers and magazines:

The accused man hid his face from the media as he entered the court.

melodic

(say muh-**lod**-ik)

adjective tuneful:

He played us a melodic tune on his clarinet.

menacing

(say **men**-uhs-ing)

adjective If someone or something is **menacing**, it is threatening:

The big, black dog had a menacing look in his eyes.

metal

(say **met**-uhl)

noun a type of material which is shiny, able to be shaped or worked, and is often a good conductor of electricity:

Iron is a kind of metal, and so is gold.

metre

(say **mee**-tuh)

noun a unit of measurement of length in the metric system:

Can you estimate how long the classroom is, to the nearest metre?

mirror

(say **mi**-ruh)

noun glass that has been treated so that you can see yourself reflected in it:

Dad glanced in the mirror to make sure his tie was straight.

mission

(say **mish**-uhn)

noun a duty someone is sent to carry out:

Mum sent me on a mission to the supermarket to find her favourite pasta sauce.

mite

(say muyt)

noun a tiny insect-like creature:

The bite of the tiny mite left a big itchy red patch on my arm.

moat

(say moht)

noun a deep, wide trench, usually filled with water, surrounding a town or castle to

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help protect it from invaders in the past:

Once the castle's drawbridge was raised, there was no way across the moat.

modem

(say **moh**-dem or **moh**-duhm)

noun an electronic device that allows one computer to link to others through the telephone system:

We turned on the modem so we could send an email to our grandmother.

mountain

(say **mown**-tuhn)

noun a large, natural, raised part of the earth, higher than a hill:

From the top of the mountain you could see right down to the ocean.

movie

(say **mooh**-vee)

noun a film:

Would you like to see a movie during the holidays?

mulch

(say mulch)

noun plant material such as grass clippings and leaves, spread on gardens to protect and feed the plants:

Jim spread mulch around his new seedlings.

mullet

(say **mul**-uht)

noun (plural **mullets**)

a type of fish commonly found in the rivers and sea around Australia:

We caught a mullet and two bream while out fishing.

music

(say **myooh**-zik)

noun sounds combined together in a way that is nice to listen to, and expresses ideas or feelings:

I like listening to music on the radio.

mutiny

(say **myooh**-tuh-nee)

noun A **mutiny** happens when sailors refuse to obey the orders of the ship's captain:

We watched a film about the mutiny on the Bounty.

nation

(say **nay**-shuhn)

noun a large group of people living in one country under one government:

The whole nation was saddened by the death of the president.

nervous

(say **ner**-vuhs)

adjective worried or frightened, especially about something that is going to happen:

He was very nervous about the speech he had to give.

niece

(say nees)

noun the daughter of a person's brother or sister, or of their husband's or wife's brother or sister:

My aunt has five nephews, but only one niece -- me!

notion

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(say **noh**-shuhn)

noun an idea, often not very clear in your mind:

Makiko had a notion that she could somehow train the dog to be obedient.

orchard

(say **aw**-chuhd)

noun a farm where fruit trees are grown:

The orchard was full of apple trees.

pair

(say pair)

noun two things of the same kind that go together:

I can't find a pair of socks -- I'll have to wear a red one and a green one.

palm

(say pahm)

noun the part of the inside of the hand that reaches from the wrist to the beginning of the fingers:

The baby bird was so small that James could hold it in the palm of his hand.

pencil

(say **pen**-suhl)

noun a thin, pointed piece of wood with a stick of graphite or crayon in the middle, used for writing or drawing:

I need a red pencil for this drawing.

perhaps

(say **puh**-haps)

adverb maybe or possibly:

Perhaps Jane would come on Saturday if she knew it was a party.

petal

(say **pet**-uhl)

noun one of the soft parts of a flower that grow out from the centre:

You must have walked too close to the rose bush -- you've got a petal in your hair.

pirate

(say **puy**-ruht)

noun someone who attacks and robs ships at sea:

The pirate swung onto the deck, brandishing a sword.

planet

(say **plan**-uht)

noun any of the large bodies in space revolving around the sun or around any star:

Astronauts have landed on the moon but no-one from earth has yet stood on another planet.

plaster

(say **plah**-stuh)

noun a fine white powder which swells and sets rapidly when mixed with water and is used in making moulds:

They attempted to make a mould of the Taj Mahal out of plaster.

pontoon

(say pon-**toohn**)

noun a floating structure used to support a temporary bridge or as a place where boats can tie up:

We had a swimming race out to the pontoon and back.

pour

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(say paw)

verb If you **pour** liquid, you let it run out of a container:

I helped Mum pour the cake mixture into the cake tin.

probably

(say prob-uhb-lee)

adverb If you say that something will **probably** happen, you mean it is likely or that you expect it to happen:

The traffic is so bad that we will probably be late.

python

(say puy-thuhn)

noun a large snake which crushes its prey but is not venomous:

I like visiting the python at the zoo, but I wouldn't want to meet one anywhere else!

question

(say kwes-chuhn)

noun a request for information:

Could you please answer a question about the new timetable?

quota

(say kwoh-tuh)

noun the part or share of something which is due to someone:

You've eaten your quota of biscuits, so leave the rest for the others.

rabbit

(say rab-uht)

noun a small, long-eared, burrowing animal:

We were surprised to see a rabbit hopping along the main street in the city.

rainforest

(say rayn-fo-ruhst)

noun thick forest in fairly warm to very hot areas which have heavy rainfall:

We saw lots of ferns and long hanging vines in the rainforest.

reed

(say reed)

noun a kind of tall grass growing in wet, soft land:

We were rowing on the lake and my oar got tangled in a reed.

reindeer

(say rayn-dear)

noun a kind of deer with large antlers:

The reindeer lives in the cold northern areas of the world.

replay

(say ree-play)

noun a previously tied match or game that is played again to decide the winner:

Because we drew in the final last weekend, a replay has been scheduled for Thursday night.

reptile

(say rep-tuyl)

noun a cold-blooded animal that lays eggs, such as a lizard or snake:

Because a reptile is cold-blooded, it needs to lie in the sun to warm up.

rodeo

(say roh-dee-oh or roh-day-oh)

noun an event in which people compete or display skills in riding horses, lassoing cattle, and so on:

When the rodeo is in town, everyone comes to watch.

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route

(say rooht)

noun a way or road from one place to another:

We weren't sure of the route to the zoo so we asked the way.

rural

(say rooh-ruhl)

adjective having to do with the country or with farming:

Now that my cousins have moved to a country town, they love rural life, and they don't miss the city at all.

sailboard

(say sayl-bawd)

noun a light-weight surfboard with a mast and sail, on which the rider stands to control the sail:

She is attempting to cross Bass Strait on a sailboard.

sailor

(say say-luh)

noun A **sailor** is someone who sails a boat, or whose job is to work on a ship:

I want to be a sailor and sail to places all over the world.

sausage

(say sooss-ij)

noun finely chopped up meat packed into a thin skin:

She put another sausage on the barbecue.

scent

(say sent)

noun a pleasant smell:

The scent of roses filled the room.

season

(say see-zuhn)

noun one of the four periods of the year, each with different weather conditions -- spring, summer, autumn and winter:

My favourite season is summer, because it's warm and sunny.

serious

(say sear-ree-uhs)

adjective thoughtful and not cheerful:

The judge had a serious expression on her face.

shear

(say shear)

verb To **shear** a sheep is to cut all the wool off it:

At the show, we watched a man shear a sheep.

shovel

(say shuv-uhl)

noun a tool with a wide, flat metal part on a long wooden handle, used for moving material such as sand and soil:

Dad used a shovel to move the pile of dirt.

singe

(say sinj)

verb If you **singe** something, you burn it slightly:

You'll singe your hair if you get too close to that candle.

skipper

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(say **skip**-uh)

noun the captain of a team or of a ship:

The skipper of the cricket team gave the squad an encouraging talk at lunch time.

snail

(say snayl)

noun a small, slow-moving animal with a soft body and a spiral shell, often found in gardens:

A snail was steadily eating its way through our strawberry plant.

sneeze

(say sneez)

verb When you **sneeze**, air blows noisily out of your mouth and nose:

Hiding quietly behind the chair, I had a terrible urge to sneeze.

spice

(say spuys)

noun a substance made from a plant, which is used to flavour or preserve food:

Nutmeg is a spice which is good in pumpkin soup.

splinter

(say **splin**-tuh)

noun a long, thin, sharp piece broken off from something hard, such as wood, metal or glass:

We need the tweezers to get that splinter out of your foot.

squash

(say skwosh)

noun a game for two players with racquets and a small rubber ball, played in a small court with four walls:

Squash is very energetic game.

steady

(say **sted**-ee)

adjective continuing in an even way and without interruption, not changing very much:

He is making steady progress in music.

stopwatch

(say **stop**-woch)

noun a watch which can be stopped and started by pressing a button, used for timing races and so on:

The coach got his stopwatch ready, and called, 'Go!'

stork

(say stawk)

noun a large bird with long legs and a long beak, which feeds in shallow water:

The stork waded through the water looking for food.

strait

(say strayt)

noun a narrow strip of water connecting two large bodies of water:

The ship reached Tasmania after crossing Bass Strait.

strange

(say straynj)

adjective If something is **strange**, it is unusual or not what you would expect:

She had a very strange way of talking that took a little while to get used to.

style

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(say stuył)

noun a particular kind or type, especially of music, art, architecture and so on:

Rap is his favourite style of music to dance to.

suburb

(say **sub**-erb)

noun an area of a city with its own shopping centre, school and other facilities:

I was lucky that my best friend lived in the neighbouring suburb.

suggest

(say suh-**jest**)

verb If you **suggest** something, you put forward an idea or plan:

I suggest we divide into groups for this project.

summer

(say **sum**-uh)

noun the warmest season of the year, following spring:

We swim a lot in summer.

sunrise

(say **sun**-ruyz)

noun the appearance of the sun above the horizon in the morning, or the time when this happens:

Many birds start singing at sunrise.

surfboard

(say **serf**-bawd)

noun a long, narrow board used to ride waves towards the shore:

The waves looked great so I carried my surfboard down to the beach.

surname

(say **ser**-naym)

noun someone's family name:

Her first name is Ann and her surname is Patel.

survey

(say ser-**vay** or **ser**-vay)

verb If someone **surveys** an area of land, they measure it in order to draw a map of it that shows things such as the location of its boundaries:

Before we could build our new house we had to get an expert to survey the land.

sweaty

(say **swet**-ee)

adjective covered with perspiration:

Mark was very sweaty because he had run all the way home.

tabloid

(say **tab**-loyd)

noun a newspaper with many pictures and short articles and with pages that are about half the size of an ordinary newspaper:

The tabloid was full of the latest scandal surrounding the rock star.

tackle

(say **tak**-uhl)

verb In sports such as football and hockey, if you **tackle** your opponent, you try to get the ball from them:

At soccer training we are being taught how to tackle.

tarnish

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(say **tar**-nish)

verb (of metal) to lose shine and become stained:

Eventually all silver will tarnish and will need polishing.

teeter

(say **tee**-tuh)

verb to almost lose balance:

We held our breath as we watched the acrobat teeter on the high wire.

tempest

(say **tem**-puhst)

noun a violent storm:

The story is about a ship that was wrecked during a wild tempest.

tempo

(say **tem**-poh)

noun the speed of a piece of music:

The music had a very fast tempo.

tendon

(say **ten**-duhn)

noun a cord of strong tissue joining a muscle to a bone:

It was his first tournament since severing the tendon in his ankle.

tendril

(say **ten**-druhl)

noun a twisted, thread-like part, as of a climbing plant:

A tendril from the vine was twisting around the pillar.

tepid

(say **tep**-uhd)

adjective lukewarm or slightly warm:

The water in his drink bottle was tepid because he had left it in the sun.

theme

(say theem)

noun the main subject of a book, speech or piece of music:

The theme of his speech was the protection of the natural environment.

thicket

(say **thik**-uht)

noun a thick growth of shrubs or small trees:

The rabbit fled into the thicket for cover.

thunderbolt

(say **thun**-duh-bohlt)

noun a flash of lightning and thunder:

The tree was blown to matchwood by a thunderbolt quite close to our tent.

thunderstorm

(say **thun**-duh-stawm)

noun a storm of thunder and lightning, and often rain:

We ran for cover when the thunderstorm suddenly hit.

towel

(say towl)

noun A **towel** is a piece of cloth that you use to dry yourself after you have washed or swum:

I took a big red towel to the beach.

tractor

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(say **trak**-tuh)

noun a powerful motor vehicle used to pull farm machinery:

Most farmers use their tractor every day.

trio

(say **tree**-oh)

noun a group of three musicians:

My two brothers and I have formed a trio and we busk every weekend in the city.

trout

(say trowt)

noun a freshwater fish related to the salmon:

They fished for trout in the cool mountain stream.

trumpet

(say **trum**-puht)

noun a brass wind instrument with a flared end:

The trumpet players in the school band always played the loudest.

tuna

(say **tyooh**-nuh)

noun (plural **tuna** or **tunas**)

a large sea fish with pink flesh, used for food:

Lunch was simple: tinned tuna, potato salad and bread.

turtle

(say **ter**-tl)

noun a reptile with a hard shell covering its body, that lives in the sea:

The turtle pulled its head into its shell as we approached.

tutu

(say **tooh**-tooh)

noun a short ballet skirt, usually made out of layers of net-like material:

The ballerina leapt onto the stage in a tutu covered in sparkling crystals.

umpire

(say **um**-puy-uh)

noun someone who makes sure a game is played according to the rules:

The umpire sent the player off the field because she had broken the rules.

verbal

(say **verb**-uhl)

adjective **Verbal** means relating to words or language:

The stroke affected parts of his verbal ability.

video

(say **vid**-ee-oh)

noun (plural **videos**)

A **video** is a film, television show or event which has been recorded on a special tape, and which you can watch on television:

My aunt said she will keep the video we made of her wedding for ever and ever.

virtue

(say **ver**-chooh)

noun a good quality:

The debate was about whether cleanliness or honesty was the most important virtue.

voice

(say voys)

noun Your **voice** is the sound or sounds you make with your mouth when you speak

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or sing:

You've got such a soft voice that I can only just hear you.

walnut

(say **wawl**-nut)

noun a type of round nut with a wrinkly shell:

Would you like me to crack a walnut for you?

wealth

(say welth)

noun a large store of money and property:

A secret benefactor donated all of their wealth to the animal shelter.

weather

(say **wedh**-uh)

noun the state of the atmosphere, including the temperature, wind, rain and so on:

The weather has been nice and sunny, but it is starting to rain now.

weedy

(say **weed**-ee)

adjective (**weedier**; **weediest**)

thin and weak:

The patient was pale and weedy when he left the hospital, but he quickly recuperated.

wheel

(say weel)

noun a circular frame or solid disc turning on an axle, used in machinery and on vehicles:

My bike needed a new wheel after I crashed into a tree.

would

(say wood)

verb You use **would** to show that you want to do something:

I would love to come to the party.

wrap

(say rap)

verb If you **wrap** something, you fold paper or some other material around it so as to cover it completely:

Sergio had some green paper to wrap Lyn's present.

yield

(say yeeld)

noun the quantity of something yielded:

The yield is more than a tonne a hectare.

yoga

(say **yoh**-guh)

noun a set of exercises which involve deep breathing and holding unusual body positions, in order to reach a calm, peaceful state of mind:

My mother does yoga to relax.

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abacus

(say **ab**-uh-kuhs)

noun a frame with rods through it which hold beads used for counting:

The abacus was used as a calculation tool in ancient times.

abandon

(say uh-**ban**-duhn)

verb to leave completely and finally:

They decided to abandon the raft and continue their journey on foot.

abdomen

(say **ab**-duh-muhn)

noun the main part of the body that contains the stomach and other organs:

She had a pain in her abdomen.

abduct

(say uhb-**dukt**)

verb To **abduct** someone is to kidnap them or carry them away by force:

The villains planned to abduct the prince.

abrasive

(say uh-**bray**-siv or uh-**bray**-ziv)

adjective any material or substance used for grinding:

Mum used a really abrasive sandpaper to get off the old paint.

absurd

(say uhb-**serd** or uhb-**zerd**)

adjective foolish or without common sense:

Toni's suggestion to have ice-cream for breakfast was absurd!

academic

(say ak-uh-**dem**-ik)

adjective belonging to a college or university:

Julia tried to fit her tennis training around her academic program.

access

(say **ak**-sess)

noun the right of coming to someone or something:

Do you have access to the library?

accomplish

(say uh-**kum**-plish or uh-**kom**-plish)

verb to carry out something successfully:

Sally was determined to accomplish her ambition to become a pilot.

accountant

(say uh-**kown**-tuhnt)

noun someone whose job is to examine and record all the money that is earned and spent in a business:

It is important to be good at maths if you want to be an accountant.

actually

(say **ak**-chooh-uh-lee)

adverb really or as an actual or existing fact:

Actually, I am busy this weekend.

adapt

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(say uh-**dapt**)

verb to change something so that it is suited to a new or different situation:

We had to learn to adapt to the different climate when we moved to Brisbane.

additive

(say **ad**-uh-tiv)

noun something which is added, especially a chemical added to food to keep it fresh:

Preservatives are a common food additive.

adverse

(say **ad**-vers or uhd-**vers**)

adjective threatening or hostile:

His new book was subject to adverse criticism.

agenda

(say uh-**jen**-duh)

noun the list or plan of what has to be done or talked about, especially at a meeting:

They reserved the issue of junk food for the next meeting's agenda.

ailment

(say **ayl**-muhnt)

noun an illness:

*She has a serious **ailment**.*

almond

(say **ah**-muhnd)

noun an oval-shaped, cream-coloured nut with a sweet taste:

My neighbour makes a delicious almond cake.

annual

(say **an**-yoooh-uhl)

noun a plant that lives for only one season or year:

I think I'll plant a colourful annual in this pot.

appetite

(say **ap**-uh-tuyt)

noun the desire for food:

Your appetite is always good after you go hiking in the bush.

aromatic

(say a-ruh-**mat**-ik)

adjective having a pleasant smell:

We used an aromatic oil in our oil burner.

ashen

(say **ash**-uhn)

adjective grey or ash-coloured:

Her face was ashen when she heard the terrible news.

assortment

(say uh-**sawt**-muhnt)

noun a collection of things of various kinds:

She had an assortment of odd socks.

astonish

(say uh-**ston**-ish)

verb to surprise greatly:

Milly planned to astonish her parents by getting full marks in her exam.

attempt

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(say uh-**tempt**)

verb to try to do something:

He decided to attempt to swim across the river.

attire

(say uh-**tuy-uh**)

verb clothes or apparel:

Aunty Dot always wore strange attire.

attitude

(say **at**-uh-tyoohd)

noun the way you think or behave:

He has a friendly attitude and people like spending time with him.

auction

(say **ok**-shuhn)

noun An **auction** is a sale at which things like houses or paintings are sold to the person who offers the most money:

The house next door was to be sold in an auction.

audio

(say **aw**-dee-oh)

adjective relating to recording or reproducing sound:

We recorded the song for our dance routine onto audio tapes.

awkward

(say **awk**-wuhd)

adjective clumsy:

Leanne looked very awkward as she staggered along with the huge stack of books.

balcony

(say **bal**-kuh-nee)

noun a small verandah, usually up high:

We stood on the balcony and watched the parade pass by.

banquet

(say **bang**-kwuht)

noun a large formal dinner for many guests, usually held for a special occasion:

The visiting president attended a banquet at Parliament House.

basmati

(say baz-**mah**-tee)

noun a type of rice from India:

Basmati is the best rice to serve with this curry.

bazaar

(say buh-**zah**)

noun a market with stalls selling many different kinds of goods:

We bought some colourful scarves at the bazaar.

beige

(say bayzh)

adjective very light brown:

These beige curtains will go with most other colours.

beret

(say **be**-ray)

noun a soft, round cap:

The French man at the cheese shop always wears a beret.

beverage

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(say **bev**-rij or **bev**-uh-rj)

noun a drink of any kind:

A cold beverage is refreshing on a hot day.

biceps

(say **buy**-seps)

noun a large muscle at the top of the arm or the back of the leg:

The weightlifter worked on developing his biceps.

biscuit

(say **biss**-kuht)

noun a small, thin cake which has been baked until it is crisp:

I had a biscuit with my coffee.

bonsai

(say **bon**-suy)

noun a tree grown in a special way that keeps it very small, by keeping it in a small pot and cutting its roots and branches:

We have a very small bonsai in a pot on our coffee table.

boulder

(say **bohl**-duh)

noun a very large rock:

He jumped onto a boulder in the middle of the creek.

bovine

(say **boh**-vuyn)

adjective having to do with the family of cud-chewing animals that includes cows, bulls and oxen:

Cattle, water buffalo and yaks are all part of the bovine family.

boycott

(say **boy**-kot)

verb If you **boycott** something, you refuse to go to it:

She decided to boycott the meeting as a protest against the new policy.

braille

(say brayl)

noun a system of printing using raised dots which blind people can read by touch:

Using braille, my blind grandfather was able to read again.

briefcase

(say **breef**-kays)

noun a flat case for carrying books and papers:

Mum could never fit her lunch in her briefcase, so she always had to take another bag.

brilliance

(say **bril**-yuhns)

noun great brightness:

The brilliance of the sportsground lights was almost blinding.

budget

(say **buj**-uht)

noun a plan showing what money you will earn and how you will spend it:

I've got a budget so that I can save up for a new bike.

business

(say **biz**-nuhs)

noun the work someone does to earn a living:

Her business is making jewellery.

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calamari

(say kal-uh-**mah**-ree)

noun squid when it is used as food:

I love crumbed calamari with chips.

calcium

(say **kal**-see-uhm)

noun a soft, silvery-white type of metal which is found in limestone and chalk, as well as in teeth and bones:

If you have enough calcium in your diet you will have strong bones and teeth.

callous

(say **kal**-uhs)

adjective showing no concern for another person's feelings:

Ignoring his cry for help was both callous and cruel.

capacity

(say kuh-**pas**-uh-tee)

noun the quantity or amount which can be held or contained:

The fuel tank has a capacity of fifty litres.

carafe

(say kuh-**rahf**)

noun a glass bottle used for serving water, wine or fruit juice at a meal table:

She poured some homemade lemonade from the glass carafe.

cashmere

(say **kash**-mear)

noun fine wool obtained from the Kashmir goats of India, often used to make clothes:

Cashmere clothing is very soft and comfortable to wear, but also very expensive.

cassata

(say kuh-**sah**-tuh)

noun a type of gelato containing chopped nuts and mixed fruit:

Her two favourite flavours are lemon and cassata.

casserole

(say **kass**-uh-rohl)

noun a dish, usually a mixture of meat and vegetables, cooked in a covered baking dish:

A piping hot casserole is delicious on a freezing cold night.

cavalry

(say **kav**-uhl-ree)

noun the group of soldiers within an army which used to ride horses:

The cavalry was an important part of an army because they could move with great speed.

ceiling

(say **see**-ling)

noun the inside lining that covers the top of a room:

An old chandelier hung from the ceiling.

celebrity

(say suh-**leb**-ruh-tee)

noun a famous or well-known person:

The celebrity was followed by hundreds of photographers as she jogged along the beach.

cellular

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(say **sel**-yuh-luh)

adjective relating to a cell:

Using a microscope, we could see the cellular structure of the leaf.

chemist

(say **kem**-uhst)

noun A **chemist** is someone whose job is to make and sell medicines:

The chemist sold Sarah a new medicine for headaches.

chlorine

(say **klaw**-reen)

noun a greenish-yellow gas which is dissolved in water and used to keep swimming pools clean:

After I've been swimming in the pool, my hair smells of chlorine.

chortle

(say **chaw**-tl)

verb to chuckle loudly with amusement:

A chortle is a cross between a chuckle and a snort.

chutney

(say **chut**-nee)

noun a spicy, jam-like food made from fruit, sugar, spices and vinegar:

Chutney is often served on the side of Indian dishes.

committee

(say kuh-**mit**-ee)

noun a group of people chosen from a larger group to discuss or make decisions about a particular subject:

There is a separate committee for each stall at the fete.

communal

(say kuh-**myooh**-nuhl)

adjective shared or used by several people:

The hostel has a communal kitchen where anybody can make meals at any time.

composure

(say kuhm-**poh**-zhuh)

noun calmness of mind:

We were impressed with her composure when someone spilt a drink on her new white dress.

condone

(say kuhn-**dohn**)

verb to pardon, excuse or overlook something:

I will never condone cruelty to animals.

conscious

(say **kon**-shuhs)

adjective To be **conscious** is to be aware of what is happening around you:

He was conscious during the medical procedure.

constable

(say **kun**-stuh-buhl)

noun a police officer of the lowest rank:

We were surprised to see the constable at the pub when he was still in uniform.

consulate

(say **kon**-syuh-luht)

noun the offices of a consul, who is a representative of a foreign government:

Before flying to Beijing, we had to get our visas from the Chinese consulate.

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convene

(say kuhn-**veen**)

verb If you **convene** a meeting, you arrange it:

We need to convene a meeting to talk about the school camp.

corgi

(say **kaw**-gee)

noun (plural **corgis**)

a dog with short legs and a thick body:

My neighbour's corgi had a black spot on his tail.

coroner

(say **kor**-uh-nuh)

noun an official who is in charge of trying to discover the cause of sudden or unexplained deaths:

There was insufficient evidence so the coroner called the death an accident.

corrosive

(say kuh-**roh**-siv)

adjective having the quality of corroding or eating away:

If you spill that corrosive acid on the metal, it will eat away the surface.

courtesy

(say **ker**-tuh-see)

noun politeness and good manners:

Her courtesy and understanding were appreciated by everyone.

crescent

(say **krez**-uhnt or **kress**-uhnt)

noun a curved shape:

The moon was full and round last week, but tonight it is a beautiful silver crescent.

crouton

(say **krooh**-ton)

noun a small piece of fried or toasted bread served in soup, etc:

She picked the last crouton out of her soup.

cruelty

(say **krooh**-uhl-tee)

noun behaviour that causes pain or hardship to others:

We protested against cruelty to animals.

cryptic

(say **krip**-tik)

adjective mysterious, or difficult to understand:

I was baffled by her cryptic email.

culinary

(say **kul**-uhn-ree)

adjective relating to cooking:

His culinary skills had improved after attending cooking classes.

curator

(say kyoooh-**ray**-tuh)

noun someone who looks after a museum, art gallery or similar kind of collection:

The curator of the exhibition was congratulated.

currency

(say **ku**-ruhn-see)

noun the type of money in current use in a country:

He changed his American dollars into Australian currency.

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curtail

(say ker-**tayl**)

verb to cut short:

We had to curtail our holiday.

debtor

(say **det**-uh)

noun someone who owes money:

The accountant wrote to the debtor reminding him of the unpaid invoice.

deceive

(say duh-**seev**)

verb To **deceive** someone is to trick them or hide the truth from them:

He could not deceive them -- they knew immediately that he wasn't telling the truth.

decision

(say duh-**sizh**-uhn)

noun the act of deciding or making up your mind:

He was glad that he had made the decision to travel by train.

deformity

(say duh-**fawm**-uh-tee)

noun the state of being out of shape or spoiled in the way something looks:

His curved back was a result of bad posture, not deformity.

delicacy

(say **del**-uh-kuh-see)

noun a tasty or expensive food:

Caviar is considered a delicacy by many.

delusion

(say duh-**looh**-zhuhn or duh-**lyooh**-zhuhn)

noun false belief:

Her latest delusion was that one of her ears was longer than the other.

demise

(say duh-**muyz**)

noun death or coming to an end:

His demise came after a long illness.

desolate

(say **dess**-uh-luht or **dez**-uh-luht)

adjective If someone is **desolate**, they feel sad and hopeless:

They felt desolate after losing all their possessions.

detective

(say duh-**tek**-tiv)

adjective having to do with investigating something, especially something puzzling:

Miske was very curious about her new neighbours and decided to do some detective work.

dexterity

(say deks-**te**-ruh-tee)

noun skill or cleverness, especially in using your hands:

It takes great dexterity to juggle three balls.

dignitary

(say **dig**-nuh-tree or **dig**-nuh-tuh-ree)

noun someone who is in an important position, especially in government:

The visiting dignitary was asked to open the new library.

digress

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(say duy-**gress**)

verb to wander away from the main subject you are writing or speaking about:

The lecturer decided to digress from the subject for a moment to tell us a funny joke.

dinosaur

(say **duyn**-uh-saw)

noun any of a number of very large lizard-like animals which died out millions of years ago:

The brontosaurus was a herbivorous dinosaur.

directory

(say duh-**rek**-tuh-ree or duh-**rek**-tree)

noun (plural **directories**)

a book containing an alphabetical list of names and addresses, maps, or other types of information:

I always kept a street directory in my car.

disappointed

(say dis-uh-**pynt**-uhd)

adjective If you are **disappointed**, you are sad because something you had hoped for has not happened:

Ines was disappointed that it was raining on the day of the party.

discipline

(say **diss**-uh-pluhn)

noun training given to teach good behaviour:

I took my dog to a training school to improve her discipline.

discreet

(say duh-**skreet**)

adjective If you are **discreet**, you are able to keep secrets:

You can tell her anything because she is very discreet.

disperse

(say duhs-**pers**)

verb To **disperse** things is to scatter them around:

He dispersed seeds over the newly dug ground.

dissipate

(say **diss**-uh-payt)

verb to scatter or disappear in different directions:

She did her best to dissipate my worries.

dough

(say doh)

noun a mixture of flour and water or milk which is baked to make bread or pastry:

When we were camping, we mixed up some dough and made a big damper over the camp fire.

dungeon

(say **dun**-juhn)

noun a dark, small prison or cell, usually underground:

The soldiers were held captive in the cold, dark dungeon of the castle.

dynasty

(say **din**-uh-stee)

noun a series of rulers who are members of the same family:

The Ming dynasty ruled in China for hundreds of years.

element

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(say **el**-uh-muhnt)

noun a substance that cannot be broken down into anything else:

Hydrogen is an element and so is oxygen.

eligible

(say **el**-uh-juh-buhl)

adjective If someone is **eligible** they are accepted as suitable:

Because his birthday fell in April, he was eligible for the older team.

elusive

(say uh-**looh**-siv or ee-**looh**-siv)

adjective hard to find or get hold of:

He spent years searching for the elusive treasure.

emergency

(say uh-**mer**-juhn-see)

noun something serious that happens when it is not expected:

There was an emergency at the hospital because the electricity had failed.

emperor

(say **em**-puh-ruh)

noun a man who rules over a group of countries:

Julius Caesar was an emperor of the Roman Empire.

employee

(say em-**ploy**-ee or em-**ploy**-ee)

noun someone who is paid to work by an employer:

The new employee was introduced to the rest of the workers.

engineer

(say en-juh-**near**)

noun someone who is trained to design and build things and to use machinery:

His father was an engineer who designed roads and bridges.

enzyme

(say **en**-zuym)

noun a protein in the body which produces a chemical change:

Each enzyme aids the digestion of food in the stomach.

episode

(say **ep**-uh-sohd)

noun any of the separate programs making up a series on television:

What happened in last night's episode of 'The Simpsons'?

exceed

(say uhk-**seed**)

verb To **exceed** is to go outside a limit of some kind:

Mum was careful not to exceed the speed limit on the expressway.

executive

(say uhg-**zek**-yuh-tiv)

noun someone responsible for carrying out plans, especially in a business:

She is hoping to become an executive in the company.

exhaust

(say uhg-**zawst**)

verb If you **exhaust** yourself, you wear yourself out:

They exhausted themselves doing a long hike.

expendable

(say uhks-**pen**-duh-buhl or eks-**pen**-duh-buhl)

adjective not so important that it can't be sacrificed for a good reason:

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Our backpacks were too heavy so we took out the items that we thought were expendable.

expertise

(say eks-per-**teez**)

noun expert skill or knowledge:

Her expertise in environmental science was sought by many governments.

exterior

(say uhks-**teer**-ree-uh)

noun Something is **exterior** if it is on the outside of a place or building:

The exterior of the building was painted dark green.

extremity

(say uhk-**strem**-uh-tee or ek-**strem**-uh-tee)

noun the extreme point or part of something:

The lighthouse was located at the furthest extremity of the promontory.

falsify

(say **fawl**-suh-fuy)

verb to make false or incorrect statements, especially to deceive someone:

They attempted to falsify the evidence but were caught out.

familiar

(say fuh-**mil**-yuh)

adjective well-known:

She was quite shy until she saw a familiar face.

ferocious

(say fuh-**roh**-shuhs)

adjective savagely fierce and violently cruel:

Africa has many ferocious animals.

finesse

(say fuh-**nes**)

noun the ability to do something well, especially with attention to small details:

It's not surprising she lost the game because she did not play with her usual finesse.

flail

(say flayl)

verb to flap about:

When the lifeguard saw the swimmer flail his arms, she knew he was in trouble.

flippant

(say **flip**-uhnt)

adjective not suitably serious:

Please do not make flippant remarks about my singing.

fluoride

(say **floo**h-ruyd)

noun a chemical which protects your teeth from decay:

The toothpaste I use contains fluoride to keep my teeth strong.

foreign

(say **fo**-ruhn)

adjective Someone or something **foreign** is from a country other than your own:

Can you speak any foreign languages?

fracas

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(say **frak**-ah or **frak**-uhs)

noun a noisy disturbance or fight:

The police were called to break up the fracas outside parliament.

freight

(say frayt)

noun goods sent by air, sea or land:

The freight train was over a kilometre long.

gangrene

(say **gang**-green)

noun the rotting of flesh on the body caused by the blood supply being cut off:

My grandfather suffered from gangrene during the war and lost his left leg.

gelato

(say juh-**lah**-toh)

noun an iced sweet made from cream, milk or water:

Which flavour gelato will I have? Lemon, chocolate or strawberry?

ghastly

(say **gahst**-lee)

adjective very bad or unpleasant:

The result of mixing all the paints was a ghastly brown colour.

gourmet

(say **gaw**-may)

noun someone who knows a lot about good food and drink:

George thinks of himself as a gourmet and likes to talk at length about food.

gruesome

(say **grooh**-suhm)

adjective causing feelings of horror:

The house had a gruesome history which terrified people when they heard it.

guarantee

(say ga-ruhn-**tee**)

noun a promise to replace or repair something if it is faulty:

Some new cars have a three-year guarantee.

guardian

(say **gah**-dee-uhn)

noun someone who is appointed by law to take care of another person and their property:

The court appointed a guardian to look after the child.

heifer

(say **hef**-uh)

noun a young cow that has not had a calf:

There was only one heifer in the herd of cows.

herbivore

(say **her**-buh-vaw)

noun an animal that eats plants:

The giraffe is a herbivore that eats leaves high in trees.

hibernate

(say **huy**-buh-nayt)

verb When animals **hibernate**, they sleep through the winter in a safe place:

Grizzly bears hibernate for the winter.

horde

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(say hawd)

noun a great crowd or number:

A horde of supporters welcomed the winning team home.

horoscope

(say **ho**-ruh-skohp)

noun a diagram showing the position of the planets in the sky at a particular time and thought by some people to be a help in telling the future:

The clairvoyant studied her client's horoscope to reveal the future.

hybrid

(say **huy**-bruhd)

noun an animal or plant that is the result of breeding between different types:

This plant is a hybrid, bred to resist frost.

hygiene

(say **huy**-jeen)

noun the cleanliness needed to stay healthy:

Good hygiene, such as washing your hands and brushing your teeth, helps you to stay healthy.

hysteria

(say his-**teer**-ree-uh)

noun an uncontrollable emotional state:

She rang me in a state of hysteria after hearing about the accident.

ignorant

(say **ig**-nuh-ruhnt)

adjective uneducated or knowing very little about a particular subject:

Growing up in the outback, he was ignorant of life in the city.

immobile

(say i-**moh**-buyl)

adjective not moving; motionless:

The traffic jam was so bad that we were immobile for nearly an hour.

impasse

(say **im**-pahs)

noun a situation from which there is no way out:

With mountains on three sides and the sea on the other, the escapees had reached an impasse.

impromptu

(say im-**promp**-tyooh)

adjective made or done on the spot, without any previous preparation:

At my friend's birthday party, they asked me to give an impromptu performance on the piano, so I played my favourite piece.

incense

(say **in**-sens)

noun a substance which gives off a sweet smell when burnt:

The smell of the burning incense still hung in the air of the temple.

inertia

(say in-**er**-shuh)

noun the tendency of something to continue to stay still or keep moving in the same direction:

We did an experiment in our physics class to learn about the property of inertia.

infamy

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(say **in**-fuh-mee)

noun (plural **-mies**)

ill fame or public dishonour:

He was a dictator who was known for the infamy of his crimes.

influenza

(say in-flooh-**en**-zuh)

noun a sickness caused by a virus which affects the nose and throat and causes high temperatures and tiredness:

Some people have vaccinations against influenza each year.

inhumane

(say in-hyoooh-**mayn**)

adjective showing no pity or compassion; not humane:

The dogs were treated in an inhumane manner.

inquest

(say in-**kwest**)

noun an official examination of the facts surrounding a death, to try to find out how the death occurred:

The coroner ordered an inquest into the death.

insignia

(say in-**sig**-nee-uh)

plural noun badges or other special decorations that are worn by someone who holds a position or rank:

The mayor wore chains and other insignia of her office.

insipid

(say in-**sip**-uhd)

adjective not having much taste:

Mum said that her coffee was rather insipid and asked for it to be stronger next time.

insomnia

(say in-**som**-nee-uh)

noun a condition in which you have difficulty sleeping:

Insomnia can lead to lack of concentration and weariness.

inspiration

(say in-spuh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun something that gives you a new idea, thought, feeling, etc.:

The dream I had last night was the inspiration for the story I am writing.

intercept

(say in-tuh-**sept**)

verb If you **intercept** something, you catch or stop it as it goes from one place to another:

I was able to intercept the ball just before it touched the ground.

interpretation

(say in-**ter**-pruh-tay-shun)

noun a particular explanation:

He claimed that the media's interpretation of his statement was biased.

intervene

(say in-tuh-**veen**)

verb To **intervene** is to step in, in order to change or solve something:

The teacher had to intervene in the argument.

jaguar

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(say **jag**-yooh-uh)

noun a large, fierce, spotted cat found in tropical South America:

I saw a jaguar at the zoo.

jaundice

(say **jawn**-duhs)

noun a disease in which the skin and the whites of the eyes become yellow:

Babies quite often have jaundice for a while just after they are born.

jewel

(say **joo**h-uhl)

noun a precious stone, such as a diamond or ruby, which has been cut in a special shape:

If I had to choose my favourite jewel, it would be a diamond.

junction

(say **jungk**-chuh)

noun a particular point in time:

At the most important junction in the whole evening, the electricity suddenly went off.

juvenile

(say **joo**h-vuh-nuyl)

adjective acting as if you are younger than you are:

The teacher said our silly behaviour at the pool was juvenile.

kilojoule

(say **kil**-uh-joohl)

noun a metric measure of work or energy equal to 1000 joules or the amount of food needed to produce it:

They walked slowly so as not to waste a single kilojoule of their remaining energy.

knight

(say nuyt)

noun in medieval times, a man of noble birth who promised to serve and fight for a king:

The film was about a brave knight who fought for King Arthur.

knoll

(say nol)

noun a small, rounded hill:

There was a hut on a little knoll between the two gullies.

laurel

(say **lo**-ruhl)

noun a small evergreen tree with leaves that are used as a herb in cooking:

Mum grew a laurel near her herb garden so that she could use the leaves in her cooking.

lectern

(say **lek**-tuhn)

noun a reading desk, especially in a church:

The minister gave his address from the lectern.

legume

(say **leg**-yoohm)

noun any of a family of flowering plants which have pods as fruits, such as peas, beans, and so on:

They planted green peas and other legumes in the vegetable patch.

leisurely

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(say **lezh**-uh-lee)

adjective unhurried:

There was plenty of time, so we walked at a leisurely pace.

lichen

(say **luy**-kuhn)

noun a moss-like plant that grows in patches, usually on rocks or tree trunks:

The lichen on the rocks made a pretty pattern.

loofah

(say **looh**-fuh)

noun a bath sponge made from the fruit of a tropical, climbing herb:

The gift basket contained two scented soaps, a loofah, and a moisturiser.

lukewarm

(say **loohk**-wawm)

adjective a bit warm:

Mum said that I should wash my jumper in lukewarm water.

luncheon

(say **lunch**-uhn)

noun a rather formal lunch:

Luncheon at the hotel was to be served in the main dining room.

lustre

(say **lust**-uh)

noun a soft shine:

Satin has a beautiful lustre.

lycra

(say **luy**-kruh)

noun a synthetic knitted fabric with great elasticity:

Her gymnastics outfit was made of lycra.

machinery

(say muh-**sheen**-uh-ree)

noun machines in general:

Machinery has made our lives easier.

mackerel

(say **mak**-uh-ruhl)

noun a shiny, greenish fish which is used for food:

The mackerel was served with chips and a wedge of lemon.

magistrate

(say **maj**-uhs-trayt)

noun someone who acts as a judge in some less important court cases:

He had to appear before a magistrate for not paying his speeding fine.

maize

(say mayz)

noun a tall cereal plant with heads of yellow grain:

We had a bumper maize crop this year.

mandatory

(say **man**-duh-tree)

adjective required or essential:

A life sentence is mandatory for some types of crime.

manure

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(say muh-**nyoooh**-uh)

noun animal waste, especially when used as fertiliser:

Mum fertilises the garden with manure from the hens.

maritime

(say **ma**-ruh-tuym)

adjective having to do with ships and sailing:

Have you visited the maritime museum?

marvellous

(say **mah**-vuh-luhs)

adjective wonderful:

We had a marvellous time at the party last night.

matador

(say **mat**-uh-daw)

noun the bullfighter who kills the bull in a bullfight:

The crowd cheered as the matador arrived.

mayor

(say mair)

noun the person elected to lead a city:

The mayor welcomed the visiting soccer team.

meteor

(say **mee**-tee-aw)

noun a small piece of rock from outer space which burns brightly after entering the earth's atmosphere:

Some scientists think dinosaurs became extinct because the earth was hit by a huge meteor.

microscope

(say **muy**-kruh-skohp)

noun an instrument used for looking at extremely tiny things that you normally cannot see:

We examined a mosquito under the microscope.

millipede

(say **mil**-uh-peed)

noun a small creature like a caterpillar with a long body made up of many parts, most of which have two pairs of legs:

The millipede kept moving so it was impossible to count how many legs it had.

minimum

(say **min**-uh-muhm)

noun the smallest number or amount possible:

You need a minimum of ten test tubes to complete this experiment.

minstrel

(say **min**-struhl)

noun a musician in the Middle Ages who sang or recited poetry while playing an instrument:

The minstrel wandered around the tavern, singing songs of brave knights.

mischief

(say **mis**-chuhf)

noun behaviour meant to tease or annoy:

My little brother had been up to mischief again -- there was a huge plastic spider in the bath!

molecule

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(say **mol**-uh-kyoohl)

noun the smallest unit or particle into which something can be divided without changing its features:

A molecule of water is made up of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen.

monotony

(say muh-**not**-uh-nee)

noun lack of change or variety, which produces boredom:

The road was straight for hundreds of kilometres with nothing to relieve the monotony.

mousse

(say mooohs)

noun a food made of whipped cream and beaten eggs:

We had chocolate mousse for dessert.

multitude

(say **mul**-tuh-tyoohd)

noun a large number of things or people:

We received a multitude of complaints.

mundane

(say mun-**dayn**)

adjective ordinary or boring:

Choir practice can be mundane at times.

musketeer

(say mus-kuh-**teer**)

noun a soldier armed with an old-fashioned type of gun called a musket:

The hero of the story was a musketeer who rescued the imprisoned king.

myriad

(say **mi**-ree-uhd)

noun a very great number:

The prime minister was bombarded with a myriad questions at the press conference.

mystify

(say **mis**-tuh-fuy)

verb If something **mystifies** you, you find it puzzling and difficult to understand:

A skilled magician can mystify an audience with acts of magic.

nautilus

(say **naw**-tuh-luhs)

noun a kind of sea creature with a spiral shell divided into many parts:

While we were snorkelling, we saw lots of colourful fish, a tortoise and a nautilus in its shell.

necessary

(say **nes**-uh-se-ree)

adjective If something is **necessary**, you need it:

Have you got all the necessary ingredients for the cake?

negotiate

(say nuh-**goh**-shee-ayt)

verb To **negotiate** is to arrange by discussion:

The hotel had to negotiate a solution with neighbouring properties about the noise on Saturday nights.

neurotic

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(say nyoooh-**rot**-ik)

adjective on edge and behaving strangely, because of a disorder of the mind:

His neurotic behaviour made us all uneasy.

nominee

(say nom-uh-**nee**)

noun someone put forward usually to fill an office or stand for election:

The office put his name forward as a nominee for president of the association.

nucleus

(say **nyoooh**-klee-uhs)

noun in biology, the central part of a living cell:

When the doctor examined the blood under the microscope he found that the nucleus of each cell was damaged.

obedient

(say uh-**bee**-dee-uhnt)

adjective If you are **obedient**, you follow someone else's wishes or commands:

The obedient kelpie came as soon as she was called.

obliging

(say uh-**bluy**-jing)

adjective willing to do favours or services:

The clerk was most obliging.

occupant

(say **ok**-yuh-puhnt)

noun someone who lives in or occupies a house or a room:

She was the only occupant in the house when the blackout occurred.

officiate

(say uh-**fish**-ee-ayt)

verb to perform the duties of an office or position:

The mayor was asked to officiate at our school's Presentation Night.

onslaught

(say **on**-slawt)

noun a fierce rush or attack:

The troops could not advance against the onslaught of enemy fire.

opportune

(say **op**-uh-choohn)

adjective Formal favourable or appropriate:

She waited for an opportune moment to interrupt the discussion.

orator

(say **o**-ruh-tuh)

noun a public speaker, especially a skilful one:

The audience was captivated by the orator and his speech.

oregano

(say o-ruh-**gah**-noh)

noun a herb of the mint family, used in cooking:

The pizza just needed a pinch of oregano on it before going in the oven.

ottoman

(say **ot**-uh-muhn)

noun a low padded seat without a back or arms:

He chose to sit on the ottoman instead of the armchair.

pacify

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(say **pas**-uh-fuy)

verb If you **pacify** someone, you make them peaceful or calm:

She pacified the whimpering child by letting him pat the puppy.

pageant

(say **paj**-uhnt)

noun a colourful public show, often including a procession of people in costume:

The pageant had been held once a year since medieval times.

palpitate

(say **pal**-puh-tayt)

verb If your heart **palpitates**, it beats much faster than normal:

The doctor advised him to go to the hospital if his heart began to palpitate.

papyrus

(say puh-**puy**-ruhs)

noun a tall water plant:

The Egyptians used to use papyrus to make a material for writing on.

paramount

(say **pa**-ruh-mownt)

adjective above all others in rank, authority or importance:

Installing a fire alarm was the most paramount item on the agenda.

parliament

(say **pah**-luh-muhnt)

noun the national gathering of people elected to make the laws for a country or state:

Sometimes my parents listen to sessions of parliament on the radio.

parody

(say **pa**-ruh-dee)

noun (plural **parodies**)

a humorous copy of a serious piece of writing or music:

They turned a classic novel into a musical parody for their school play.

partridge

(say **pah**-trij)

noun a European bird that is hunted and eaten:

The painting was of an English scene with a partridge perched on the branch of a tree.

pedigree

(say **ped**-uh-gree)

noun a line of direct relationship, showing, for example, the parents, grandparents, and so on, used mainly to show the breeding history of an animal:

My dog is the best, even though we got him from the pound and he doesn't have a pedigree.

pergola

(say **per**-guh-luh or puh-**goh**-luh)

noun a shelter formed of bars supported on posts, over which climbing plants are often grown:

They spent a pleasant afternoon talking and eating under the pergola.

periphery

(say puh-**rif**-uh-ree)

noun the outside edge of an area or thing:

Police officers stood around the periphery of the crowd.

perishable

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(say **pe**-rish-uh-buhl)

adjective likely to decay quickly:

Perishable food should be kept in the refrigerator.

perjury

(say **per**-juh-ree)

noun the crime of telling a lie while under oath, especially in a court:

She was charged with perjury because she lied in the witness box.

perpetrate

(say **per**-puh-trayt)

verb If someone **perpetrates** a wrong action such as a deception or crime, they carry it out:

They planned to perpetrate a hoax that would fool everybody.

perturbed

(say puh-**terbd**)

adjective worried or disturbed:

Mum seemed a bit perturbed by my sudden interest in snakes.

pharmacy

(say **fah**-muh-see)

noun the science of preparing and giving out medications:

My sister is studying pharmacy at university because she wants to prepare medicines that will help people.

plague

(say playg)

noun any serious disease which spreads very quickly:

We saw a film about the plague that killed thousands of people in London in the 17th century.

plasticine

(say **plas**-tuh-seen)

noun a soft substance used for modelling figures:

We moulded the figures for our animation out of plasticine.

plausible

(say **plawz**-uh-buhl)

adjective believable or reasonable:

They didn't think her story about being sick was plausible because she looked so well.

playwright

(say **play**-ruyt)

noun someone who writes plays:

Shakespeare is the most famous English playwright.

podiatry

(say puh-**duy**-uh-tree)

noun the investigation and treatment of foot disorders:

His fascination with feet led him to practise podiatry.

politician

(say pol-uh-**tish**-uhn)

noun A **politician** is someone whose job is to represent people by being a member of the parliament and voting on the laws in the country:

My parents have been writing to our local politician about saving our town's river.

polyester

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(say pol-ee-**es**-tuh)

noun a synthetic material:

These sheets are made of polyester as well as cotton so they are easy to care for.

pompous

(say **pom**-puhs)

adjective Someone who is **pompous** speaks or behaves as if they think they are very important:

No-one voted for him because they thought he was both pompous and ignorant.

porpoise

(say **paw**-puhs)

noun a sea animal with a rounded nose, usually blackish on top and paler beneath, which often jumps out of the water. A **porpoise** is a kind of dolphin:

A porpoise is more like a dolphin than a whale.

posterity

(say pos-**te**-ruh-tee)

noun the generations of people who will live in the future:

Our duty to posterity is to care for the planet.

precinct

(say **pree**-singkt)

noun a place or area with definite limits:

There is a post office in the shopping precinct.

preservative

(say pruh-**zerv**-uh-tiv)

noun a chemical substance that prevents something, such as food, from going bad:

This fruit juice only contains one type of preservative.

prevalent

(say **prev**-uh-luhnt)

adjective widespread:

Snakes seem to be more prevalent this summer.

priority

(say pruy-**o**-ruh-tee)

noun the right to go before someone or something else, because of urgency or importance:

The sickest people are given priority in the hospital's emergency department.

procedure

(say pruh-**see**-juh)

noun a way of doing something:

The procedure for our science experiment was written clearly on the whiteboard.

prodigy

(say **prod**-uh-jee)

noun someone, especially a child, who has talent far greater than is normal:

He was a prodigy in chess from a very early age.

profound

(say pruh-**fownd**)

adjective very deep:

She had a profound love of the outback.

prolific

(say pruh-**lif**-ik)

adjective producing plentifully:

He is a prolific author, publishing a novel every year.

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prologue

(say **proh**-log)

noun anything that introduces something else:

Hurting my tooth at breakfast was the prologue to a day of disasters!

pronounced

(say pruh-**nownst**)

adjective strongly marked:

Since the accident, Steve has had a pronounced limp.

propulsion

(say pruh-**pul**-shuhn)

noun a force which moves something forward:

The missile was under rocket propulsion.

prosperous

(say **pross**-puh-ruhs)

adjective If someone is **prosperous**, they are successful and have good fortune:

They had a prosperous year on the farm after the drought.

pumice

(say **pum**-uhs)

noun a light, spongy form of volcanic stone used for rubbing or smoothing things:

Pumice can be used for smoothing dry skin.

punctual

(say **punk**-chooh-uhl)

adjective If someone is **punctual**, they are always on time:

I try to be punctual for school every day, but sometimes I am a bit late.

pungent

(say **pun**-juhnt)

adjective having a sharp taste or smell:

The pungent odour of acid hurt my nostrils.

pursuit

(say puh-**syooht**)

noun the act of pursuing:

In pursuit of the bandits, they became lost in the forest.

queasy

(say **kwee**-see)

adjective If you are **queasy**, you feel as if you are going to be sick:

Driving along the winding mountain road made me feel very queasy.

quotient

(say **kwoh**-shuhnt)

noun the number or result you get when one number is divided by another:

In the equation $15 \div 3 = 5$, the quotient is 5.

rampage

(say **ram**-payj)

noun violent or angry behaviour:

The mob's rampage ended suddenly.

ramshackle

(say **ram**-shak-uhl)

adjective shaky or likely to collapse:

We found the ramshackle ruins of an old goldmining site.

reality

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(say ree-**al**-uh-tee)

noun the state or fact of being real:

You have to face up to the reality of the situation, even if you don't like it.

recuperate

(say ruh-**kooh**-puh-rayt)

verb If you **recuperate**, you recover from sickness or exhaustion:

It did not take her long to recuperate from the virus because she was so fit.

redundant

(say ruh-**dun**-duhnt)

adjective If an employee is made **redundant**, they are dismissed from their job because the employer no longer needs someone to do that job:

Norman was made redundant because a computer could do his work in a fraction of the time.

regale

(say ruh-**gayl**)

verb to entertain in a pleasant way, especially with good food or drink or with an interesting story:

He regaled us with tales of his adventures.

regiment

(say **rej**-uh-muhnt)

noun a division of an army consisting of two or more battalions:

The commander only sent one regiment from the battalion into battle.

relapse

(say ruh-**laps**)

verb To **relapse** is to return or fall back:

The doctors warned him that he could relapse and end up in hospital again if he didn't get enough rest.

reprieve

(say ruh-**preev**)

noun a delay or cancellation, especially in carrying out a punishment:

She may be given a reprieve because of her remorse over the crime.

republic

(say ruh-**pub**-lik)

noun A **republic** is a country which does not have a king or queen as its leader.

Usually the leader of the country is a president who is chosen by the people:

Australia is not a republic but the United States is.

residual

(say ruh-**zij**-ooh-uhl)

adjective left over:

The residual money was given to charity.

restaurant

(say **res**-tuh-ront)

noun a place where meals are served to customers:

We all went out to a restaurant to celebrate Dad's birthday.

revenue

(say **rev**-uh-nyooh)

noun the money a government makes from taxes and other sources:

Government revenue was increased with the new tax.

rhombus

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(say **rom**-buhs)

noun a shape with four equal sides, and angles that are not right angles:

I have a kite that is in the shape of a rhombus.

rhubarb

(say **rooh**-bahb)

noun a plant whose stalks are cooked to make a dessert:

Rhubarb is delicious with whipped cream.

risotto

(say ruh-**zot**-oh)

noun a food made of rice mixed with meat, fish or vegetables and flavoured with cheese or other flavourings, originating in Italian cooking:

Timing is everything when cooking risotto.

rudiments

(say **rooh**-duh-muhnts)

plural noun the basic elements of a subject:

Everybody should be taught the rudiments of grammar in primary school.

ruminant

(say **rooh**-muh-nuhnt)

noun an animal that chews its cud, such as a cow, deer or sheep:

We learned about the digestive system of the ruminant in science.

sabre

(say **say**-buh)

noun a heavy, slightly curved, one-edged sword:

He leapt from the tower brandishing a sabre.

salvage

(say **sal**-vij)

verb If you **salvage** something, you recover or save it:

She managed to salvage a few possessions after the fire.

sarcasm

(say **sah**-kaz-uhm)

noun the saying of harsh and bitter things, especially by using the trick of saying the opposite of what you really mean, so as to hurt someone's feelings:

'I'm terribly sorry', I said in a cold and cutting voice; but the sarcasm was wasted on him.

schedule

(say **shej**-oohl or **skej**-oohl)

noun a plan which shows you how something is to be carried out and sets out when each stage is to be done:

The tour schedule showed that we would be in Belgium on Tuesday.

secretary

(say **sek**-ruh-tree)

noun someone whose job is to write letters, keep records or make telephone calls for an employer:

The secretary will organise the rooms for the meeting.

sequence

(say **see**-kwuhns)

noun a series of things following each other:

The sequence of events was so quick, we hardly noticed what was happening.

serenade

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(say se-ruh-**nayd**)

noun music traditionally played or sung by a lover under his loved one's window at night:

The prince wooed the maiden with a serenade he had composed himself.

serviette

(say ser-vee-**et**)

noun a piece of cloth or paper, used during a meal to wipe your lips and hands and to protect your clothes:

Mum always tells me to use a serviette, but I usually spill food on my clothes anyway.

shrubbery

(say **shrub**-uh-ree)

noun a group of shrubs or a garden area where they are grown:

In the shrubbery, we found a small garden gnome which had fallen over.

sincere

(say sin-**sear**)

adjective having and expressing true feelings, saying what you mean:

He was sincere in his offer to help paint the fence and was there early the next morning with his paintbrush.

slalom

(say **slay**-luhm or **slah**-luhm)

noun a skiing race with a winding course:

Skiing in the slalom puts a lot of pressure on your knees.

sleuth

(say sloohth)

noun a detective:

Sherlock Holmes is a famous fictional sleuth.

smithereens

(say smidh-uh-**reenz**)

plural noun tiny pieces:

My new glass ornament has broken into smithereens.

solemn

(say **sol**-uhm)

adjective A **solemn** promise or agreement is one that is very sincere, usually made after serious thought:

The politician made a solemn promise that she would fix the transport system if she was voted in.

solicitor

(say suh-**lis**-uh-tuh)

noun a lawyer who advises people about legal matters and prepares cases to be presented in court:

We consulted a solicitor when we wanted to sell our house.

spatial

(say **spay**-shuhl)

adjective relating to the measurement of spaces, distances, areas and the sizes and positions of things:

A surveyor uses special instruments to get accurate spatial measurements of building sites.

spectre

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(say **spek**-tuh)

noun a ghost:

They say a strange spectre appears in the garden every night at midnight.

sporadic

(say spuh-**rad**-ik)

adjective irregular and not very frequent:

Sadly, my visits to the gym are only sporadic.

stupor

(say **styoooh**-puh)

noun a state in which the mind or senses are deadened or not working, as a result of illness or drugs:

She was walking around in a stupor because she was very tired and unwell.

suave

(say swahv)

adjective Someone **suave** is charming and smooth in manner:

His suave manner made people think he was very sophisticated.

subsidiary

(say suhb-**sij**-uh-ree)

noun something of lesser importance:

This small company is a subsidiary of a larger one.

suite

(say sweet)

noun a series or set, especially of furniture or rooms:

The hotel suite was bigger than my house.

suppress

(say suh-**pres**)

verb To **suppress** something is to keep it inside or hidden:

They tried to suppress their laughter, but they failed and started to giggle.

surgeon

(say **ser**-juhn)

noun a doctor who performs surgery:

The surgeon was able to remove my cousin's appendix before it burst.

tactile

(say **tak**-tuyl)

adjective having to do with the sense of touch:

Many lifts have tactile buttons with raised patterns so that visually impaired people can use them.

tambourine

(say tam-buh-**reen**)

noun a type of small drum which has small, round pieces of metal set into a frame, and is played by hitting or shaking it:

You have to have a good sense of rhythm to play the tambourine.

tangerine

(say tan-juh-**reen**)

noun a type of mandarin:

A tangerine is a deep orange or scarlet colour.

tapestry

(say **tap**-uhs-tree)

noun (plural **tapestries**)

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a piece of cloth with a design which has been woven or embroidered, usually by hand:
The tapestry was in exquisitely rich colours of red and burgundy.

tendency

(say **ten**-duhn-see)

noun a natural movement in some direction or towards some point, end or result:
She had a tendency to be stubborn and she refused to give up.

terrine

(say tuh-**reen**)

noun pâté served in an earthenware cooking dish:
Mum made a chicken terrine for us to eat on our picnic.

testimony

(say **tes**-tuh-muh-nee)

noun a statement of what you know to be true, given in a law court:
He was called as a witness to give testimony about what he had seen.

tetanus

(say **tet**-nuhs)

noun an infectious, often deadly disease, which causes extreme stiffness of the muscles of the jaw and other parts of the body:
These days, most people in Australia are immunised against tetanus, so it is not very common.

theorem

(say **thear**-ruhm)

noun a statement containing something to be proved in mathematics:
Our maths teacher showed us two different ways to prove the theorem.

threshold

(say **thresh**-hohld)

noun the entrance to a house or building:
He crossed the threshold and closed the door behind him.

thyme

(say tuym)

noun a common garden herb that is used in cooking:
In a small bowl combine shallots, thyme and bay leaves with salt and pepper.

tolerable

(say **tol**-uh-ruh-buhl)

adjective bearable:
Many people think the climate in northern Queensland is only tolerable if they have air conditioning.

trainee

(say **trayn**-ee)

noun someone who is being taught how to do a particular job:
He is only a medical trainee and had no right to attempt that procedure.

tranquil

(say **trang**-kwuhl)

adjective peaceful or quiet:
It was a tranquil scene beside the river until the tractor arrived.

treacle

(say **tree**-kuhl)

noun a dark, sticky liquid made from sugar:
He added treacle instead of sugar to the biscuit mixture to sweeten it.

treasury

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(say **trezh**-uh-ree)

noun a place where money or valuables are kept:

The treasury was protected by heavily armed guards.

trellis

(say **trel**-uhs)

noun a support made of crossing strips of wood or other material, such as for a vine or creeper to grow on:

We have ivy growing on a trellis in our front garden.

tremulous

(say **trem**-yuh-luhs)

adjective shaky or uncertain:

Her tremulous voice betrayed her nervousness.

tumult

(say **tyooh**-mult)

noun a mental or emotional disturbance:

A tumult of fragmentary thoughts and memories crowded through his mind.

turmoil

(say **ter**-moyl)

noun wild disorder:

The school was in turmoil when the electricity failed.

tuxedo

(say tuk-**see**-doh)

noun a man's black jacket, worn on formal occasions:

He was looking very smart in his new shoes and a hired tuxedo.

typewriter

(say **tuyp**-ruy-tuh)

noun A **typewriter** is a machine with keys which you press to produce numbers and letters like those used in printing:

You would hardly be able to find a typewriter in a normal office these days.

underlying

(say un-duh-**luy**-ing)

adjective fundamental; existing beneath the seeming aspect of:

The underlying problem was that there were not enough resources to go around.

undertow

(say **un**-duh-toh)

noun any strong current below the surface of water, moving in a direction different from that of the surface current:

You need to be careful when you're swimming at the beach because an undertow can carry you out to sea.

unfortunate

(say un-**faw**-chuh-nuht)

adjective not lucky:

You were very unfortunate to miss out on a ticket to the concert.

urgency

(say **er**-juhn-see)

noun a sense that something is pressing and requiring immediate action or attention:

There was a sense of urgency to get to the airport on time.

utensil

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(say yoooh-**ten**-suhl)

noun an implement, especially one of those used for cooking or eating:

This grater is a very useful kitchen utensil.

variety

(say vuh-**ruy**-uh-tee)

noun A **variety** is a number of things of different kinds:

This shop sells a variety of cakes.

vengeful

(say **venj**-fuhl)

adjective desiring, seeking, or taking vengeance; vindictive:

He's not my favourite person -- he's bullying, greedy, self-centred and vengeful!

vertigo

(say **ver**-tuh-goh)

noun a feeling of dizziness, often experienced when looking down from a high place:

People who suffer from vertigo shouldn't go close to the edges of cliffs.

villain

(say **vil**-uhn)

noun a wicked person:

Everyone hissed when the villain came onto the stage.

vinegar

(say **vin**-uh-guh)

noun a sour liquid made from wine or cider and used to flavour food:

Mum made a special sauce with vinegar to go with the roast lamb.

violet

(say **vuy**-uh-luht)

noun A **violet** is a small plant with purple flowers and a beautiful smell:

The scent she wore had the sweet perfume of a violet.

voicemail

(say **voys**-mayl)

noun **Voicemail** is a way of recording messages over the telephone system so that you can listen to them later:

We used to have an answering machine but now we have voicemail.

voluntary

(say **vol**-uhn-tree)

adjective If work is **voluntary** it is unpaid:

The hospital is advertising for voluntary helpers.

walrus

(say **wawl**-ruhs)

noun a large, warm-blooded sea animal with flippers and large tusks:

The walrus lives in the cold arctic seas of the northern hemisphere.

watercourse

(say **waw**-tuh-kaws)

noun a stream of water, like a river or a creek:

A watercourse ran through the property.

wheelbarrow

(say **weel**-ba-roh)

noun a small cart, usually with one wheel at the front and two legs, which you lift when you wheel it along:

We had great fun pushing our smallest cousin around in the wheelbarrow.

whereas

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(say **wair**-az)

conjunction while on the other hand:

Peter came, whereas the others didn't.

withers

(say **widh**-uhz)

plural noun the highest part of a horse's or other animal's back, behind the neck:

The rider patted her horse on its withers to calm it down.

wolves

(say woolvz)

noun plural of **wolf**:

The howling of the the wolves could be heard clearly in the night.

zodiac

(say **zoh**-dee-ak)

noun a part of the sky which forms an imaginary belt through which the sun, moon and planets appear to travel, and which contains twelve constellations which are used in astrology:

Her sign of the zodiac was Aries but she would have liked to have been Aquarius.

Junior General Level 4

abbreviate

(say uh-**bree**-vee-ayt)

verb to make a word shorter by leaving out some of the letters:

You can abbreviate 'Street' to 'St'.

abdicate

(say **ab**-duh-kayt)

verb to give up a position of power and responsibility, especially the right to be king or queen:

When King Edward decided to abdicate, his brother became King.

abolition

(say ab-uh-**lish**-shuhn)

noun the act of putting an end to something:

Many supported the abolition of slavery.

abrasion

(say uh-**bray**-zhuhn)

noun a sore that is caused by a scrape:

He had a nasty abrasion on his knee after the fall.

absorbent

(say uhb-**saw**-buhnt or uhb-**zaw**-buhnt)

adjective able to absorb moisture:

We used absorbent paper towels to clean up the spilt milk.

abysmal

(say uh-**biz**-muhl)

adjective so bad that it could not be worse:

Unfortunately, my attempt to cook a pavlova was an abysmal failure.

accessible

(say uhk-**sess**-uh-buhl)

adjective able to be reached or used:

It is important to have an accessible first aid kit in case of an emergency.

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accusation

(say ak-yooh-**zay**-shuhn)

noun a charge of doing something that is wrong or illegal:

She was hurt by the accusation that she had betrayed her friends.

acknowledge

(say uhk-**nol**-ij)

verb to admit or agree that something is true:

I acknowledge that I was wrong, but I wasn't the only culprit.

acquaintance

(say uh-**kwayn**-tuhns)

noun a person you know:

Dad met an old acquaintance at the conference.

acrylic

(say uh-**kril**-ik)

noun a synthetic material used for clothing:

Clothes made of acrylic are easy to wash and dry.

adhere

(say uhd-**hear**)

verb to stick to something:

You must adhere strictly to the rules.

administration

(say uhd-min-uhs-**tray**-shuhn)

noun the people that run a business or government:

The Rugby League administration is keen to increase the popularity of the sport.

admonish

(say uhd-**mon**-ish)

verb to caution or warn someone:

I had to admonish the people in front of me for talking during the film.

advocate

(say **ad**-vuh-kuht)

noun someone who speaks in favour of a person or cause:

She was an advocate for peace.

aerodrome

(say **air**-ruh-droh-m)

noun a landing field for aeroplanes which is smaller than an airport but which has hangars and other buildings:

The plane was forced to land at the aerodrome instead of the city airport.

albatross

(say **al**-buh-tross)

noun a very large seabird that can fly long distances:

Many sailors believe that it is bad luck to harm an albatross at sea.

amnesty

(say **am**-nuh-stee)

noun a pardon, usually given for crimes against a government:

During the amnesty, people could hand in their illegal weapons without being charged.

amputate

(say **am**-pyuh-tayt)

verb to cut off (a limb, arm, etc.) by a surgical operation:

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The surgeon had to amputate his finger after it had been crushed in an industrial accident.

anarchy

(say **an**-uh-kee)

noun any situation where there is no control or rules:

There was anarchy in the classroom while the teacher was away.

annotate

(say **an**-uh-tayt)

verb to supply with notes or make remarks upon:

It tooks years for the professor to annotate the works of Shakespeare.

anonymous

(say uh-**non**-uh-muhs)

adjective If a piece of writing is **anonymous**, the writer does not want to tell people who they are:

The poem in the school magazine was anonymous, but we could guess who wrote it.

approximate

(say uh-**prok**-suh-muht)

adjective fairly accurate but not completely exact:

The approximate time of arrival is 11 a.m.

arbitrary

(say **ah**-buh-truh-ree or **ah**-buh-tree)

adjective If someone does something in an **arbitrary** way, their action is not based on reason or a system but on how they feel at the time:

Her decisions were always so arbitrary we never knew what to expect.

artillery

(say ah-**til**-uh-ree)

noun large guns on wheels:

The army won the battle with the use of heavy artillery.

ascertain

(say ass-uh-**tayn**)

verb When you **ascertain** something, you find out or determine that it is true:

The detectives managed to ascertain that the suspect had been at the scene of the crime.

askew

(say uhs-**kyooh**)

adverb out of position:

His cap had slipped askew.

autopsy

(say **aw**-top-see)

noun the examination of a dead body to discover the cause of death:

They performed an autopsy on the body found in the alley.

azure

(say **ay**-zhuh or az-**yoo**-uh)

adjective of a pale blue or sky-blue colour:

The sky was a lovely azure colour.

basilica

(say buh-**sil**-ik-uh)

noun a large oblong building in Roman times:

The basilica was used as a meeting place.

beneficial

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(say ben-uh-**fish**-uhl)

adjective helpful:

We looked forward to the beneficial effects of a long holiday.

bisector

(say buy-**sek**-tuh)

noun a line or plane which divides an angle or line into two:

He used a protractor to draw the bisector of the angle.

bisque

(say bisk)

noun pottery which has been baked but not glazed:

On the sideboard was a bisque pottery piece of a drinking man with a sad dog.

brigadier

(say brig-uh-**dear**)

noun an army officer of high rank:

My grandfather was a brigadier in the Vietnam War.

bronchial

(say **brong**-kee-uhl)

adjective relating to the passages that lead to your lungs:

Coughing and wheezing are symptoms of a bronchial infection.

burglary

(say **berg**-luh-ree)

noun the crime of breaking into a building to steal things:

We were worried because there had been a burglary in the building next door.

calibre

(say **kal**-uh-buh)

noun the ability or character of a person:

A person of such high calibre is not easy to find.

cassava

(say kuh-**sah**-vuh)

noun a family of tropical plants whose roots are used for food:

Cassava is the source of tapioca.

casualty

(say **kazh**-yoooh-uhl-tee)

noun someone hurt or killed in an accident or war:

The only casualty of the accident was taken to hospital in an ambulance.

caustic

(say **koss**-tik)

adjective capable of burning or eating away living cells in the body:

We handled the caustic cleaning substance with great care.

centaur

(say **sen**-taw)

noun a creature from Greek mythology, said to be half man and half horse:

Holding a sword in one hand, and a shield in the other, the centaur galloped into battle.

centurion

(say sen-**tyoooh**-ree-uhn)

noun in the ancient Roman army, the leader of 100 soldiers:

The centurion led his men into battle.

champagne

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(say sham-**payn**)

noun a bubbly white wine:

The waiter poured glasses of champagne for the toast to the bride and groom.

chancellor

(say **chan**-suh-luh or **chahn**-suh-luh)

noun the honorary head of a university:

The chancellor arrived at the graduation ceremony in her colourful robes.

chicory

(say **chik**-uh-ree)

noun (plural **-ries**)

a blue-flowered herb, the leaves of which may be used in salads, while the roasted, powdered roots are added to coffee:

The amount of chicory used in the recipe is a question of taste.

chimpanzee

(say chim-pan-**zee**)

noun a large monkey from Africa which spends much of its life in the trees:

We saw a baby chimpanzee at the zoo.

citadel

(say **sit**-uh-del)

noun a fort or strongly defended place, built to protect or control a city:

The enemy forces were approaching the city's citadel at great speed.

competent

(say **kom**-puh-tuhnt)

adjective able or skilful:

She is a competent swimmer and was able to help others in the rough surf.

comprehensive

(say kom-pruh-**hen**-siv)

adjective including a great deal:

We took a comprehensive guidebook with us on our trip.

conceited

(say kuhn-**seet**-uhd)

adjective too proud of yourself, your own abilities, etc.:

His huge success as a writer has made him very conceited.

conceptual

(say kuhn-**sep**-chooh-uhl)

adjective relating to the forming of concepts or ideas:

The design of the building is still at the conceptual stage.

condescend

(say kon-duh-**send**)

verb If someone **condescends** to do something, they do it even though they think that they are really too important for it:

Today the boss is going to condescend to have lunch with the workers.

congenial

(say kuhn-**jee**-nee-uhl)

adjective pleasant or agreeable:

The friends had a congenial lunch with lots of laughter and conversation.

conjecture

(say kuhn-**jek**-chuh) *Formal*

--*noun* the making of an opinion without enough information:

This is only conjecture -- no-one knows what really happened.

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conspiracy

(say kuhn-**spi**-ruh-see)

noun a secret plot planned by a number of people:

There was a conspiracy to give our teacher a surprise birthday party.

construe

(say kuhn-**strooh**)

verb to explain, or put a particular interpretation on:

He was wrong to construe her anxiety as an indication of guilt.

contemptible

(say kuhn-**temp**-tuh-buhl)

adjective deserving people's disgust:

Accusing your brother of stealing when you took the money yourself was contemptible.

contingency

(say kuhn-**tin**-juhn-see)

noun something which may happen in the future which you have to be aware of in making plans:

We must think of every contingency.

controversy

(say **kon**-truh-ver-see or kuhn-**trov**-uh-see)

noun an argument or difference of opinion:

There was a lot of controversy over the art gallery's purchase of the abstract painting.

corps

(say kaw)

noun a unit of soldiers:

My brother has joined the cadet corps at his school.

corral

(say ko-**rahl**)

noun a pen or enclosure for horses, cattle, etc:

We led the horses into the corral when we saw signs of bad weather approaching.

corsage

(say kaw-**sahzh**)

noun a small bunch of flowers, especially worn pinned to a dress:

She was given a corsage that matched her dress.

couscous

(say **koos**-koos)

noun a type of grain, originating in North Africa, often cooked with spices and meat or vegetables:

I could not eat the couscous because it would upset my stomach.

croissant

(say **krwu**-son)

noun a roll of baked pastry in the shape of a crescent:

I had a croissant and a coffee every morning for breakfast when I was in France.

cuisine

(say kwuh-**zeen**)

noun style of cooking:

The restaurant served modern Australian cuisine.

cyanide

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(say **suy**-uh-nuyd)

noun a strong poison:

The coroner found traces of cyanide in the blood during the autopsy.

decorum

(say duh-**kaw**-ruhm)

noun proper behaviour, speech or dress:

She carried out her duties as school captain with grace and decorum.

deficiency

(say duh-**fish**-uhn-see)

noun the condition of lacking something:

She became very ill as a result of a vitamin deficiency.

deficit

(say **def**-uh-suht)

noun an amount of money lacking:

Unfortunately, there is a small deficit in the club's accounts.

derelict

(say **de**-ruh-likht)

adjective A building that is **derelict** has not been used for a long while and has fallen into ruin:

A derelict shed stood in the yard of the old house.

dermatitis

(say der-muh-**tuy**-tuhs)

noun dryness and redness of the skin which is itchy or painful:

Her dermatitis was so bad she had to wear gloves all the time.

desperado

(say des-puh-**rah**-doh)

noun (plural **-does** or **-dos**)

a desperate or reckless criminal:

He was a notorious desperado who had given the police a lot of trouble.

detritus

(say duh-**truy**-tuhs)

noun any broken up material or debris:

A trail of detritus was left on the road after the car accident.

diadem

(say **duy**-uh-dem)

noun a crown, or similar ornament:

The pearl affixed to the Persian diadem is quite famous.

dispensary

(say dis-**pen**-suh-ree or dis-**pen**-sree)

noun (plural **dispensaries**)

the part of a chemist's shop or hospital where medicines are made up and given out:

The chemist brought my prescription out of the dispensary.

distraught

(say duhs-**trawt**)

adjective very worried or upset:

The lost toddler became more and more distraught as daylight faded.

domicile

(say **dom**-uh-suyl)

noun someone's home or a place of residence:

Byron Bay had been her domicile for the past five years.

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ducat

(say **duk**-uht)

noun a gold coin that was widely used in European countries in the past:

She discovered a ducat near the ruins of an old French village.

edifice

(say **ed**-uh-fuhs)

noun a building, especially a large or impressive one:

The Parthenon is the most famous surviving edifice of ancient Greece.

elliptical

(say uh-**lip**-tik-uhl or ee-**lip**-tik-uhl)

adjective of or having the form of an ellipse or oval:

The earth revolves around the sun in an elliptical orbit.

eloquent

(say **el**-uh-kwuhnt)

adjective able to speak in a flowing, expressive manner:

Being naturally eloquent, Ann was chosen to give the opening speech.

embroidery

(say em-**broy**-duh-ree or em-**broy**-dree)

noun the art of working ornamental designs on fabric with needle and thread:

She gained a great deal of pleasure spending hours doing embroidery.

epilepsy

(say **ep**-uh-lep-see)

noun an illness which produces fits of unconsciousness and uncontrollable movements of the body:

She has a mild form of epilepsy which is controlled well with medication.

etiquette

(say **et**-ee-kuht)

noun behaviour which is thought of as polite and correct:

We were taught the etiquette of addressing the governor when she visited our school.

eventual

(say uh-**ven**-chooh-uhl)

adjective final or last:

The eventual outcome will not be known until next week.

exceptional

(say uhk-**sep**-shuhn-uhl)

adjective unusually good:

The exceptional painting was sold very quickly.

extravaganza

(say uhk-strav-uh-**gan**-zuh)

noun an entertainment event, especially a live performance, which is very colourful and elaborate and which costs a lot to produce:

The music festival ended with a spectacular extravaganza on the main stage.

fallacy

(say **fal**-uh-see)

noun a mistaken idea or belief:

Many people believe the fallacy that measles is a harmless disease.

fastidious

(say fas-**tid**-ee-uhs)

adjective fussy or hard to please:

If you are too fastidious, the job will take too long.

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finicky

(say **fin**-uh-kee)

adjective full of small, unimportant detail:

Dad said that painting the lattice fence would be a very finicky job.

flannelette

(say flan-uh-**let**)

noun a cotton cloth treated on one side to look and feel like flannel:

His flannelette shirt wasn't suitable for the wedding.

frittata

(say fri-**tah**-tuh)

noun an open omelette containing vegetables, cheese, etc:

We need eggs, onion, capsicum, ham and lots of cheese to make our frittata.

generic

(say juh-**ne**-rik)

adjective known by the name of the product itself, not by a particular brand name:

I usually buy generic soap because it's cheaper.

genteel

(say jen-**teel**)

adjective If someone is **genteel**, they are overly careful to be polite in their manners, speech and behaviour:

Her mother hoped that she would behave in a genteel manner when in public.

grandiose

(say **gran**-dee-ohs)

adjective excessively grand or splendid:

He was always full of grandiose plans to make money.

guava

(say **gwah**-vuh)

noun a tropical American tree or shrub with a fruit that you can eat:

She explained that the tree in her front yard was a guava, and we could pick and eat the fruit

hereditary

(say huh-**red**-uh-tree)

adjective inherited or passed down from a parent to their children:

Her talent may be hereditary, as her mother was an Olympic runner.

heroine

(say **he**-ruh-wuhn)

noun the female character who has the main part in a book, film or play:

The heroine jumped on her horse and raced to save the townspeople.

hypocrite

(say **hip**-uh-krit)

noun someone who pretends that they have certain beliefs or morals that they do not really have:

The outspoken conservationist was branded a hypocrite when it was discovered that she did not recycle her paper and plastic.

illegible

(say i-**lej**-uh-buhl)

adjective not able to be read:

His scribble was completely illegible.

incandescent

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(say in-kan-**dess**-uhnt)
adjective glowing white:
This metal is so hot it is incandescent.

incessant

(say in-**sess**-uhnt)
adjective continuing without stopping:
It was hard to hear over the incessant chatter in the cafe.

incision

(say in-**sizh**-uhn)
noun a cut with a knife:
The surgeon carefully made the incision.

ingenious

(say in-**jee**-nee-uhs)
adjective cleverly made or invented:
He has made an ingenious device to trap fish.

insidious

(say in-**sid**-ee-uhs)
adjective intended to trap or deceive:
They hatched an insidious plot to destroy her reputation.

intermittent

(say in-tuh-**mit**-uhnt)
adjective stopping and starting:
There was intermittent rain all day.

intravenous

(say in-truh-**vee**-nuhs)
adjective An **intravenous** medicine is given directly into the blood, through a needle put in a vein:
He is being given an intravenous antibiotic.

involuntary

(say in-**vol**-uhn-tree)
adjective unintentional:
She gave an involuntary gasp as the film reached its frightening climax.

judicial

(say jooh-**dish**-uhl)
adjective having to do with judges or law courts:
A respected judge was appointed to lead the judicial inquiry into the helicopter accident.

larynx

(say **la**-rinks)
noun the box-like space at the top of your windpipe that contains the vocal cords which are used for speaking:
She had an infection in her larynx and couldn't speak at all.

legislation

(say lej-uhs-**lay**-shuhn)
noun a law or all the laws made:
Parliament sat until after midnight to debate the controversial legislation.

limerick

(say **lim**-uh-rik)
noun A **limerick** is a poem with five lines, intended to make you laugh:
The teacher recited a funny limerick about bees.

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limousine

(say **lim**-uh-zeen)

noun a kind of car, usually large and comfortable, especially one driven by a paid driver:

The limousine was luxurious but difficult to park.

litigation

(say lit-uh-**gay**-shuhn)

noun the process of challenging someone in a law court:

Many doctors worry about the threat of litigation against them.

luxuriant

(say lug-**zhoo**h-ree-uhnt)

adjective strong in growth:

The luxuriant forest was thick with ferns and hanging vines.

macaw

(say muh-**kaw**)

noun a colourful, tropical American parrot with a long tail and a harsh voice:

The bright colours of the macaw caught their eyes as it flew away.

magenta

(say muh-**jen**-tuh)

adjective reddish purple in colour:

Rachel really stood out at the dance in her magenta dress.

marjoram

(say **mah**-juh-ruhm)

noun a plant of the mint family used in cookery:

They grew marjoram and other herbs in pots on the windowsill.

maudlin

(say **mawd**-luhn)

adjective tearfully or weakly emotional or sentimental:

She grew tearful listening to the maudlin song.

miscreant

(say **mis**-kree-uhnt)

adjective evil; villainous:

They read about the murderer's miscreant deeds in the morning paper.

muesli

(say **myoo**hz-lee)

noun breakfast cereal made from a mixture of oats, chopped fruit, nuts, etc:

Each morning I enjoy a bowl of muesli and milk followed by toast and jam.

municipality

(say myoooh-nuh-suh-**pal**-uh-tee)

noun a district which has its own local government:

We have some good parks in our municipality.

nefarious

(say nuh-**fair**-ree-uhs)

adjective Formal very wicked:

We reported the thief to the police for his nefarious practices.

neurology

(say nyoooh-**rol**-uh-jee)

noun the science of the nerves or the nervous system, especially its diseases:

A specialist in neurology explained the possible reasons for her headaches.

nuisance

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(say **nyoo**h-suhns)

noun someone or something that is very annoying:

It was a real nuisance that we couldn't turn on the tap.

obelisk

(say **ob**-uh-lisk)

noun a tall pillar of stone, put up as a monument:

An obelisk was erected as a war memorial in the middle of the town square.

obituary

(say uh-**bich**-uh-ree)

noun a notice, usually in a newspaper, saying that someone has died and often including a short account of their life and achievements:

I was sad when I saw an obituary in the paper for my old school principal.

ombudsman

(say **om**-buhdz-muhn)

noun an official appointed to investigate complaints by citizens against the government:

The ombudsman has a great responsibility to the community.

onyx

(say **on**-iks)

noun a type of quartz consisting of straight bands which differ in colour:

The precious figurine was made of onyx.

opulent

(say **op**-yuh-luhnt)

adjective rich or wealthy:

In our shorts and thongs, we felt out of place in the opulent ballroom.

overwhelm

(say oh-vuh-**welm**)

verb to affect someone so much that they cannot function properly:

He was overwhelmed by the heat of the sun and had to sit down and rest.

panorama

(say pan-uh-**rah**-muh)

noun a view over a wide area:

The panorama was dotted with dams, farmhouses and apple trees.

parenthesis

(say puh-**ren**-thuh-suhs)

noun a word or group of words to describe or explain something else, marked off by commas, brackets or dashes:

She listed the names in parenthesis at the end of the sentence.

perceptible

(say puh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

adjective able to be perceived:

The only perceptible difference between the twins was that Belinda was slightly taller.

perennial

(say puh-**ren**-ee-uhl)

adjective A **perennial** plant has a life cycle of more than two years:

She planted a row of perennial shrubs along the fence.

permeable

(say **perm**-ee-uh-buhl)

adjective able to be passed through, especially by liquids:

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Unfortunately, our tent was made of permeable material, so when it rained the water passed straight through and drenched us.

phoenix

(say **fee**-niks)

noun a mythical bird of great beauty, said to burn on a funeral pyre and then to rise up young again:

In the story, the phoenix rises from the ashes and flies away.

pilgrimage

(say **pil**-gruh-mij)

noun a journey made to a sacred place:

He intended to make a pilgrimage across the north of Spain to the city of Santiago.

pinnacle

(say **pin**-uh-kuhl)

noun a high, pointed mountain top:

We cannot be sure if the missing climber ever reached the pinnacle of the Matterhorn.

prehistoric

(say pree-his-**to**-rik)

adjective belonging to the time before history was written or records were kept:

We can find out about prehistoric times by examining fossils.

premiere

(say prem-ee-**air**)

noun A **premiere** is the first time something is shown or done:

There were lots of famous people at the premiere of the film.

procure

(say pruh-kyooouh)

verb If you **procure** something, you obtain it:

Once we knew what food could be procured, we planned the menu.

proliferate

(say pruh-**lif**-uh-rayt)

verb to grow by multiplying:

Swimming pools seem to proliferate in suburbs where there are lots of kids.

propaganda

(say prop-uh-**gan**-duh)

noun information which is used to try to make you believe a certain point of view:

My father said the TV show was anti-government propaganda.

quixotic

(say kwik-**sot**-ik)

adjective having romantic ideas about doing brave and wonderful deeds:

People admired his quixotic nature even though it often led him into trouble.

raiment

(say **ray**-muhnt)

noun an old-fashioned word for clothing:

He was wearing the raiment of a priest.

raspberry

(say **rahz**-bree)

noun a soft, juicy, red berry:

The bowl of ice-cream had a raspberry on top.

ravenous

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(say **rav**-uh-nuhs)

adjective extremely hungry:

We were so ravenous that we ate our dinner quickly and in total silence.

recessive

(say ruh-**ses**-iv)

adjective In biology, a **recessive** characteristic results from a gene which has less biochemical activity than another dominant gene, and therefore is kept inactive when paired with it:

Blue eye colour is recessive, whereas brown is dominant.

recipient

(say ruh-**sip**-ee-uhnt)

noun someone or something that receives something:

He was the recipient of last year's Nobel prize.

recompense

(say **rek**-uhm-pens)

verb If you **recompense** someone, you make a repayment to them for something:

They ought to recompense you for the money you have spent on all this food.

refugee

(say **ref**-yooh-jee)

noun someone who needs shelter or protection from danger or trouble:

He came to Australia as a refugee from the harsh regime in his country.

reign

(say rayn)

noun the time during which a king or queen rules or holds the position of ruler:

During the reign of Queen Victoria, England ruled an empire.

reticulate

(say ruh-**tik**-yuh-luht)

adjective like a network or net:

Some mushrooms have a reticulate stem

sagacious

(say suh-**gay**-shuhs)

adjective Formal having good judgement and understanding:

A farmer, as well as knowing all the elements of agriculture, should be a sagacious businessperson.

salubrious

(say suh-**looh**-bree-uhs)

adjective (of a place) attractive and prosperous:

When they became wealthy, they moved to a more salubrious suburb.

scaffolding

(say **skaf**-uhl-ding)

noun a system of scaffolds:

Workers arrived to find that their scaffolding had been used to facilitate the break-in.

scholastic

(say skuh-**las**-tik)

adjective having to do with schools, students or education:

His scholastic record was brilliant.

scythe

(say suydh)

noun a tool with a long, curved blade joined at an angle to a long handle:

He used a scythe to cut the long grass.

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sedentary

(say **sed**-uhn-tree)

adjective relating to or needing a sitting position:

If you have a sedentary job you should make time for some exercise.

seethe

(say seedh)

verb If a person **seethes**, they are excited or disturbed:

I know Mum will seethe with anger when she sees what we have done in the kitchen.

shrewd

(say shroohd)

adjective clever, and with good practical judgement:

People often asked him for advice because they thought he was shrewd.

sierra

(say see-**air**-ruh)

noun a chain of hills or mountains, the tops of which look like the teeth of a saw:

From a distance, the peaks of the mountains in the sierra looked like the edge of a saw.

solace

(say **so**-luhs)

noun comfort in sorrow or trouble:

The widow found solace in the kindness of her friends and neighbours.

sombrero

(say som-**brair**-roh)

noun (plural **sombreros**)

a broad-brimmed hat worn in Spain, Mexico and some other countries:

Instead of the usual straw hat, he wore a sombrero, pulled down to shade his face.

soothe

(say soohdh)

verb If you **soothe** someone who is hurt or sad, you try to make them feel happy and calm again:

The coach tried to soothe the team after they lost their final match.

sovereign

(say **sov**-ruhn)

noun a king or queen:

The young prince would one day be sovereign of the whole country.

stethoscope

(say **steth**-uh-skohp)

noun an instrument used by doctors to listen to the sounds made by the heart and lungs:

The doctor placed the stethoscope on my back and listened while I took a deep breath.

strategy

(say **strat**-uh-jee)

noun a plan or scheme which sets out how to achieve a goal:

Our coach said he had a brilliant strategy for defeating the opposition in the final.

succulent

(say **suk**-yuh-luhnt)

adjective juicy:

A succulent mango is hard to eat without getting covered in juice.

succumb

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say suh-**kum**)

verb To **succumb** is to give in:

She tried not to succumb to the temptation of the chocolates.

superficial

(say sooh-puh-**fish**-uhl)

adjective Something that is **superficial** is not very thorough or deep:

It was a rather superficial description of the situation and didn't cover some of the main problems.

surpass

(say ser-**pahs**)

verb To **surpass** something or someone is to be better than them:

The relay team we put together was able to surpass all the other ones entered in the race.

swarthy

(say **swaw**-dhee)

--*adjective* (**swarthier**; **swarthiest**)

dark in skin colour:

He was a jovial man, with dark curly hair and a swarthy complexion.

swordfish

(say **sawd**-fish)

noun (plural **swordfish** or **swordfishes**)

a large sea fish with the upper jaw lengthened into a sword-like weapon:

Fierce swordfish attacked the fishing boat for no reason, driving their swords through the oak planking.

sympathetic

(say sim-puh-**thet**-ik)

adjective marked by or showing sympathy:

She gave a sympathetic smile when she saw the bandage on my arm.

syringe

(say suh-**rinj**)

noun a small tube that draws in and pushes out liquid, used to clean wounds or, when fitted to a needle, to inject liquid into or take it out of the body:

The nurse picked up the syringe to inject the patient with the vaccine.

tandoori

(say tan-**dooh**-ree)

adjective having to do with food that is flavoured with spices and cooked in a very hot clay oven, originating in Indian cooking:

My favourite meal on the menu is tandoori chicken.

technique

(say tek-**neek**)

noun practical skill or knowledge:

His paintings show both talent and technique.

tempura

(say tem-**pooh**-ruh)

noun a Japanese dish in which seafood or vegetables are coated in a light batter and deep-fried in oil:

We always have tempura prawns at our local Japanese restaurant.

territorial

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say te-ruh-**taw**-ree-uhl)

adjective of or relating to a territory:

The territorial boundaries are still the subject of quarrels.

threadbare

(say **thred**-bair)

adjective worn and thin:

The towels in the old hotel were threadbare.

topographic

(say top-uh-**graf**-ik)

adjective relating to a map which shows how the surface of the land varies in height:

If you look at a topographic map you can immediately see areas that are hilly.

transparency

(say trans-**pair**-ruhn-see)

noun something which is transparent, especially a transparent photograph projected onto a screen or looked at by light shining through from behind:

It is better to copy from the transparency than from the print.

trauma

(say **traw**-muh)

noun an emotional shock which has a lasting effect on the mind:

The family never really got over the trauma of the accident.

treasurer

(say **trezh**-uh-ruh)

noun someone in charge of the money belonging to a company, club or city:

She was elected treasurer at the annual general meeting.

turquoise

(say **ter**-kwoyz)

noun a greenish-blue stone used in jewellery:

Native American people have been using turquoise in jewellery for centuries.

tyrant

(say **tuy**-ruhnt)

noun anyone in a position of power who uses it cruelly and unjustly:

They had only one thought -- to escape and get away from the tyrant.

unanimous

(say yooh-**nan**-uh-muhs)

adjective If a decision is **unanimous**, everyone involved is in complete agreement:

There was a unanimous decision to add fresh fruit to the canteen list.

ungracious

(say un-**gray**-shuhs)

adjective lacking in politeness or courtesy:

It was very ungracious of you to shut the door in his face.

unique

(say yooh-**neek**)

adjective To be **unique** is to be different from all the others:

The Sydney Opera House is unique -- there's nothing like it anywhere else.

vaccine

(say vak-**seen**)

noun a type of medication which helps you develop immunity to a disease:

Scientists have developed a pneumonia vaccine, which is particularly helpful in winter for elderly people.

valet

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **val**-ay or **val**-uht)

noun a male servant who looks after his employer's clothes and other personal things:

Not having a valet, I have to hang up my own clothes and even clean my own shoes.

vengeance

(say **ven**-juhns)

noun harm done to someone in return for harm they have done to you:

She tore up his book in an act of vengeance.

virtual

(say **ver**-chooh-uhl)

adjective as if it were really so:

She was a virtual prisoner in her own home.

vulnerable

(say **vul**-nuh-ruh-buhl)

adjective If someone is **vulnerable**, they are likely to suffer something unpleasant because they are in a weak position:

We felt vulnerable because we did not have a torch with us and the night was pitch black.

wheatgerm

(say **weet**-jerm)

noun a part of the wheat grain, rich in vitamins, which is removed when the wheat is ground:

You can buy wheatgerm at a health food store.

wholegrain

(say **hohl**-grayn)

adjective containing or made from the whole of the grain of something:

To be more healthy, you should eat wholegrain breads and cereals.

wrench

(say **rench**)

verb If you **wrench** something, you twist it roughly:

He had to wrench the handle off the door to escape.

wretched

(say **rech**-uhd)

adjective poor, miserable and pitiful:

On the porch stood a wretched, starving dog.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

Junior General Level 5

abhor

(say uh**b-haw**)

verb to think of something with disgust and hatred:

It was in his gentle nature to abhor violence.

analgesic

(say an-uhl-**jee**-zik)

noun a medicine that removes or lessens pain:

She took an analgesic and soon her headache improved.

ancillary

(say an-**sil**-uh-ree)

adjective acting to help or support:

The ancillary staff at school help the teachers.

anomaly

(say uh-**nom**-uh-lee)

noun a variation from what is normal:

She never misses school so her absence was an anomaly.

antithesis

(say an-**tith**-uh-suhs)

noun the direct opposite:

Her confident manner was the antithesis of her brother's shyness.

asbestos

(say uhs-**bes**-tuhs)

noun a grey substance which is mined and does not burn; it was once used as a building material:

Many countries have banned the use of asbestos because it can cause serious illness.

atrocious

(say uh-**tross**-uh-tee)

noun a terribly wicked or cruel act:

The bombing of the city was considered a terrible atrocity.

beneficiary

(say ben-uh-**fish**-uh-ree)

noun someone who receives assistance, especially money left in a will:

My aunt was the only beneficiary in the will.

benevolent

(say buh-**nev**-uh-luhnt)

adjective desiring to do good for others:

A benevolent passer-by helped the poor woman to her feet.

camembert

(say **kam**-uhm-bair)

noun a rich, creamy, soft cheese, usually made in small flat rounds:

We served the camembert with dates and figs.

chagrin

(say **shag**-ruhn)

noun a feeling of anger and disappointment:

I realised, to my chagrin, that my foolishness had cost our team the honour of winning the competition.

colloquial

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say kuh-**loh**-kwee-uhl)

adjective suitable for casual, informal, or everyday language:

'This arvo' is a colloquial way of saying 'this afternoon'.

consignment

(say kuhn-**suyn**-muhnt)

noun property sent to an agent for sale, storage, or shipment:

The shop is expecting a consignment of the new phones next week.

continuum

(say kuhn-**tin**-yooh-uhm)

noun a continuous extent or series:

The symptoms of this disease can lie anywhere on a continuum ranging from mild to very serious.

dachshund

(say **daks**-uhnd or **dash**-uhnd)

noun a small dog with a long body and very short legs:

The dachshund is a friendly breed of dog.

desiccated

(say **dess**-uh-kayt-uhd)

adjective dried thoroughly, often in order to preserve:

After icing the lamingtons, we rolled them in desiccated coconut.

discriminatory

(say dis-**krim**-uh-nuh-tree)

adjective showing an unfair prejudice for one person or group over another:

The new laws were revised because people found them discriminatory and inconsistent.

dulcimer

(say **dul**-suh-muh)

noun an old-fashioned musical instrument with metal strings that you strike with light hammers:

The dulcimer is played sitting down, with the instrument held on the player's lap.

dyslexia

(say dis-**lek**-see-uh)

noun a medical condition that makes it difficult to learn to read:

Despite his dyslexia, Hans Christian Andersen became a famous writer of fairytales.

facsimile

(say fak-**sim**-uh-lee)

noun a way of sending documents or pictures along a telephone line:

She sent a copy of her dental records by facsimile to her new dentist.

feign

(say fayn)

verb If you feign something, you pretend to have it:

She tried to feign chickenpox by drawing red spots on herself.

focaccia

(say fuh-**kah**-chuh or fuh-**kah**-chee-uh)

noun flat Italian bread which can be eaten with various fillings or toppings:

We had focaccia with cheese and olives for lunch.

gangrenous

(say **gang**-gruh-nuhs)

adjective affected by gangrene:

The surgeon had to amputate the gangrenous leg before the infection spread.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

gauche

(say gohsh)

adjective clumsy and awkward:

His gauche manners embarrassed everybody.

geisha

(say **gay**-shuh)

noun a Japanese woman, trained to amuse men with singing, dancing and conversation:

The geisha owned a vast collection of elaborate kimonos.

guarantor

(say ga-ruhn-**taw**)

noun someone who makes or gives a guarantee, such as promising they will pay someone's debt if that person can't:

He asked me to be a guarantor for his loan but I refused.

impeccable

(say im-**pek**-uh-buhl)

adjective without any faults:

The principal said she was proud of our impeccable behaviour on the excursion.

imperceptible

(say im-puh-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

adjective not able to be seen:

The grey cat was almost imperceptible in the dark corner.

iridescent

(say i-ruh-**des**-uhnt)

adjective displaying colours like those of the rainbow:

The trapeze artists looked dazzling in their iridescent costumes.

irrefutable

(say i-**ref**-yuh-tuh-buhl or i-ruh-**fyoo**h-tuh-buhl)

adjective not able to be disproved; incontrovertible:

She presented irrefutable logic that there was life on Mars.

juggernaut

(say **jug**-uh-nawt)

noun any large, destructive force:

The juggernaut of army tanks moved towards the battleline.

legionnaire

(say lee-juh-**nair**)

noun a member of a legion, especially the French Foreign Legion:

The legionnaire had fought in many parts of the world.

lucerne

(say **looh**-suhn)

noun a plant used to feed animals:

The cows love to be let into the lucerne paddock.

maelstrom

(say **mayl**-struhm)

noun a large whirlpool:

In the past, many ships were wrecked in the maelstrom off the coast.

masquerade

(say mas-kuh-**rayd** or mahs-kuh-**rayd**)

noun a party at which the guests wear fancy dress:

I wore a pirate costume to the masquerade.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

menagerie

(say muh-**naj**-uh-ree)

noun a collection of wild or strange animals:

Their house was like a menagerie, with cats, dogs, rabbits, snakes, birds, and a ferret.

notoriety

(say noh-tuh-**ruy**-uh-tee)

noun the condition of being well-known, often for something bad:

The visiting cricket team had gained notoriety for their bad sportsmanship.

orthodox

(say **aw**-thuh-doks)

adjective accepted or conventional:

He has very orthodox ideas, so he won't shock anyone when he gives his speech.

oxymoron

(say ok-see-**maw**-ron)

noun a saying which contains a seeming contradiction:

Some would say that the phrase 'enjoyable homework' is an oxymoron.

paradigm

(say **pa**-ruh-duym)

noun a pattern or example:

Dad regards his elder brother as the paradigm of a successful businessman.

placebo

(say pluh-**see**-boh)

noun a substance which has no medicinal content but which a patient believes to be a medicine:

One half of the experimental group was given a placebo instead of the test medication but were not told of this.

presbytery

(say **prez**-buh-tree or **pres**-puh-tree)

noun the house of a priest:

Our after-school care centre is in a presbytery once occupied by a priest.

psychic

(say **suy**-kik)

adjective If someone is **psychic**, they apparently have supernatural mental powers, such as the ability to see the future or to know what other people are thinking:

Sometimes I think it would be very useful to be psychic, especially on Melbourne Cup day.

pterodactyl

(say te-ruh-**dak**-tuhl)

noun an extinct flying reptile:

The museum has models of a pterodactyl and other extinct reptiles suspended from the ceiling.

repertoire

(say **rep**-uh-twah)

noun the plays, musical pieces or other items which an entertainer can perform:

Her repertoire is small but she claims that quality is more important than quantity.

satyr

(say **sat**-uh)

noun a kind of god in ancient Greek mythology, pictured as part goat and part human:

Pan was a joyful satyr who loved dancing and playing on the shepherd's pipe.

septennial

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say sep-**ten**-ee-uhl)

adjective happening every seven years:

We missed the septennial eclipse, so now we have to wait seven years to see the next one.

statuesque

(say stach-oo**h-esk**)

adjective like or suggesting a statue, in dignity, grace or beauty:

She was statuesque in a long white satin gown.

stevedore

(say **stee**-vuh-daw)

noun a firm or individual engaged in the loading or unloading of ships:

He had worked on the docks for years as a stevedore.

synthesis

(say **sin**-thuh-suhs)

noun the mixing together of parts into a whole:

The synthesis of all the different seeds created a stunning garden of flowers.

tryst

(say trist)

noun a planned meeting, especially a secret one:

They held a tryst under the apple tree.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

Junior Arts Level 1

actor

(say **ak**-tuh)

noun someone who acts the part of a character in a play or film, or on television:

The actor who played the killer was frightening.

band

(say band)

noun a group of musicians:

Hui dreamed of joining a rock band when he finished school.

clay

(say klay)

noun a thick, sticky earth which is used in making pottery and bricks:

We made vases out of clay in our art class.

drum

(say drum)

noun a musical instrument with a round hollow body often covered with a tightly stretched skin, which makes a deep sound when it is hit:

The beating of the drum indicated that the procession was about to start.

event

(say uh-**vent**)

noun something which happens, especially something important:

The opening of the Opera House was an important event for Australian music lovers.

mime

(say muym)

noun a form of acting in which the actors use movements of their body and face instead of words:

You have to train for years to perform mime well.

part

(say paht)

noun an actor's role:

She tried out for the part of Glinda the Good Witch in the Wizard of Oz production.

poem

(say **poh**-uhm)

noun a piece of writing set out in a special way, often with lines that match in length, rhythm or rhyme:

'The Man from Snowy River' is a famous Australian poem.

role

(say rohl)

noun the part or character that an actor plays:

He performed his role of the town fool perfectly.

skill

(say skil)

noun the ability to do something well:

She has many talents, but her great skill is singing.

solo

(say **soh**-loh)

noun a musical performance by one person:

I was nervous because I was singing a solo in the concert.

stage

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say stayj)

noun a raised floor, usually in a theatre, on which public performances take place:
Yellow tape was stuck on the stage where the actors were supposed to stand.

tale

(say tayl)

noun a story about some real or imaginary event:
He told us a tale about his life as a child in Germany.

tone

(say tohn)

noun a musical sound:
The audience admired the mellow tone of the cello.

verse

(say vers)

noun a group of lines that go together in a song or poem:
We usually only sing the first verse of the national anthem.

Junior Arts Level 2

accent

(say **ak**-sent)

noun a stress or stronger tone given to a part of a word or musical note, to make it different from the rest:
The music had a strong rhythm with an accent on the first note of each bar.

album

(say **al**-buhm)

noun a recording of a collection of music or songs:
Rahul's favourite band has just released a new album.

award

(say uh-**wawd**)

noun something won for skill or excellence:
William won the award for the best performance.

batik

(say **bah**-tik or **bat**-ik)

noun a way of dyeing cloth in which the parts not to be coloured are covered with wax:
We used batik to make the wall hangings in our school hall.

broadcast

(say **brawd**-kahst)

verb To **broadcast** a program or message is to send it out by radio or television:
The news is broadcast at 7 p.m. each evening.

carol

(say **ka**-ruhl)

noun a joyful song, especially a Christmas song or hymn:
'Silent Night' is my favourite Christmas carol.

cello

(say **chel**-oh)

noun a stringed instrument which is held upright on the floor between the knees of the player:
The cello is an instrument with a lovely deep sound.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

composer

(say kuhm-**poh**-zuh)

noun someone who writes music:

Beethoven was a famous German composer.

creative

(say kree-**ay**-tiv)

adjective good at making or inventing things:

She was very creative and often made her own clothes.

editor

(say **ed**-uh-tuh)

noun someone who prepares written material for publication:

Mum is the editor of a health magazine.

fable

(say **fay**-buhl)

noun a short, made-up story, often about animals, that teaches a lesson about how to behave:

Have you heard the fable of the boy who cried wolf?

fashion

(say **fash**-uhn)

noun a style of dressing:

She always wears the latest fashion.

flute

(say flooht)

noun a musical wind instrument played by blowing across a hole near one end:

Richard enjoyed playing the flute but he didn't like performing in front of an audience.

foxtrot

(say **foks**-trot)

noun a ballroom dance which uses short, quick steps, and which was very popular in the past:

The dancers were exhausted after the energetic foxtrot.

model

(say **mod**-uhl)

noun a copy of something, usually in a smaller size, to show what the real thing looks like or how it works:

My brother has made a beautiful model of a ship.

myth

(say mith)

noun an ancient traditional story, often about gods and supernatural events, that was used to explain natural events such as the weather:

Our teacher read us an ancient Greek myth about how the stars were formed.

opera

(say **op**-ruh)

noun a play that is sung to music:

Luckily I know the story of this opera because it is sung in Italian and I can only speak English.

organ

(say **aw**-guh)

noun a musical instrument with pipes and one or more keyboards:

They played the old organ at the church on Sundays.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

pattern

(say **pat**-uhn)

noun a particular arrangement of forms and colours:

His shirt had a swirling pattern of orange and purple.

picture

(say **pik**-chuh)

noun a drawing, painting, photograph or something similar:

I gave my dad a birthday card with a picture of a boat on it.

review

(say ruh-**vyooh**)

noun an article which describes and gives an opinion of something, such as a book or film:

The review was so good that we're going to see the film.

scene

(say seen)

noun one of the divisions of a play:

The murder occurs in the first scene of the play.

scribe

(say skruyb)

noun a person who made copies of manuscripts in the past:

The old priest had been a scribe for decades and was a master of his craft.

script

(say skript)

noun the words written down for the actors to say in a play or film:

I practised my part for the play by reading the script in the bath.

statue

(say **stach**-ooh)

noun an image of a person or animal made out of stone, wood or bronze:

There is a statue of Banjo Paterson in the park.

strum

(say strum)

noun to play an instrument by running your fingers across the strings:

The audience clapped as the musician started to strum his guitar.

tango

(say **tang**-goh)

noun a dramatic dance from South America, danced by couples:

We each found a partner and learned how to dance the tango.

tempo

(say **tem**-poh)

noun the speed of a piece of music:

The music had a very fast tempo.

tenor

(say **ten**-uh)

noun a man with a singing voice in the higher range:

There is a part for a tenor in the school musical.

tongue

(say tung)

noun the muscle in your mouth that helps in eating food and shaping the sounds of speech:

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

Our drama teacher told us how important the tongue is in forming different sounds with our voices.

tribute

(say **trib**-yooht)

noun a gift or speech made to show respect for someone:

She was presented with a painting as a tribute to her accomplishments.

tuba

(say **tyooh**-buh)

noun a big brass wind instrument with a very low pitch:

Carol didn't like carrying her tuba to and from band practice because it was so big and heavy.

tune

(say tyoohn)

noun a series of musical notes, played or sung, that form a pattern that is nice to listen to:

Marco whistled the tune of his favourite song while he did the dishes.

understudy

(say **un**-duh-stud-ee)

noun an actor or singer who stands by to replace someone who is unable to perform, usually because of illness:

Luckily the understudy had trained well for the part and the show was a total success.

usher

(say **ush**-uh)

noun someone who shows people to their seats at any public gathering or entertainment:

The murderer had to be either the usher or the projectionist because they were the only ones near the victim.

viewer

(say **vyooh**-uh)

noun someone who watches television or a television program:

One angry viewer reported that they had switched off the program as soon as it started.

viola

(say vee-**oh**-luh)

noun a stringed instrument played with a bow, like a violin but a little bigger:

There were two viola players in the orchestra.

volume

(say **vol**-yoohm)

noun one book from a set of books:

The third volume of my encyclopedia of animals is all about reptiles.

woodwind

(say **wood**-wind)

noun the group of musical wind instruments that includes the flutes, clarinets, saxophones, oboes and bassoons:

She sits in the woodwind section of the orchestra because she plays the flute.

write

(say ruyt)

verb If you **write** something, you create it using words:

Mei-li is writing a book.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

Junior Arts Level 3

academy

(say uh-**kad**-uh-mee)

noun a school or society for learning:

Brianna's music academy holds a concert every six months.

adornment

(say uh-**dawn**-muhnt)

noun something used to make something more attractive:

He used a colourful bowl of fruit as an adornment for the table.

animation

(say an-uh-**may**-shuhn)

noun the process of preparing animated cartoons:

He was a talented drawer and wanted to make an animation.

antique

(say an-**teek**)

noun a piece of furniture or other item from an earlier time:

This desk is an antique, and was first used in the early 1800s.

appendix

(say uh-**pen**-diks)

noun an extra part added to the main part of a book to give further information:

The dictionary had an appendix listing endangered mammals of Australia.

auburn

(say **aw**-buhn)

adjective reddish-brown:

Her auburn hair was the colour of autumn leaves.

audiovisual

(say aw-dee-oooh-**vizh**-yooh-uhl)

adjective relating to recording or reproducing both sound and pictures:

William was required to do an audiovisual presentation for his history class.

audition

(say aw-**dish**-uhn)

noun a test given to see how suitable an actor or performer is for a particular role:

Connie was very nervous about her audition for the school play.

ballerina

(say bal-uh-**ree**-nuh)

noun a girl or woman who dances in a ballet:

Sonia goes to ballet lessons every week, and wants to be a ballerina when she grows up.

calypso

(say kuh-**lip**-soh)

noun a style of music from the West Indies:

The Jamaican calypso band was the most popular act at the concert.

canvas

(say **kan**-vuhs)

noun a heavy cloth, often stretched over a frame and used by artists to paint on:

The artist brushed the paint thickly onto the canvas.

carnival

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **kah**-nuh-vuhl)

noun a time of processions and public celebrations, usually for a special occasion:

The town holds a spring carnival every year.

ceramics

(say suh-**ram**-iks)

noun the craft of making things out of clay:

When we do ceramics in art, the teacher always operates the kiln.

chorus

(say **kaw**-ruhs)

noun the words that are repeated after each verse of some songs or poems:

We all sang the chorus very loudly but unfortunately we didn't know the verses.

circus

(say **ser**-kuhs)

noun a show in a big tent with clowns, acrobats and sometimes animals such as lions and elephants:

My brother loved going to the circus to see the acrobats.

claves

(say klayvz or **klah**-vayz)

plural noun a simple musical instrument which consists of two wooden sticks which are hit together:

I didn't know how to play an instrument so the teacher got me to play the claves.

columnist

(say **kol**-uhm-uhst or **kol**-uhm-nuhst)

noun a writer or organiser of a special column in a newspaper, and so on:

She is the magazine's music columnist.

compere

(say **kom**-pair)

noun someone who introduces the acts in a show:

The compere of the comedy show kept everyone laughing between acts.

composition

(say kom-puh-**zish**-uhn)

noun a short piece of writing which you do as part of school work:

We had to write a composition about what we would do with a million dollars.

descant

(say **des**-kant)

noun a tune played or sung above the main tune:

The girls in the choir sang the descant part of the song.

director

(say duh-**rek**-tuh or duy-**rek**-tuh)

noun the person in charge of a business organisation, or in charge of the making of a film or some other kind of work:

The film director told some interesting stories about the famous actors she had worked with.

discourse

(say **dis**-kaws)

noun a formal discussion of a subject in speech or writing:

He published a discourse on the subject of genetically-engineered food.

dramatist

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(say **dram**-uh-tuhst)

noun a writer of plays:

The actor was overwhelmed to be chosen by the dramatist to perform in his new play.

dulcet

(say **dul**-suht)

adjective If a sound is **dulcet**, it is pleasing or soothing:

The broadcaster's dulcet voice makes her perfect for the late night jazz program.

dye

(say duy)

noun a liquid that is used to colour cloth, hair, and other things:

The fashion designer ordered a special dye to colour the fabric for his new collection.

edition

(say uh-**dish**-uhn)

noun a particular version of a book, newspaper, or magazine, that is printed at one time:

She gets up early to read the morning edition of the paper.

enamel

(say uh-**nam**-uhl)

noun a very hard, shiny coating applied to metal for decoration or protection:

The sculpture was covered in bright blue enamel.

encore

(say **on**-kaw)

noun an extra song or piece of music performed at the end of a concert, in response to the audience's applause:

The band came back on stage and played an encore, much to the delight of the crowd.

etching

(say **ech**-ing)

noun a process of making designs or pictures on metal or glass, using acid:

Etching is a difficult process and should be undertaken with care.

exhibit

(say uhg-**zib**-uht)

verb To **exhibit** something is to put it on show:

My mother has been asked to exhibit her paintings at the art gallery.

frieze

(say freez)

noun a band around the top of a wall which is often decorated with a pattern:

A frieze had been carved all the way around the ancient building.

gallery

(say **gal**-uh-ree)

noun a room or building where artworks are exhibited:

There is a display of local Indigenous art in the city gallery.

genre

(say **zhon**-ruh)

noun the category to which a piece of writing, music, film or art belongs:

Poetry is a genre of literature.

harmonica

(say hah-**mon**-ik-uh)

noun a small wind instrument with metal reeds, which you play by blowing:

He pulled the harmonica from his pocket and played a tune while he waited for the bus.

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instrument

(say **in**-struh-muhnt)

noun something made to produce musical sounds:

The violin is a stringed instrument.

intonation

(say in-tuh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun the pattern of changes of pitch in speech or music:

The actor changed the intonation of his voice to give his words added menace.

journal

(say **jer**-nuhl)

noun a book where you can write down things that have happened, or your thoughts or feelings:

I like to write in my journal every day.

jubilee

(say jooh-buh-**lee**)

noun a celebration, especially of the anniversary of something which happened a long time ago:

There was a special concert held for Queen's jubilee.

legible

(say **lej**-uh-buhl)

adjective If something is **legible**, it can be read easily:

Luckily, although the envelope was soaked, the address was still legible.

lexicon

(say **leks**-uh-kuhn)

noun a list of words belonging to a particular subject, language, and so on:

The term 'architrave' belongs to the lexicon of architecture.

library

(say **luy**-bree or **luy**-bruh-ree)

noun a room or building where books and other reading material are kept, for people to read or borrow:

Hayden was fined four dollars for forgetting to return his book to the library on time.

literary

(say **lit**-uh-ruh-ree or **lit**-ruh-ree)

adjective having to do with books and literature of a high standard:

The anthology contained a collection of literary pieces by different authors.

lullaby

(say **lul**-uh-buy)

noun a song sung to put a baby to sleep:

The baby was sound asleep by the end of the lullaby.

lustre

(say **lust**-uh)

noun a soft shine:

Satin has a beautiful lustre.

lyrics

(say **li**-riks)

noun the words of a song:

Can you remember the lyrics of that song we heard last night?

melodrama

(say **mel**-uh-drah-muh)

noun a play or TV show in which the characters make their emotions much more

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obvious than in real life:

Dad couldn't resist watching the nightly melodrama on television, even though it was so unrealistic.

microphone

(say **muy**-kruh-fohn)

noun an instrument which changes sound waves into electrical waves, often used in equipment that makes sounds louder or records them:

Hold the microphone fairly close to your mouth so it can pick up the sound of your voice.

monotone

(say **mon**-uh-tohn)

noun a series of spoken or sung sounds in one unchanging tone:

He delivered his speech in a monotone and sent us to sleep.

motif

(say moh-**teef**)

noun an idea that is repeated in various ways all through a piece of writing or music or in the work of an artist:

The artist's motif was Australian flora.

narrative

(say **na**-ruh-tiv)

noun If you write a **narrative**, you do a piece of writing that tells a story:

Her narrative was about two children who got lost but managed to find their way home.

origami

(say o-ruh-**gah**-mee)

noun the art of folding paper into interesting shapes, first developed in Japan:

We learned how to make boxes using origami.

pantomime

(say **pan**-tuh-muym)

noun a play in which the actors use actions and not words to tell the story:

The children put on a pantomime of the story of Cinderella.

photograph

(say **foh**-tuh-graf)

noun A **photograph** is a picture you take with a camera:

Sarah had put a special ribbon in her hair for the school photograph.

portray

(say paw-**tray**)

noun to make a painting or drawing of, or to represent in acting:

The film is meant to portray the absolute waste of war.

production

(say pruh-**duk**-shuhn)

noun the staging of a play:

The cast had six weeks of rehearsals before the opening night of the new production.

projectionist

(say pruh-**jek**-shuh-nuhst)

noun someone who operates a film projector:

The projectionist liked to show old black-and-white movies.

satire

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(say **sat**-uy-uh)

noun a literary composition in which someone's failings are ridiculed:

The play was a satire that poked fun at the government.

theatrical

(say thee-**at**-rik-uhl)

adjective in or belonging to a theatre:

My uncle loves the stage and works in theatrical production.

vibrato

(say vuh-**brah**-toh)

noun a pulsating effect produced in the singing voice or in an instrumental tone:

The flautist used vibrato on the final note.

vocalist

(say **voh**-kuh-luhst)

noun a singer:

He was a trumpeter and jazz vocalist.

Junior Arts Level 4

acoustic

(say uh-**koo**h-stik)

adjective relating to musical instruments, especially guitars, which are not electronically amplified:

Sanjeev played acoustic guitar in his spare time.

adaptation

(say ad-uhp-**tay**-shuhn)

noun a literary work rewritten to be presented in a different way:

She wrote an adaptation of 'The Three Musketeers' for the stage.

alabaster

(say al-uh-**bas**-tuh)

noun a fine white stone used for carving:

Alabaster is often carved into ornaments.

allegory

(say **al**-uh-guh-ree)

noun a story which seems simple but has an extra meaning:

The story about the boy who cried wolf is an allegory.

announcer

(say uh-**now**n-suh)

noun someone who announces for programs on radio or television:

The radio announcer introduced each of the musicians before they began to play.

anthology

(say an-**thol**-uh-jee)

noun a collection of poems, short stories or songs, each by a different author or songwriter:

I bought my mother an anthology of Australian poetry for her birthday.

applaud

(say uh-**plaw**d)

verb to show that you are pleased by clapping your hands:

The crowd began to applaud as she bowed at the end of the performance.

audience

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(say **aw**-dee-uhns)

noun an assembly of hearers or spectators:

The audience was very surprised to see him suddenly burst onto the stage.

biography

(say buy-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun the story of a person's life, written by someone else:

Writing someone's biography requires a lot of reseach.

bolero

(say buh-**lair**-roh or buh-**lear**-roh)

noun a short jacket ending above or at the waistline:

The Spanish dancer wore tight black pants and a bolero over his shirt.

cantata

(say kan-**tah**-tuh)

noun a work for singers and instruments with words set to music but not acted:

The cantata was performed in the Opera House.

chorister

(say **ko**-ruhs-tuh)

noun someone who sings in a choir:

She loved singing and wanted to be a chorister in the cathedral choir.

critique

(say kruh-**teek**)

noun an article or essay reviewing something:

The newspaper featured a critique of the new film.

decibel

(say **dess**-uh-bel)

noun a measure of loudness used to show how much louder one sound is than another:

If the music got one decibel louder we were sure our ears would explode!

photography

(say fuh-**tog**-ruh-fee)

noun the act of producing images with a camera:

The skill involved in photography is often underestimated.

quadrille

(say kwuh-**dril**)

noun a dance where four couples dance in a square pattern:

The dancing class was divided into groups of eight to learn the steps of the quadrille.

requiem

(say **rek**-wee-uhm)

noun music composed to honour the memory of the dead:

She composed the requiem in honour of her late brother.

semibreve

(say **sem**-ee-breev)

noun a musical note which is four crotchets long:

In our music class we learned that a semibreve is a note which is four times as long as a crotchet.

symphony

(say **sim**-fuh-nee)

noun a musical composition for a full orchestra, usually with four movements or parts:

Mozart was very young when he composed his first symphony.

vaudeville

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(say **vaw**-duh-vil)

noun a light theatrical entertainment, mainly with musical and comedy acts:

His great-grandmother was a star of vaudeville in the 1920s.

Junior Arts Level 5

accompaniment

(say uh-**kump**-nee-muhnt)

noun that part of a composition which provides the harmonic and rhythmic backing to a melodic line:

The pianist played the accompaniment for the flautist.

anecdote

(say **an**-uhk-doh)

noun a short story that tells about a funny or interesting person or event:

She kept us entertained with an anecdote about her family.

aubergine

(say **oh**-buh-jeen or **oh**-buh-zheen)

adjective dark purple like the colour of an eggplant:

The dark aubergine walls looked dramatic with the bright green carpet.

aural

(say **aw**-ruhl)

adjective having to do with hearing or listening:

I failed the aural test in the music exam because I had a bad cold.

decoupage

(say day-kooh-**pahzh**)

noun the art or process of decorating something with an arrangement of cut-out paper, cardboard, etc.:

We had to collect lots of colourful paper to cut up for our decoupage.

decrescendo

(say dee-kruh-**shen**-doh)

noun in music, a gradual reduction in loudness:

The piece of music ended with a decrescendo that faded away to silence.

elocution

(say el-uh-**kyooh**-shuhn)

noun the way you speak:

Newsreaders have to have very clear elocution.

glockenspiel

(say **glok**-uhn-speel or **glok**-uhn-shpeel)

noun a musical instrument with steel bars set in a frame, which you hit with hammers:

He enjoyed playing the glockenspiel in the band.

haiku

(say **huy**-kooh)

noun a Japanese form of poem which has 17 syllables and three lines:

There was a beautiful haiku poem engraved at the war memorial.

marionette

(say ma-ree-uh-**net**)

noun a puppet which is worked by strings attached to its limbs:

Many puppets, including the original marionette used for Pinocchio can still be seen in the Disney museum.

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overture

(say **oh**-vuh-choouh)

noun music played as an introduction to an opera, ballet or musical show:

The audience listened with anticipation as the orchestra played the overture.

palindrome

(say **pal**-uhn-droh-m)

noun a word or expression which reads the same backwards as forwards:

The word 'Madam' is a palindrome.

portfolio

(say pawt-**foh**-lee-oh)

noun a collection of an artist's drawings or photographs, which they can show to someone as examples of their work:

The artist showed his portfolio of drawings to the gallery owner.

timbre

(say **tim**-buh or **tam**-buh)

noun the particular sound an instrument makes:

His voice has a rich, warm timbre which is perfect for this particular role.

waltz

(say wawlts or wolts)

noun a type of dance in which you and your partner move in circles:

The bride and groom danced a waltz.

Junior Australian Level 1

banjo

(say **ban**-joh)

noun a musical stringed instrument with a round body:

My uncle plays his banjo in a band.

billy

(say **bil**-ee)

noun a tin container with a lid, used for boiling water over a fire:

The campers heated up water for their coffee in the billy.

brolga

(say **bröl**-guh)

noun a large silvery-grey bird with long legs, which is known for its dancing:

The brölga is a native Australian bird.

bush

(say boosh)

noun a tree-covered area of land:

We drove through open country, then through bush.

damper

(say **dam**-puh)

noun bread made from flour and water mixed to make a dough and baked in the coals of an open fire:

We wrapped the damper in foil before putting it on the coals to bake.

dingo

(say **ding**-goh)

noun an Australian wild dog:

The ranger in the national park told us that if we saw a dingo we should not feed it.

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drover

(say **droh**-vuh)

noun someone who herds cattle or sheep over long distances:

The work of a drover is nowadays usually done by a train or truck.

farmer

(say **fah**-muh)

noun A **farmer** is someone who works on a farm, growing plants and keeping animals for food:

My father wants to leave the city and become a farmer.

mate

(say mayt)

noun a friend:

Jonas would trust Akio with anything -- he is his best mate.

mulga

(say **mul**-guh)

noun a type of wattle tree found in inland Australia:

The mulga is a tree that can live in very dry conditions.

numbat

(say **num**-bat)

noun a small Australian marsupial which feeds on insects, especially termites. It has red and brown fur with white stripes on its back, a long bushy tail and a long pointed nose. It is endangered:

The numbat likes to eat termites more than ants, so it lives in hollow logs where it can find more of them.

sheep

(say sheep)

noun an animal which is kept for its meat and thick wool:

The dog managed to get the flock into the pen except for one stubborn sheep.

swag

(say swag)

noun a bundle or roll of belongings carried on the shoulders by someone travelling in the bush:

Everything the camper needed was in his swag.

wombat

(say **wom**-bat)

noun a short-legged, heavy Australian marsupial that burrows holes into the ground:

The wombat looked cute and cuddly but it had sharp claws so I stayed away.

yarn

(say yahn)

noun a long story, especially one about unlikely happenings:

We loved it when Grandpa would tell us a yarn about his days as a drover.

Junior Australian Level 2

battler

(say **bat**-luh)

noun *Informal* an honest, hardworking person who tries hard to make a good living and who is brave in the face of bad times:

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The news article described the farmer as a great Aussie battler who had survived ten years of drought.

bilby

(say **bil**-bee)

noun a type of bandicoot. It is an animal currently rated as vulnerable rather than endangered:

The bilby is quite different in appearance to other types of bandicoot.

billycart

(say **bil**-ee-kaht)

noun a toy four-wheeled cart made at home and ridden on by children as a form of amusement:

You have to wear a helmet if you want to race your billycart.

bogong

(say **boh**-gong)

noun a large Australian moth:

I got quite a shock when I saw the huge bogong on my ceiling.

boomer

(say **booh**-muh)

noun a large male kangaroo:

A big kangaroo used to be called a boomer.

boomerang

(say **booh**-muh-rang)

noun a curved, flat piece of wood that returns to you if you throw it in the right way.

Boomerangs were first used by Aboriginal people as hunting weapons:

We bought a boomerang when we visited Central Australia.

bunyip

(say **bun**-yuhp)

noun a mythical creature of Aboriginal legend, said to live in swamps and billabongs:

There is a song about a bunyip in the story 'Dot and the Kangaroo'.

bushcraft

(say **boosh**-krahft)

noun the ability to live in and travel through the bush with a minimum of equipment and assistance:

He managed to survive for twelve weeks in the wilderness due to his bushcraft.

bushfire

(say **boosh**-fuy-uh)

noun a big fire in the bush or forest:

Several houses were destroyed before the firefighters could control the bushfire.

convict

(say **kon**-vikt)

noun in the past, a person transported to the British colonies to serve out a prison sentence:

The life of a convict in Port Arthur was very hard.

country

(say **kun**-tree)

noun a large area of land occupied by people organised under a single government:

Australia is a country, and so is Fiji.

desert

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(say **dez**-uht)

noun a sandy or stony place without enough rainfall to grow many plants:
It very rarely rains in the desert.

humpy

(say **hump**-ee)

noun a bush shelter traditionally used by Aboriginal people:
Storm Boy lived in a humpy on the beach.

island

(say **uy**-luhnd)

noun a piece of land completely surrounded by water:
We rowed out to the island in the middle of the lake.

joey

(say **joh**-ee)

noun a young animal, especially a young kangaroo which is carried in its mother's pouch:
The joey had jumped out of its mother's pouch and was feeding on the grass beside her.

jumbuck

(say **jum**-buk)

noun a sheep:
These days, you only hear of a sheep being called a jumbuck in the song 'Walzing Matilda'.

koala

(say koh-**ah**-luh)

noun a furry, grey, Australian marsupial without a tail, which lives and feeds in certain types of gum trees:
Lots of people think that the koala is a bear, but it isn't.

koel

(say **koh**-uhl)

noun a cuckoo of Asia, New Guinea, and northern Australia; the male having a long tail and a distinctive 'cooee' call:
We could tell the bird was a koel by its distinctive call.

landscape

(say **land**-skayp)

noun what you see when you look across the land:
The landscape is very flat around here.

lifeguard

(say **luyf**-gahd)

noun someone whose job it is to rescue swimmers at a pool or beach who are in difficulty, and give first aid to those who need it:
The lifeguard was trained in resuscitation.

livestock

(say **luyv**-stok)

noun all the animals kept on a farm or station such as horses, cattle and sheep:
We had to move the livestock to higher ground during the flood.

magpie

(say **mag**-puy)

noun a black and white bird with a large beak, which is found throughout Australia and New Guinea:

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We wore empty ice-cream buckets on our heads to avoid being hurt if a magpie swooped while we walked through the park.

mateship

(say **mayt**-ship)

noun the state of being a friend with someone:

The lifelong friends valued their mateship above all else.

mulgara

(say mul-**gah**-ruh)

noun a small marsupial that looks like a mouse with a black, hairy tail. It lives in the Australian desert and is endangered:

You would need to be in the desert to see a mulgara.

nardoo

(say nah-**dooh**)

noun a type of fern that likes to grow in mud or water:

Parts of the nardoo plant can be ground up to make a sort of flour that can be used in cooking.

opal

(say **oh**-puhl)

noun a valuable gem having beautiful patterns of different colours:

We could see flashes of different colours when we put the opal in the sunlight.

ore

(say aw)

noun a rock or mineral which contains a metal that is valuable enough to be mined:

My mother works for a company that mines iron ore.

outback

(say **owt**-bak)

noun the remote parts of the country, far from the cities and the coast:

People who live in the outback have to be self-reliant.

paddock

(say **pad**-uhk)

noun a large area of land which has been fenced and is used for grazing sheep or other animals:

During the flood, the sheep were moved to a higher paddock.

possum

(say **pos**-uhm)

noun an Australian marsupial that lives in trees, has a long tail for climbing and is active at night:

There was a possum in the tree outside my bedroom window last night.

quoll

(say kwol)

noun a marsupial with a long tail and spots, about the size of a cat:

The quoll is endangered like a lot of other Australian species.

saltbush

(say **sohlt**-boosh)

noun a plant which can grow in very dry parts of Australia and which horses and cattle eat:

The brumbies grazed on saltbush where nothing else grew.

shearer

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(say **shear**-ruh)

noun someone who shears sheep:

Each shearer had to shear eighty sheep a day.

station

(say **stay**-shuhn)

noun a rural property for raising sheep or cattle:

The cattle station was 260 kilometres from the nearest town.

swagman

(say **swag**-muhn)

noun a man who travelled about the country on foot with a swag on his back, living on his earnings from occasional jobs, or gifts of money or food:

'Waltzing Matilda' is about a swagman who camped by a billabong.

taipan

(say **tuy**-pan)

noun a venomous brown snake found in Australia and New Guinea:

I wouldn't like to meet a taipan in the dark -- or the light!

trooper

(say **trooh**-puh)

noun In Australia, a **trooper** was a police officer who rode a horse:

The trooper rode up to the swagman and asked him whose sheep he was holding.

waddy

(say **wod**-ee)

noun a heavy, wooden war club which used to be used by Aboriginal people:

The waddy was made of very strong wood.

wattle

(say **wot**-uhl)

noun a tree with small, round, yellow flowers, which grows in warm areas of the world:

You know that spring is coming when you see the yellow flowers on the wattle.

wildlife

(say **wuyld**-luyf)

noun animals, birds and insects living in their natural surroundings:

You must always be careful not to endanger wildlife.

Junior Australian Level 3

ancestor

(say **an**-sess-tuh)

noun someone related to you who lived long ago:

His ancestor came to Australia with the First Fleet.

bandicoot

(say **ban**-dee-kooht)

noun a rat-like Australian marsupial which feeds at night on insects, worms and plant roots:

Dad was not happy, because a bandicoot had dug up part of his vegetable garden in the night.

banksia

(say **bangk**-see-uh)

noun an Australian shrub or tree with hard jagged leaves and spikes of tiny, coloured

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flowers:

The banksia outside my window attracts beautiful parrots.

bettong

(say **bet**-ong)

noun a very small kangaroo that looks like a small wallaby with a short nose:

There are many types of bettong, including the brush-tailed bettong and the northern bettong.

billabong

(say **bil**-uh-bong)

noun a waterhole which used to be part of a river:

We pitched our tent beside the billabong.

boobook

(say **booh**-book)

noun a small brownish owl with white-spotted back and wings:

A boobook landed on my windowsill last night.

bottlebrush

(say **bot**-uhl-brush)

noun an Australian plant with red or pink brush-like flowers:

The parrots were attracted to the flowers of the bottlebrush.

bream

(say brim)

noun an Australian saltwater fish which is good for eating:

The seafood restaurant's menu offered fresh bream caught daily.

brigalow

(say **brig**-uh-loh)

noun a type of acacia tree that grows in Queensland and northern New South Wales, and which has strong, heavy wood used by Aboriginal people for carving:

I received a carving that was made from brigalow wood.

brumby

(say **brum**-bee)

noun a wild horse living freely in the bush:

The stockman's favourite horse was the brumby.

bushranger

(say **boosh**-rayn-juh)

noun in the past, someone who hid in the bush and lived by robbing travellers:

Ned Kelly was a famous Australian bushranger.

cockatoo

(say kok-uh-**tooh**)

noun a crested parrot:

He taught his pet cockatoo to whistle the national anthem.

colonial

(say kuh-**loh**-nee-uhl)

adjective relating to a colony:

When the British first came to Australia, they established colonial settlements.

colony

(say **kol**-uh-nee)

noun a group of people who have left their home and formed a settlement in a new land ruled by the parent country:

Each of the early European settlements in Australia was a colony of Britain.

commonwealth

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **kom**-uhn-welth)

noun a country made up of several states where there is one government for the whole country, as well as smaller governments in each state:

Australia is a commonwealth, with a federal government as well as separate governments in each state and territory.

coolamon

(say **kooh**-luh-mon)

noun a basin-shaped wooden dish traditionally made and used by some Aboriginal peoples:

The coolamon was full of yams and nuts.

crocodile

(say **krok**-uh-duyl)

noun a large, lizard-like reptile found living in the waters of tropical countries:

A crocodile has sharp teeth and extremely strong jaws.

cubbyhouse

(say **kub**-ee-hows)

noun a small house for children to play in:

Only two of us could fit into the cubbyhouse at the same time.

currawong

(say **ku**-ruh-wong)

noun a large, black-and-white or greyish Australian bird with a large pointed bill and a loud ringing call:

Last spring, a baby currawong woke me every morning at six o'clock.

custodian

(say kuss-**toh**-dee-uhn)

noun a keeper or guardian:

We were welcomed by a traditional custodian of the land.

democracy

(say duh-**mok**-ruh-see)

noun the idea that everyone in a country has equal rights:

The right of free speech for all is essential in a democracy.

demountable

(say duh-**mown**-tuh-buhl)

noun a building which is able to be dismantled and removed from one site and reassembled at another:

While the new classroom was being built, we had our classes in a demountable.

dillybag

(say **dil**-ee-bag)

noun a traditional Aboriginal bag made of twisted grass or fibre:

She used a dillybag to carry food.

dugong

(say **dyooh**-gong)

noun a large marine mammal of northern Australia, having flipper-like forelimbs:

The dugong was hunted for its meat and oil by some Aboriginal peoples.

dunnart

(say **dun**-aht)

noun a type of native mouse found only in Australia. It is endangered:

The dunnart is a little native mouse that eats mostly insects.

equality

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say ee-**kwol**-uh-tee or uh-**kwol**-uh-tee)

noun the state of being equal; correspondence in quality, degree, value, rank, ability, etc.:

My mother says that in the interests of equality, everyone in the family should take turns in taking out the garbage bin.

euro

(say **yoo**h-roh)

noun an Australian animal like a wallaroo with short, red-coloured hair:

A euro hopped right into our tent when we were camping near Alice Springs.

fossick

(say **foss**-ik)

verb If you **fossick**, you try to find gold or precious stones in ground that has already been worked over by others:

We hope to find some gold when we fossick around the old diggings.

furphy

(say **fer**-fee)

noun a piece of gossip, usually untrue:

The story that the station was due to be closed was nothing but a furphy.

galah

(say guh-**lah**)

noun an Australian cockatoo with pink and grey feathers:

We took the injured galah to the vet.

gibber

(say **gib**-uh)

noun a stone or rock:

It took three days to cross the barren gibber plain.

grazier

(say **gray**-zee-uh)

noun a farmer who usually has a large area of land on which cattle or sheep are kept:

The grazier was at the cattle sale to buy calves.

jamboree

(say jam-buh-**ree**)

noun a large gathering of Scouts:

Over 8000 Scouts attended the jamboree last year.

jarrah

(say **ja**-ruh)

noun a large tree found in western Australia with a hard, dark red wood:

The wood from jarrah trees lasts for a very long time.

kangaroo

(say kang-guh-**rooh**)

noun an Australian animal with large strong back legs for jumping:

My cousins from China really wanted to see a kangaroo when they came to visit.

karri

(say **ka**-ree)

noun a gum tree from western Australia with very hard long-lasting wood:

A karri tree can grow as tall as eighty metres.

lamington

(say **lam**-ing-tuhn)

noun a square of sponge cake covered with chocolate icing and grated coconut:

I sneezed and the coconut from my lamington went everywhere.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

lantana

(say lan-**tah**-nuh)

noun a flowering plant which has become a weed in warm, wet parts of Australia:

They spent the weekend removing lantana from bushland.

lifesaver

(say **luyf**-say-vuh)

noun someone who makes sure that people swim at the safe part of a beach and who rescues swimmers in difficulty:

The sea was rough and the lifesaver had to rescue a man who had swum out too far.

lorikeet

(say **lo**-ruh-keet or lo-ruh-**keet**)

noun a small, brightly-coloured parrot:

A brightly coloured lorikeet flew onto our verandah.

lyrebird

(say **luy**-uh-berd)

noun a type of Australian bird which can mimic other sounds and is known for the long beautiful tails which the males display when courting the females:

The lyrebird in the bush near my house has learned to mimic the ringtone of my mobile phone.

mallee

(say **mal**-ee)

noun an type of Australian gum tree which has several thin stems growing from a large underground root:

We passed several clumps of mallee as we walked through the bush.

marsupial

(say mah-**sooh**-pee-uhl or mah-**syoo**h-pee-uhl)

noun a mammal such as a kangaroo which keeps its young in a pouch for a few months after birth:

The kangaroo is a marsupial and so are the wallaby, the koala and the possum.

merino

(say muh-**ree**-noh)

noun a type of sheep that has very fine wool:

Wool from the merino is of very high quality.

monotreme

(say **mon**-uh-treem)

noun an egg-laying mammal:

The only examples of a monotreme are the platypus and the echidna.

nationalism

(say **nash**-uh-nuhl-iz-uhm)

noun love of your own country:

There was a surge of nationalism in the face of threatened war.

pastoralist

(say **pahs**-tuh-ruhl-uhst)

noun someone who owns land used for raising stock, especially sheep or cattle:

It is extremely difficult being a pastoralist in times of drought.

pavlova

(say pav-**loh**-vuh)

noun a dessert made of a mixture of sugar and egg whites baked then filled with cream and topped with fruit:

The pavlova was topped with kiwifruit, strawberries and passionfruit.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

potoroo

(say pot-uh-**rooh**)

noun a small, long-nosed animal with a pointed head that lives in thick grass, and sleeps during the day and comes out at night:

We were lucky to see a potoroo in the bush because they are becoming rare.

prospector

(say **pros**-pek-tuh)

noun a person who prospects for gold or other minerals:

This business was started by a prospector who came to Australia during the goldrush.

quokka

(say **kwok**-uh)

noun a small wallaby, just larger than a cat, with rounded ears and a short face:

The quokka is only found on a small island off the western part of Australia.

repatriation

(say ree-pat-ree-**ay**-shuhn)

noun assistance given to people who have served in the armed forces on their return to civilian life, in the form of pensions, medical care, allowances for dependants, and so on:

Emily's grandfather received repatriation to help him after he returned from serving in World War II.

rosella

(say roh-**zel**-uh)

noun a parrot with bright red, green and blue feathers, common in Australia:

We put some seed out for the rosella to eat.

selection

(say suh-**lek**-shuhn)

noun a small farm or a block of land:

Robert's great-grandfather wrote about life on his selection in the 1800s.

sundowner

(say **sun**-dow-nuh)

noun a swagman who arrived at a farm at nightfall, too late for work, but was given shelter for the night:

The sundowner was lucky to have arrived at the station in time for dinner.

telegraph

(say **tel**-uh-graf)

noun a system or device for sending messages by electric signals along a wire:

Sydney and Adelaide were linked by telegraph in 1867.

territory

(say **te**-ruh-tree)

noun any area of land, especially a region thought of as belonging to someone:

This island is a territory of Australia.

tuan

(say **tooh**-ahn)

noun a small marsupial that looks like a mouse with a hairy-tipped tail. It lives mainly in trees and is endangered:

The bushy-tailed tuan leaps through the treetops.

wallaby

(say **wol**-uh-bee)

noun any of several types of kangaroo-like animals. Some species are endangered or

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

vulnerable:

The female wallaby carries her babies in a pouch.

wallaroo

(say wol-uh-**rooh**)

noun a large kangaroo with shaggy, dark fur that lives in rocky or hilly land:

The wallaroo has shorter back legs than the kangaroo.

Junior Australian Level 4

acacia

(say uh-**kay**-shuh)

noun a wattle tree:

In Australia, we usually refer to the acacia as a wattle tree.

barramundi

(say ba-ruh-**mun**-dee)

noun a large silver-grey fish which is good to eat:

We caught a huge barramundi when we went fishing on the weekend.

bombora

(say bom-**baw**-ruh)

noun a reef of rocks below the surface of the sea:

We like to surf the waves caused by the bombora.

corella

(say kuh-**rel**-uh)

noun a type of cockatoo with white feathers tinged with pink:

My grandmother's pet corella used to sit on her shoulder.

corroboree

(say kuh-**rob**-uh-ree)

noun an Aboriginal dance ceremony which includes singing and rhythmic music:

You could hear the singing from the corroboree from far away.

echidna

(say uh-**kid**-nuh)

noun a spiny, ant-eating animal which lays eggs and feeds its young with its own milk:

The echidna can be found all over Australia.

eucalypt

(say **yoo**h-kuh-lipt)

noun a gum tree:

The wood of a eucalypt is the best wood for a camp fire.

goanna

(say goh-**an**-uh)

noun any of a number of large Australian lizards:

The goanna climbed up the tree looking for a bird's nest with eggs in it.

kookaburra

(say **kook**-uh-bu-ruh)

noun an Australian bird of the kingfisher family whose call sounds like human laughter:

The kookaburra flew down and grabbed the worm in its beak.

lagerphone

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(say **lah**-guh-fohn)

noun a homemade percussion instrument made of beer bottle tops loosely nailed to a broom handle:

The busker shook a lagerphone as he sang.

macadamia

(say mak-uh-**day**-mee-uh)

noun an edible nut with a very hard shell, grown in eastern Australia and South-East Asia:

The shell of a macadamia is very hard, but the nut inside is delicious.

ochre

(say **oh**-kuh)

noun a yellowish clay used in paints and dyes:

Ochre is often used in Indigenous artworks.

perentie

(say puh-**ren**-tee)

noun the largest Australian lizard, found in dry areas of northern and central Australia:

We heard a rustling in the grass and suddenly an enormous perentie was looking at us with great interest.

platypus

(say **plat**-uh-poos)

noun an Australian animal with webbed feet and a bill like a duck's, which lays eggs and feeds its young with its own milk:

We went down to the creek early in the morning to see if we could see a platypus.

protea

(say **proh**-tee-uh)

noun a South African shrub with large showy flowers:

The flowers of the protea look very striking in a flower arrangement.

quenda

(say **kwen**-duh)

noun a brown bandicoot with a short nose:

We saw a quenda in the Australian fauna section of the zoo.

shiralee

(say **shi**-ruh-lee)

noun a swag:

All the swagman needed was in his shiralee.

spinifex

(say **spin**-uh-feks)

noun a kind of spiny grass:

The property abounded in spinifex and stunted saltbush.

squatter

(say **skwot**-uh)

noun in the past, someone who settled on crown land to run sheep or cattle, first without government permission, but later with a lease or licence:

He started off as a squatter and ended up one of the richest men in Australia.

waratah

(say wo-ruh-**tah**)

noun an Australian shrub with large red flowers:

The waratah is the floral emblem of New South Wales.

Junior Australian Level 5

acreage

(say **ay**-kuh-rij)

noun land consisting of a number of acres, especially in a rural area:

They bought some acreage about an hour from the city.

alcheringa

(say al-chuh-**ring**-guh)

noun (in Aboriginal mythology) the Dreaming; the time in which the earth received its present form and in which the patterns and cycles of life and nature were initiated:

Many stories in Aboriginal mythology revolve around alcheringa, the time when the earth was formed.

boobialla

(say booh-bee-**al**-uh)

noun a native shrub which is often grown as a hedge:

The landscaper planted boobialla as a border for the native garden.

budgerigar

(say **buj**-uh-ree-gah)

noun a parakeet of the inland regions of Australia, often kept as a pet:

Many people keep a budgerigar as a pet.

burramys

(say **bu**-ruh-muhs)

noun a rare alpine pygmy possum, found in mountain regions of NSW and Victoria:

The burramys is a tiny possum that can sometimes be found in snow country.

burrawang

(say **bu**-ruh-wang)

noun a native, palm-like plant:

The nuts of the burrawang plant formed part of the traditional diet of some Aboriginal peoples.

circumnavigate

(say ser-kuhm-**nav**-uh-gayt)

verb to sail round something:

The first European to circumnavigate Australia was Matthew Flinders.

colloquialism

(say kuh-**lohk**-wee-uhl-iz-uhm)

noun an expression that you use when talking and chatting, or when you're not taking your written language too seriously:

'Fair dinkum' is a colloquialism used in Australian English.

dargawarra

(say dah-guh-**wo**-ruh)

noun one of the indigenous Australian hopping mice:

The guide pointed out tracks that had been left in the sand by a little dargawarra.

dooligarl

(say **dooh**-lee-gahl)

noun (in Aboriginal legend) a yowie or manlike monster, who characteristically camps without a fire:

The dooligarl is tall manlike monster in Aboriginal legend.

eucalyptus

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say yoooh-kuh-**lip**-tuhs)

noun a type of tree with many different varieties, used for its timber and its strong oil:

The Australian landscape is characterised by its eucalyptus trees.

oondoroo

(say oohn-duh-**rooh**)

noun an Australian native evergreen shrub with purple star-shaped flowers:

The edge of the track was lined with oondoroo plants covered in purple flowers.

reconciliation

(say rek-uhn-sil-ee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the achievement of harmony between people or groups:

In her speech the prime minister said that our goal should be reconciliation.

sovereignty

(say **sov**-ruhn-tee)

noun supreme power or authority:

The queen exercised sovereignty over a huge territory.

venomous

(say **ven**-uh-muhs)

adjective inflicting a poisonous bite or sting:

The bite from the venomous snake made me very sick.

Junior Environment Level 1

beach

(say beech)

noun the sandy land at the edge of the sea:

We grabbed our towels and raced down to the beach.

breed

(say breed)

verb If animals **breed**, they mate and produce young:

The zookeepers are hoping that the new elephants will breed.

cloud

(say klowd)

noun a white or grey mass of water vapour, ice, smoke or dust that floats in the air:

There was a big dark cloud in the sky, so we knew there was a storm coming.

cold

(say kohld)

adjective having a very low temperature:

It's cold in here -- let's put the heater on.

dawn

(say dawn)

noun the time of day when it begins to get light:

I had to get up at dawn to go on the school camp.

garden

(say **gah**-duhn)

noun an area, usually with trees and plants, used for pleasure and as a place to relax:

They were sent outside to play in the garden.

heat

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say heet)

noun warmth or the quality of being hot:

We came inside to escape the heat.

nest

(say nest)

noun a shelter built or a place used by a bird to hatch its eggs and bring up its young:

We found a nest with two baby birds in it.

rain

(say rayn)

noun water falling from the sky in drops:

Farmers are hoping that the rain will fill their dams.

rubbish

(say **rub**-ish)

noun useless unwanted material to be thrown away:

Pick up all this rubbish, please.

soil

(say soyl)

noun earth, especially the kind plants can grow in:

Mum says the soil in our garden is good for growing tomatoes.

tide

(say tuyd)

noun the slow rise and fall of the ocean, which happens twice each day:

When the tide is low, you can see all the shells washed up on the shore.

vine

(say vuyn)

noun a climbing plant:

We will soon be able to pick grapes from the vine growing over our verandah.

wild

(say wuyld)

adjective If an animal or plant is **wild**, it is living or growing in a natural state without humans taking care of it:

There are wild mushrooms growing in the paddock.

wind

(say wind)

noun **Wind** is air that moves and blows things about:

Is there enough wind to go sailing?

Junior Environment Level 2

autumn

(say **aw**-tuhm)

noun the season of the year following summer, when the weather gets cooler and the leaves of some trees change colour and start to fall off:

The trees in the park near our house turn yellow and orange in autumn.

baboon

(say ba-**boohn** or buh-**boohn**)

noun a large monkey with a mouth like a dog and a short tail, found in Africa and Arabia:

The young baboon was very scared of humans entering its habitat.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

biobank

(say **buy**-oh-bangk)

noun an agency which allows developers to build on environmentally sensitive land, provided they offset the damage done by protecting plants and animals elsewhere:

The biobank specified which area was to be protected.

carbon

(say **kah**-buhn)

noun a common element found in all living things:

Diamond is a form of carbon.

citrus

(say **sit**-ruhs)

noun a small evergreen tree such as the lemon, orange or lime:

The citrus we planted last year is starting to produce fruit.

cocoon

(say kuh-**koohn**)

noun the silky covering spun by the larvae of many insects:

We found a cocoon hanging from some leaves.

cyclone

(say **suy**-klohn)

noun a storm with very strong winds:

The roof of their house was torn off in the cyclone.

dew

(say dyooh)

noun small drops of water that form during the night on surfaces outside:

The dew looked pretty, glistening on the grass in the early sun.

flora

(say **flaw**-ruh)

noun the plants of a particular area:

The flora of Australia includes the wattle tree.

flower

(say **flow**-uh)

noun the blossom of a plant:

This orchid flower is spectacular.

fungus

(say **fung**-guhs)

noun a type of plant which does not grow from seeds and does not have a green stem or green leaves:

We found lots of different types of colourful fungus on logs in the bush.

garbage

(say **gah**-bij)

noun rubbish or waste material:

We picked up the garbage and put it in the bin.

greenhouse

(say **green**-hows)

noun a building, chiefly of glass, for the cultivation or protection of plants:

We grow lettuces in the greenhouse all year long.

grotto

(say **gro**-toh)

noun (plural **grottoes** or **grottos**)

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a cave:

The scuba diver took his mask off when he surfaced inside the grotto.

hazard

(say **haz**-uhd)

noun a risk or danger:

The hole in the footpath is a hazard for pedestrians.

island

(say **uy**-luhnd)

noun a piece of land completely surrounded by water:

We rowed out to the island in the middle of the lake.

lagoon

(say luh-**goohn**)

noun a shallow pool of water, often separated from the sea by a bank of sand or a reef:

The sea was too rough so we swam in the lagoon.

landfill

(say **land**-fil)

noun material as garbage, building refuse, etc., deposited under layers of earth to raise the level of the site:

Landfill can be used as an energy source, and many rubbish tips are already being used to generate electricity.

landscape

(say **land**-skayp)

noun what you see when you look across the land:

The landscape is very flat around here.

lava

(say **lah**-vuh)

noun the hot liquid rock which comes out of a volcano:

Rivers of lava poured down the side of the mountain.

livestock

(say **luyv**-stok)

noun all the animals kept on a farm or station such as horses, cattle and sheep:

We had to move the livestock to higher ground during the flood.

magma

(say **mag**-muh)

noun the very hot molten rock under the solid crust of the earth's surface:

When it reaches the earth's surface, magma is called lava.

mammal

(say **mam**-uhl)

noun an animal whose young feeds on its mother's milk:

A whale is a mammal which lives in the sea.

marine

(say muh-**reen**)

adjective having to do with the sea:

The ocean is full of many kinds of marine life.

monsoon

(say mon-**soohn**)

noun a season of strong winds and heavy rain in some southern Asian countries:

We were in India during the monsoon and the weather was very wild and wet.

ocean

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **oh**-shuhn)

noun one of the large areas of salt water between continents, such as the Pacific Ocean or the Indian Ocean:

The ship was tossed up and down on the stormy ocean.

people

(say **pee**-puhl)

noun You use the word **people** when you are talking about humans in general, not any particular person:

The mayor represents all the people in the local community.

prey

(say pray)

noun an animal hunted for food by another:

Snakes can swallow prey much bigger than you would think.

range

(say raynj)

noun a line or row of mountains:

The peaks of the mountain range were covered in snow.

sandbank

(say **sand**-bank)

noun a bank of sand in the sea or a river, formed by currents and often exposed at low tide:

At low tide, you can fish from the sandbank.

solar

(say **soh**-luh)

adjective to do with the sun:

We have a solar hot water system on our roof, to heat our water using the rays from the sun.

source

(say sawce)

noun the place or thing from which something comes:

Those countries are the main source of the world's oil.

sprout

(say sprowt)

verb to start to grow by sending out a new growth:

The seeds on our nature table have started to sprout.

termite

(say **ter**-muyt)

noun A **termite** is a white insect that eats wood and which can destroy houses:

Once mature, the queen termite can produce up to 2000 eggs a day!

tidal

(say **tuyd**-l)

adjective relating to or marked by tides:

The lagoon is tidal so the water level varies during the day.

topsoil

(say **top**-soyl)

noun the surface or upper part of the soil:

The garden grew quickly in the rich topsoil.

tundra

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **tun**-druh)

noun a treeless arctic plain with mosses, lichens and small plants:

The frozen tundra seemed to extend forever.

undergrowth

(say **un**-duh-grohth)

noun shrubs and low plants growing beneath or among trees:

Most of the undergrowth was burnt in the fire but a few big trees were still standing.

valley

(say **val**-ee)

noun the low land between hills or mountains, usually with a river flowing through it:

There are several farms in the valley.

vermin

(say **ver**-muhn)

plural noun harmful, troublesome, or unpleasant animals, such as rats, cockroaches, and fleas:

The old abandoned factory was full of vermin.

Junior Environment Level 3

activist

(say **ak**-tuh-vuhst)

noun someone who works very hard for something they believe in:

My uncle is an activist for civil rights.

altitude

(say **al**-tuh-tyoohd)

noun height above sea level:

The top of the mountain is at such a high altitude that it is above the clouds.

antelope

(say **ant**-uh-lohp)

noun a fast animal with horns, related to cattle, sheep and goats:

The antelope was being stalked by the lion.

aphid

(say **ay**-fuhd)

noun a small insect which sucks the juice from certain plants:

Mum says if I see an aphid on her roses I should squash it!

arboreal

(say ah-**baw**-ree-uhl)

adjective having to do with, or living in trees:

Koalas are arboreal animals, so are more comfortable up a tree than on the ground.

atmosphere

(say **at**-muhs-fear)

noun the air that surrounds the earth:

The burning of some fuels can result in the pollution of the atmosphere.

biofuel

(say **buy**-oh-fyooh-uhl)

noun any type of fuel that is made from renewable sources such as plants:

Ethanol is a type of biofuel that is made from sugar cane or grains.

blizzard

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **bliz**-uhd)

noun a violent storm with strong winds and driving snow:

We got caught in a blizzard on the way back from our skiing trip.

botany

(say **bot**-uh-nee)

noun the study of plants:

He loves plants and is going to study botany at university.

bracken

(say **brak**-uhn)

noun a fern which is often found in the wetter parts of Australia:

Bracken is often found growing on the side of hills.

buffalo

(say **buf**-uh-loh)

noun a kind of ox sometimes used for pulling heavy loads:

The buffalo is often used for heavy farm work in India.

centipede

(say **sen**-tuh-peed)

noun a small, insect-like creature with a long, thin body and many pairs of legs:

The centipede slowly crossed the kitchen floor.

conifer

(say **kon**-uh-fuh)

noun an evergreen tree which produces cones, like the pine or fir:

Trees like cedars, cypresses and pines are examples of the conifer.

crevice

(say **krev**-uhs)

noun a crack forming an opening:

The branch was wedged in a crevice between two boulders.

cypress

(say **suy**-pruhs)

noun an evergreen cone-bearing tree:

The cypress had grown too large and needed to be trimmed.

deluge

(say **del**-yoohj or **del**-yoohzh)

noun a very heavy fall of rain:

We got soaked in the sudden deluge.

disaster

(say duh-**zah**-stuh)

noun any sudden happening which causes great suffering and damage:

The oil spill was a disaster for marine life in the area.

disease

(say duh-**zeez**)

noun a sickness which can affect a part or all of any living thing:

Many Tasmanian devils have been affected by a serious disease which is threatening their survival.

diversify

(say duy-**ver**-suh-fuy or duh-**ver**-suh-fuy)

verb to vary or to make diverse:

She planted different kinds of roses to diversify the colour of her garden.

drought

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say drowt)

noun a long period of dry weather:

The drought had lasted for months and there was no food left for the livestock.

earthquake

(say **erth**-kwayk)

noun tremors or earth movements in the earth's crust:

The earthquake measured 4 on the Richter scale.

ecology

(say uh-**kol**-uh-jee)

noun the balanced relationship between living things and their environment:

The arctic regions have a very fragile ecology.

environs

(say en-**vuy**-ruhnz)

plural noun the surrounding districts:

Wildlife is less abundant in the environs of the city.

epicentre

(say **ep**-ee-sen-tuh)

noun the point from which earthquake waves seem to go out, directly above the true centre of the disturbance:

The scientists pinpointed the epicentre of the earthquake.

epidemic

(say ep-uh-**dem**-ik)

noun a lot of cases of an illness in a short period of time:

Before vaccinations, an epidemic of flu could kill thousands of people.

erosion

(say uh-**roh**-zhuhn)

noun the process of being worn away by the weather, such as by the wind or by the flow of water:

Planting trees can help stop soil erosion because the roots hold the soil together.

extinct

(say uhks-**tingkt**)

adjective An **extinct** animal no longer exists:

Some animals living in Australia two hundred years ago are now extinct.

fauna

(say **faw**-nuh)

noun the animals of a particular area:

The fauna of Australia includes the kangaroo.

forestry

(say **fo**-ruh-stree)

noun the act of establishing and managing forests:

The government has a department of forestry which looks after the state's forests.

geology

(say jee-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun the study of the rocks which form the earth:

I would like to study geology to know more about rocks.

glacier

(say **glay**-see-uh)

noun a river of ice which moves very slowly down a mountain:

The glacier has receded dramatically in the last decade.

herbaceous

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say her-**bay**-shuhs)

adjective relating to plants that are soft and not woody like a tree:

The Botanical Gardens has an extensive collection of herbaceous plants.

hydroponics

(say huy-druh-**pon**-iks)

noun the growing of plants with their roots in water rather than soil:

With a system of hydroponics you need only a small area to grow food that is both tasty and nutritious.

invertebrate

(say in-**ver**-tuh-bruht)

adjective An **invertebrate** animal does not have a backbone:

A worm is an invertebrate animal.

irrigate

(say i-ruh-gayt)

verb To **irrigate** land is to supply it with water using a system of canals and pipes:

They pump water from the river to irrigate the crops.

isle

(say uyl)

noun a small island:

We sailed towards a small coral isle.

lantana

(say lan-**tah**-nuh)

noun a flowering plant which has become a weed in warm, wet parts of Australia:

They spent the weekend removing lantana from bushland.

latitude

(say **lat**-uh-tyoohd)

noun the distance, measured in degrees, by which a point on the earth is north or south of the equator:

The equator is at zero degrees latitude.

lightning

(say **luyt**-ning)

noun a sudden flash of light in the sky caused by electricity in the air during a storm:

The tree split in half when it was struck by lightning.

loch

(say lok)

noun a lake:

The castle was built on the shore of a loch in the Scottish highlands.

mollusc

(say **mol**-uhsk)

noun an animal with a soft body in a hard shell:

A snail is a mollusc, and so is an oyster.

naturalist

(say **nach**-ruhl-uhst)

noun a person who studies nature:

Any naturalist would be thrilled to discover evidence of a living Tasmanian tiger.

ozone

(say **oh**-zohn)

noun a form of oxygen with three atoms to the molecule, having a peculiar smell:

When it starts to rain you can smell the ozone.

pesticide

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **pest**-uh-suyd)

noun a chemical for killing animals that are dangerous or harmful:

They had to use a pesticide to get rid of the termites.

plankton

(say **plangk**-tuhn)

noun the mass of very tiny plants and animals which drift on or near the surface of water:

She is a biologist and studies the life cycles of various kinds of plankton.

pollinate

(say **pol**-uh-nayt)

verb to shed pollen on the flower of a plant which enables fertilisation:

Only the pollen from a sweet pea can pollinate another sweet pea.

quadruped

(say **kwod**-ruh-ped)

noun an animal with four feet:

The horse is a quadruped and so is a dog.

ravine

(say ruh-**veen**)

noun a long, deep, narrow valley, especially one made by a river:

We nervously rode the donkeys along the edge of the ravine.

resource

(say ruh-**zawce**)

noun something that can give you support or help:

The internet is a good resource for finding some kinds of information.

sediment

(say **sed**-uh-muhnt)

noun solid material that falls to the bottom of a liquid:

The sediment at the bottom of the pond was a dirty brown colour.

species

(say **spee**-seez)

noun one of the groups into which animals and plants are divided according to their characteristics:

Chimpanzees are a species of monkey.

tectonic

(say tek-**ton**-ik)

adjective having to do with the structure and movement of the earth's crust:

The continents of the earth are moving on tectonic plates.

terrain

(say tuh-**rayn**)

noun an area of land, with particular physical features:

We needed a four-wheel-drive vehicle to cross the rocky terrain.

tornado

(say taw-**nay**-doh)

noun (plural **tornadoes** or **tornados**)

a violent whirlwind:

The tornado had completely flattened the mobile home park.

toxic

(say **toks**-ik)

adjective having to do with, affected with, or caused by a poison:

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

The label on the bottle warned that it contained a highly toxic chemical that should not be drunk.

volcanic

(say vol-**kan**-ik)

adjective relating to volcanoes:

Volcanic soil is very fertile.

wastewater

(say **wayst**-waw-tuh)

noun water that has been used in a house, office, factory, etc., so it contains waste such as soap, faeces, chemicals:

The wastewater from the factory has to be treated before it can be used on the garden.

whirlpool

(say **werl**-poohl)

noun a circular current, as in a river or sea, which draws things into its centre:

There was a whirlpool at the bottom of the waterfall.

wilderness

(say **wil**-duh-nuhs)

noun a natural area of country, such as forest, desert, and so on, without roads or houses:

She used the stars to navigate her way out of the wilderness.

windbreak

(say **wind**-brayk)

noun a protection from the wind such as a fence or row of trees:

To the south of the house was a windbreak of pine trees.

Junior Environment Level 4

agriforestry

(say **ag**-ree-fo-ruh-stree)

noun a combination of agricultural pursuits with forestry for commercial and environmental advantage, as by growing crops between the rows of trees:

We attended a seminar on how agriforestry could benefit the environment.

alluvial

(say uh-**looh**-vee-uhl)

adjective relating to sand or mud which has been washed down by a river:

The miners found gold in the alluvial mud.

arthropod

(say **ahth**-ruh-pod)

noun one of the group of invertebrates, having jointed legs and a segmented body, as the insects, arachnids, crustaceans, and so on:

A spider is an arthropod because it has jointed legs and a segmented body.

avalanche

(say **av**-uh-lansh or **av**-uh-lahnsh)

noun a large mass of ice and snow sliding or falling suddenly down a mountain slope:

Twelve people were rescued from the snow after the avalanche.

barometer

(say buh-**rom**-uh-tuh)

noun an instrument that measures air pressure, used to help work out what changes in

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

the weather can be expected:

The barometer is falling which means we are in for bad weather.

biodegradable

(say buy-oh-duh-**gray**-duh-buhl)

adjective A **biodegradable** chemical or substance is one that can be broken down by the sun or bacteria into products which are not harmful to the environment:

We buy biodegradable soap powder to minimise its effect on the environment.

biodiversity

(say buy-oh-duh-**ver**-suh-tee)

noun a diversity of species of plants and animals:

The rise in temperature is a threat to coastal biodiversity.

cicada

(say suh-**kah**-duh or suh-**kay**-duh)

noun a large flying insect which is found in trees and which makes a loud noise in hot weather:

We found the shell of a cicada on a tree trunk.

deciduous

(say duh-**sid**-yoooh-uhs)

adjective Trees which are **deciduous** lose their leaves every year:

Deciduous trees can look a little bare in winter.

defoliate

(say duh-**foh**-lee-ayt)

verb To **defoliate** a plant is to take off all its leaves:

The farmer had to spray his wheat fields to make sure the locusts would not defoliate the entire crop.

desalination

(say dee-sal-uh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun the removal of salt from sea water so that it becomes suitable for drinking or for irrigation:

Desalination is one of the ways to make sea water drinkable.

equatorial

(say ek-wuh-**taw**-ree-uhl)

adjective relating to or near the equator:

We are studying equatorial rainforests this term.

evaporation

(say uh-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn or ee-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun the act or process of water turning to vapour:

Evaporation increases as the temperature increases.

germinate

(say **jerm**-uh-nayt)

verb To **germinate** is to begin to grow or develop:

The seeds will take at least fourteen days to germinate.

hurricane

(say **hu**-ruh-kuhn)

noun a violent tropical storm with a very strong wind:

The hurricane tore the roofs off all the houses.

organism

(say **aw**-guh-niz-uhm)

noun any form of animal or plant life:

She saw the tiny organism under the microscope.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

promontory

(say **prom**-uhn-tree)

noun a high point of land or rock jutting out into the sea:

The promontory was the obvious site for the lighthouse.

reservoir

(say **rez**-uh-vwah)

noun a place where water is stored:

Because of the drought, the level of water in the reservoir is extremely low.

sanctuary

(say **sang**-chuh-ree)

noun a place of safety:

The injured wallaby was taken to a wildlife sanctuary.

terrestrial

(say tuh-**res**-tree-uhl)

adjective living or growing on land, rather than in the sea or sky:

Most mammals are terrestrial, but no fish are!

Junior Environment Level 5

anthropologist

(say an-thruh-**pol**-uh-juhst)

noun someone who studies anthropology, the science of the beginnings and the development of humans:

He wants to become an anthropologist, so he can travel the world and see the different ways people live.

arachnid

(say uh-**rak**-nid)

noun one of a group of animals that includes spiders and scorpions:

An arachnid has eight legs.

chasm

(say **kaz**-uhm)

noun a deep hole or opening in the ground:

The earthquake left a large chasm in the earth's surface.

conservatory

(say kuhn-**serv**-uh-tree)

noun a room or building made of glass, where plants are grown:

He had a conservatory full of rare and exotic plants.

constellation

(say kon-stuh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun a group of stars:

The Southern Cross is the most widely known constellation in the southern hemisphere.

crustacean

(say kruss-**tay**-shuhn)

noun a type of animal with a hard shell instead of a skeleton, such as a crab, usually living in water:

Krill is a tiny shrimp-like crustacean vital in the food chain.

deforestation

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say dee-fo-ruhs-**tay**-shuhn)

noun the permanent removal of forests or trees from a large area:

Extensive deforestation has a disastrous effect on the environment.

equinox

(say **EEK**-wuh-noks or **ek**-wuh-noks)

noun the time when the sun is directly over the earth's equator, making night and day all over the earth of equal length:

There is one equinox in March and another in September.

kikuyu

(say kuy-**KOOH**-yooh)

noun a type of grass:

Many people use kikuyu to make lawns in their gardens.

seismology

(say suy-z-**MOL**-uh-jee)

noun the science or study of earthquakes:

The institute of seismology has research data on recent earthquakes.

sirocco

(say suh-**ROK**-oh)

noun a hot, oppressive wind:

The hot winds of the sirocco made our trip to southern Italy uncomfortable.

stalagmite

(say **stal**-uhg-muyt)

noun a stick of limestone or other material that forms, little by little, on the floor of a cave, from water dripping from above:

The stalagmite in the cave was several metres high.

sustainable

(say suh-**stayn**-uh-buhl)

adjective designed or developed to have the capacity to continue operating perpetually, by avoiding adverse effects on the natural environment and depletion of natural resources:

The development of sustainable agriculture is important for our environment.

temperature

(say **tem**-pruh-chuh)

noun a measure of the degree of heat or cold of something or someone:

The temperature is going to be 20 degrees today.

terrarium

(say tuh-**rair**-ree-uhm)

noun a closed glass container in which moisture-loving plants are grown:

We have a terrarium in our classroom as part of our study of rainforest plants.

Junior Sports Level 1

aim

(say aym)

verb If you **aim** something, you point it towards where you want it to go:

Sophie knew she had to aim the netball carefully if she wanted to shoot a goal.

catch

(say kach)

verb If you **catch** a ball or something similar, you take hold of it as it moves through

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

the air:

I'll throw the ball to you so you can catch it.

coach

(say kohch)

noun someone who trains athletes:

The coach made us swim twenty laps to warm up.

contest

(say **kon**-test)

noun a competition:

The boys next door wanted to set up a contest between their dog and ours to see which could run faster.

field

(say feeld)

noun a piece of open ground or space:

Every Saturday we play football at our local sports field.

final

(say **fuy**-nuhl)

noun the one at the end of a series, especially of races or competitions:

If we win the final, we will be the champions!

game

(say gaym)

noun something you can play, usually with set rules:

We had a game of tennis after school.

goal

(say gohl)

noun an area, basket or something similar at which you aim the ball in sports such as football, basketball and so on:

Dad put a ring up on a tree for us to use as a goal so we could practise our netball.

match

(say mach)

noun a game between two or more people or teams:

Today's football match has been cancelled because of the rain.

oval

(say **oh**-vuhl)

noun a field for playing sport on:

We kicked the ball around the oval for a few hours.

player

(say **play**-uh)

noun A **player** is someone who plays a game or sport:

Ivan is a good tennis player.

race

(say rayce)

noun a contest of speed:

It was an exciting race, and Tom was the first to reach the finish line.

score

(say skaw)

noun the number of points gained in a game, competition or test:

Our team's score was three goals, and the other team's score was one, so we won!

speed

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say speed)

noun quickness in moving, going, or doing something:

He started running at a slow speed and then got faster.

team

(say team)

noun a group of people who do an activity together, such as a game or sport:

My best friend and I are in the same hockey team.

Junior Sports Level 2

ace

(say ayce)

noun a playing card with a single mark or spot:

Someone must have the fourth ace in their hand!

archer

(say **ah**-chuh)

noun someone who shoots with a bow and arrows:

Robin Hood was a magnificent archer.

athlete

(say **ath**-leet)

noun someone who trains and competes in some kind of sport, especially running or jumping events:

Paul is an excellent athlete and wants to compete at the Olympic Games.

backspin

(say **bak**-spin)

noun the reverse spinning of a ball causing it to bounce backwards or stop in the shortest possible time:

It's really hard to hit a ball with backspin on it.

boxing

(say **boks**-ing)

noun the sport of fighting with your fists, especially with boxing gloves:

Anthony Mundine is a famous name in Australian boxing.

captain

(say **kap**-tuhn)

noun someone who is in charge of a sporting team:

Max was chosen as the captain of our cricket team.

catcher

(say **kach**-uh)

noun in baseball, the player who stands behind the batter or home base to catch the pitched ball:

I was nervous when it was my turn to be catcher.

champion

(say **cham**-pee-uhn)

noun someone who holds first place in a sport or contest:

Ian Thorpe is an Australian swimming champion who won five Olympic gold medals.

compete

(say kuhm-**peet**)

verb To **compete** is to set yourself against another person or other people to win something:

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

Our school team will compete in the district cross-country competition -- I hope we win.

course

(say kawce)

noun the ground or water on which a race takes place:

The course they had to row was 1500 metres long.

court

(say kawt)

noun the hard ground where games such as tennis and basketball are played:

We arrived at the basketball court in time for a warm-up before the game.

cricket

(say **krik**-uht)

noun a game for two teams where players have to run between two points after hitting the ball with a bat:

We play cricket on the beach every summer.

cycle

(say **suy**-kuhl)

verb to ride a bicycle:

Carlotta had to cycle into town to get some bread and milk.

defeat

(say duh-**feet**)

verb If you **defeat** someone in a game or contest, you win a victory over them:

We knew we could easily defeat the visiting netball team.

duel

(say **dyooh**-uhl)

noun in past times, an arranged fight between two people with weapons such as guns or swords:

The two soldiers used pistols in their duel. They each fired in turn but they both missed.

fencing

(say **fen**-sing)

noun the sport of sword fighting:

When you are learning fencing, you don't use a real sword.

finalist

(say **fuy**-nuh-luhst)

noun A **finalist** is a person who is in the last part of a competition:

Alisha could hardly believe that she was a finalist.

forehand

(say **faw**-hand)

noun a stroke in a game like tennis which is made to the right side of the body (if the player is right-handed):

The tennis player practised his forehand all morning and his backhand all afternoon.

gallop

(say **gal**-uhp)

noun the fastest pace a horse can run at:

The horse broke into a gallop and raced across the paddock.

goalpost

(say **gohl**-pohst)

noun in football, one of the two posts marking the goal:

The crowd cheered as the ball flew past the goalpost.

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

grandstand

(say **gran**-stand)

noun a building with seats rising in tiers, at a sports field or similar outdoor place of entertainment:

The grandstand was packed to capacity for the State of Origin match.

gym

(say **jim**)

noun a building or room containing equipment for exercising:

She goes to the gym every afternoon because she wants to keep fit.

health

(say **helth**)

noun the general state of your body:

Eating fresh fruit and vegetables is a necessity for good health.

innings

(say **in**-ingz)

plural noun a team's turn at batting:

We made 136 runs in the first innings.

judo

(say **joo**h-doh)

noun a Japanese art of self-defence which is practised as a sport:

When you fall in judo, you roll to avoid being hurt.

medal

(say **med**-uhl)

noun a metal disc or cross given as a reward for bravery or as a prize:

Ralph was very proud of the medal he was given at the end of the swimming carnival.

pitch

(say **pich**)

verb If you **pitch** something such as a ball, you throw it quite hard at something:

He tried to pitch the ball straight at the batter.

scrum

(say **skrum**)

noun a way of restarting the play in a game of Rugby football:

The team's weak point was the poorly-formed scrum.

snooker

(say **snoo**h-kuh)

noun a game like billiards or pool, played on a table with a cue and different-coloured balls:

In snooker, you use a cue to try to shoot a ball into one of the pockets around the table.

snowboarding

(say **sno**h-bawd-ing)

noun the sport of gliding over the snow on a board like a surfboard:

Snowboarding is even more fun than skiing.

sportsmanship

(say **spaw**ts-muhn-ship)

noun behaviour which shows qualities such as fairness, good humour when you lose and generosity when you win:

The coach said she was more proud of our team's sportsmanship than of our victory.

sprain

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(say sprayn)

verb If you **sprain** a joint in your body, you twist or bend it accidentally so that it swells and bruises:

If you trip over, you could sprain your ankle.

sprint

(say sprint)

verb To **sprint** is to race at top speed, especially over a short distance:

He can sprint really quickly, but he gets tired over longer distances.

stadium

(say **stay**-dee-uhm)

noun a large sports ground, designed to hold many people:

We are going to the stadium to watch the tennis.

strength

(say strength)

noun the quality of being strong:

He did a lot of exercises to increase the strength of his muscles.

swimsuit

(say **swim**-sooht)

noun a piece of clothing to wear when you are swimming:

She bought a new swimsuit because she was going on a beach holiday.

tennis

(say **ten**-uhs)

noun a game in which two players, or two pairs of players, use racquets to hit a ball over a central net:

We always play tennis on Sundays.

timekeeper

(say **tuym**-keep-uh)

noun (in a sports contest, etc.) someone who observes and records the time taken by competitors in a race, the duration of an event, etc:

The timekeeper used to rely on a stopwatch.

trainer

(say **tray**-nuh)

noun someone who trains athletes in a sport:

Our trainer makes us run for an hour every day.

victory

(say **vik**-tuh-ree)

noun a win or success in a contest:

We were all happy after our victory in the cricket competition.

Junior Sports Level 3

ability

(say uh-**bil**-uh-tee)

noun (plural **abilities**)

the power to do something:

Pui has the ability to swim across the pool.

acrobat

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say **ak**-ruh-bat)

noun someone who performs gymnastic tricks:

The best act at the circus was the acrobat on the tightrope.

agility

(say uh-**jil**-uh-tee)

noun the ability to move quickly and easily:

He climbed up the rocky slope with great agility.

aquatic

(say uh-**kwot**-ik)

adjective done in or on water:

He is good at all aquatic sports.

archery

(say **ah**-chuh-ree)

noun the sport of shooting with a bow and arrows:

We tried archery on our school camp, and it was great fun.

arena

(say uh-**ree**-nuh)

noun an enclosed space for sports events:

The team were greeted by loud cheers as they ran into the arena.

athletics

(say adh-**let**-iks)

noun events that take place on a track, such as running and hurdling, javelin throwing and the high jump:

The athletics at the Olympic Games are exciting to watch.

backstroke

(say **bak**-strohk)

noun a stroke in swimming in which you lie on your back in the water and move your arms backwards in turn:

Our school sports team won the backstroke swimming championship.

badminton

(say **bad**-min-tuhn)

noun a game in which two or four players use racquets to hit a feathered ball called a shuttlecock over a high net:

It's hard to play badminton in the wind, because the shuttlecock keeps blowing away.

basketball

(say **bah**-skuht-bawl)

noun a game played by two teams of five players, who try to score points by shooting a ball through a metal hoop at the top of the other team's goalpost:

We play basketball every Saturday morning -- our team hasn't lost a game all year.

bicycle

(say **buy**-sik-uhl)

noun a two-wheeled machine for riding on, which you steer by a bar shaped for the rider to hold on to and drive by pushing pedals:

I rode my bicycle to school this morning.

cheerleader

(say **cheer**-leed-uh)

noun a person who leads cheering, especially at sports matches:

I don't want to be a cheerleader -- I want to play!

competition

Premier's Spelling Bee 2010: Junior Wordlists Annotated.

(say kom-puh-**tish**-uhn)

noun a situation in which people compete against each other:

A handball competition is being held at our school over the holidays.

contestant

(say kuhn-**test**-uhnt)

noun someone who takes part in a contest or competition:

The second contestant in the shot-put walked into the circle.

decider

(say duh-**suy**-duh)

noun an extra race or game to decide a previously level contest:

Our soccer team has to play a decider this weekend as there is a draw for the championship.

deuce

(say dyoohs)

noun a stage in a game of tennis when both players have a score of 40:

The scoreboard showed that they were exactly even -- one game each and at deuce in the current game.

discus

(say **dis**-kuhs)

noun a circular plate for throwing in athletic contests:

He won because he threw the discus the furthest.

dumbbell

(say **dum**-bel)

noun a piece of exercise equipment consisting of a short bar with weights attached to either end:

Exercising by lifting a dumbbell will strengthen your arm muscles.

equipment

(say uh-**kwip**-muhnt)

noun anything used in doing a job, especially tools, machines, materials, and so on:

All of the gymnastics equipment was stored in the shed.

exercise

(say **eks**-uh-suyz)

noun an activity of the body or mind to train or improve it:

Walking is good exercise.

fatigue

(say fuh-**teeg**)

noun severe mental or physical tiredness:

The rescued bushwalkers were suffering from fatigue.

fielder

(say **feel**-duh)

noun in cricket, etc., any member of the team which is fielding, as opposed to the one which is batting:

The fielder ran towards the ball, arms outstretched.

fixture

(say **fiks**-chuh)

noun a sporting event that is to be held on a particular date:

Our hockey team's next fixture is on Saturday week.

goalkeeper

(say **gohl**-kee-puh)

noun in soccer or hockey, a player whose special duty is to prevent the ball from

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going through, into, or over the goal:

In hockey practice, we all take turns at being goalkeeper.

groundsman

(say **growndz**-muhn)

noun a man responsible for the care and maintenance of a sports field:

Marco's dad is a groundsman at the cricket ground and he sometimes lets us practise there.

gymnastics

(say jim-**nass**-tikz)

noun the performance of exercises to develop muscle strength and tone up your body:

We do gymnastics at school on Thursdays.

handicap

(say **han**-dee-kap)

noun the disadvantage given to certain competitors, such as the extra distance, to make everyone's chance of winning equal:

Last year's winner was given a handicap of three metres in this race.

hockey

(say **hok**-ee)

noun a game played on a field or on ice in which two teams compete to hit a ball or disc into a goal using a stick with a curved end:

Ice hockey is an extremely fast game.

horseride

(say **haws**-ruyd)

verb to go for a ride on a horse:

I'm going to horseride on the weekend if it's not raining.

hurdle

(say **her**-duhl)

noun a small fence over which people jump in a race:

The crowd cheered as she jumped over the last hurdle in the race.

javelin

(say **jav**-uh-luhn or **jav**-luhn)

noun a spear which is thrown in sporting contests:

He could throw the javelin further than anyone else.

jockey

(say **jock**-ee)

noun someone who professionally rides horses in races:

He loved horses and thought that one day he might become a jockey.

karate

(say kuh-**rah**-tee)

noun a Japanese form of self-defence which uses only hands, elbows, feet and knees as weapons:

Amy wants to do karate so she can learn to smash bricks with her hands.

league

(say leeg)

noun a group of people, countries or organisations who have made an agreement between themselves:

A league was formed to organise the sport.

marathon

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(say **ma**-ruh-thon)

noun a long-distance race:

It was his dream to run in the marathon at the Olympic Games.

medallion

(say muh-**dal**-yuhn)

noun a large medal, especially one given as a prize:

Kate received a medallion for doing well in the tennis tournament.

medley

(say **med**-lee)

noun a swimming race in which a competitor swims butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle in that order:

The medley is a hard race because you have to be good at all four swimming strokes.

muscle

(say **mus**-uhl)

noun A **muscle** is one of the pieces of flesh attached to the bones in your body that helps to make your body move:

My big brother is going to the gym every day to build up his muscles.

nutrition

(say nyoooh-**trish**-uhn)

noun eating or eating habits:

Good nutrition is vital to athletes.

opponent

(say uh-**poh**-nuhnt)

noun someone who is on the opposite side to you in a competition or fight:

My opponent was much taller than me, so I was very nervous.

pentathlon

(say pen-**tath**-lon)

noun an athletic contest made up of five different events:

The pentathlon will include running, swimming, riding, fencing and shooting, so you must be extremely fit to compete.

performance

(say puh-**faw**-muhns)

noun the carrying out or doing of work, acts or deeds:

His performance on the playing field was astounding.

perspiration

(say pers-puh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun sweat:

She used the towel to wipe the perspiration from her forehead.

practice

(say **prak**-tuhs)

noun an action or performance that is repeated regularly to improve skill:

We have netball practice every Tuesday afternoon.

quoits

(say koyts)

plural noun a game played by throwing rings made of stiff rope over a peg on the ground:

We like to play quoits in the backyard in summer.

referee

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(say ref-uh-**ree**)

noun someone who makes sure that the rules in a sporting match are followed:

He is a very good referee -- everybody thinks he is fair.

regatta

(say ruh-**gat**-uh)

noun a meeting for boat races:

Our school won the rowing regatta last year.

skiing

(say **skee**-ing)

noun the sport of travelling down slopes on skis:

We like skiing so it is lucky we live near the mountains.

skydiving

(say **skuy**-duyv-ing)

noun the sport of falling from an aircraft for some distance before opening a parachute:

Bianca thought it would be exciting to learn skydiving.

soccer

(say **sok**-uh)

noun a form of football played with a round ball which the players kick but in general are not allowed to touch with their hands or arms:

Andrew is very keen to play soccer this season.

spectator

(say **spek**-tay-tuh)

noun someone who watches something:

The injured player was unhappy to be just a spectator at the final.

stamina

(say **stam**-uh-nuh)

noun physical power or strength, especially to fight off tiredness or sickness:

She will need enormous stamina to keep up the burning pace of the marathon.

steeplechase

(say **steep**-uhl-chays)

noun a horserace over a course which has obstacles such as jumps and ditches:

The horse managed to jump all the obstacles in the steeplechase.

stirrup

(say **sti**-ruh-p)

noun a loop or ring of metal hung from the saddle of a horse to support the rider's foot:

The horserider's foot caught in the stirrup and she was in real trouble!

trampoline

(say tram-puh-**leen**)

noun a frame with tightly stretched material attached to it by springs, on which you can jump for exercise or fun:

Only two children are allowed to jump on the trampoline at the one time.

triathlete

(say truy-**ath**-leet)

noun an athlete who takes part in a triathlon, which consists of three events, usually swimming, cycling, and running:

A triathlete needs to be very fit.

triumph

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(say **truy**-umf)

noun a victory or success:

After their triumph in the competition, the team was asked to play in a special exhibition match.

volleyball

(say **vol**-ee-bawl)

noun a team game in which a large ball is volleyed by hand or arm over a net:

We like playing volleyball on the beach.

weightlifting

(say **wayt**-lift-ing)

noun the sport of lifting weights, in competition or for exercise:

Our PE teacher won a medal in weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games.

wrestle

(say **ress**-uhl)

verb to fight with someone and try to throw them to the ground without using any weapons:

Our coach taught us how to wrestle without injuring each other.

Junior Sports Level 4

adversary

(say **ad**-vuhs-ree)

noun someone you compete against or fight with:

My old adversary beat me in the chess tournament.

aerobics

(say air-**roh**-biks)

plural noun exercises done to improve your physical fitness by stimulating your heart and lungs:

My mother does aerobics during her lunch hour.

billiards

(say **bil**-yuhdz)

noun a game played on a long table, with hard balls hit by a long stick called a cue:

Let's have a game of billiards after dinner.

breaststroke

(say **bre**st-strohkh)

noun a way of swimming in which your arms move in a circle in front of your chest and your legs kick in a frog-like manner:

Swimming breaststroke always exhausts me.

catamaran

(say **kat**-uh-muh-ran)

noun a boat with two hulls:

We spent a fantastic week sailing a catamaran around the islands.

croquet

(say **kroh**-kay)

noun a game played by hitting wooden balls with mallets through metal arches set in a lawn:

Croquet is a sport that requires accuracy more than strength.

dais

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(say **day**-uhs)

noun a raised platform at the end of a hall:

The football trophies were lined up on a table on the dais.

decathlon

(say duh-**kath**-lon)

noun a contest in which athletes compete for the highest score in ten different events:

The decathlon is an exhausting contest because it has ten different events in it.

equestrian

(say uh-**kwess**-tree-uhn)

adjective having to do with horseriding:

Jane and her horse showed great skill and stamina to win the equestrian event.

lacrosse

(say luh-**kross**)

noun a ball game played by two teams, who use long-handled racquets to try to send the ball through a goal:

Lacrosse is a team sport that was first played by Native American people.

liniment

(say **lin**-uh-muhnt)

noun an oily liquid for rubbing on bruises, sprains or sore muscles:

After tennis practice my shoulder was sore, so I rubbed some liniment onto it.

qualifier

(say **kwol**-uh-fuy-uh)

noun someone or something that qualifies:

Excitement overwhelmed him when he found out he was a qualifier for the finals.

semifinalist

(say sem-ee-**fuy**-nuh-luhst)

noun a player or team contesting a semifinal:

Gina never dreamt that she would be a semifinalist at Wimbledon.

shuttlecock

(say **shut**-uhl-kok)

noun a thin rounded piece of plastic with feathers attached to it, which is hit from one player to another over a net as a game:

The game was declared a draw when the shuttlecock got stuck in a tree.

spinnaker

(say **spin**-uh-kuh)

noun a large triangular sail:

As soon as the spinnaker was raised, the yacht sped to the lead.

toboggan

(say tuh-**bog**-uhn)

noun a light kind of sled used for sliding over snow or ice:

My little sister is too young to ski but she loves sliding down the slopes on a toboggan.

velodrome

(say **vel**-uh-droh-m)

noun an arena with sloping sides used for cycling races:

We all crowded into the velodrome to watch the Olympic cycling final.

wrestling

(say **ress**-ling)

noun an exercise or sport in which two persons struggle hand to hand, each striving to

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throw or force the other to the ground:

Wrestling can be a dangerous sport.

wushu

(say wooh-**shooh**)

noun a sport created in China which is a hybrid of various martial arts and gymnastics:

Honi thought he would be interested in wushu as he liked both karate and gymnastics.

Junior Sports Level 5

acceleration

(say ak-sel-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun the act of increasing speed:

A racing car needs to have powerful acceleration.

acupuncture

(say **ak**-uh-pungk-chuh or **ak**-yuh-pungk-chuh)

noun a Chinese type of medicine which treats illness or pain by sticking needles into certain parts of the body:

My mother had acupuncture to treat her back pain.

asthma

(say **ass**-muh)

noun a breathing disorder which causes difficulty in breathing, coughing and a feeling of tightness in the chest:

She found that swimming helped her breathing and she had fewer attacks of asthma.

bantamweight

(say **ban**-tuhm-wayt)

noun a boxer weighing between 51 and 54 kg (amateur):

The boxer had lost weight and was now classified as a bantamweight.

carbohydrate

(say kah-buh-**huy**-drayt)

noun a chemical compound containing oxygen, hydrogen and carbon:

Sugar is a carbohydrate.

chiropractor

(say **kuy**-ruh-prak-tuh)

noun someone trained to treat back pain and other types of illness by massaging and adjusting the spine:

My back felt much better after a few sessions with the chiropractor.

guernsey

(say **gern**-zee)

noun a close-fitting knitted jumper, often worn by sailors, footballers, and so on:

Each member of the team wore a red and white guernsey.

jodhpurs

(say **jod**-puhz)

plural noun riding trousers which are close-fitting below the knee:

She pulled on her jodhpurs and walked to the stables.

muscly

(say **mus**-uh-lee)

adjective If someone is **muscly**, they have big muscles, and are usually very strong:

My brother became very muscly after several months of weight training at the gym.

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physicality

(say fiz-uh-**kal**-uh-tee)

noun physical character or presence, especially when causing a strong awareness of physical strength:

The opposing players could sense his physicality when he strode onto the oval.

physiotherapy

(say fiz-ee-oh-**the**-ruh-pee)

noun the treatment of disease and injuries by physical means such as massage and exercise:

She had five sessions of physiotherapy to strengthen her injured knee.

pugilist

(say **pyooh**-juh-luhst)

noun someone who fights with the fists:

The pugilist wore a guard to protect his face during the fight.

quadriceps

(say **kwod**-ruh-seps)

noun the great muscle of the front of the thigh, which stretches the leg and is considered as having four heads or origins:

He strained his quadriceps during the football game.

respiratory

(say **res**-pruh-tree or res-**pi**-ruh-tree)

adjective relating to respiration or breathing:

The swimmer did breathing exercises to increase her respiratory capacity.

somersault

(say **sum**-uh-solt)

noun A **somersault** is a way of putting your head down and rolling your body forward over your head:

She could do a triple somersault off the diving board.

strenuous

(say **stren**-yooh-uhs)

adjective needing a great effort:

Weightlifting is a very strenuous exercise.