

Questions Galore!

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STUDY GUIDE: WORDS, WORDS, WORDS!

The English language consists of an unfathomable quantity of words, many of them that we don't use on an everyday basis. However, some vocabulary words are essential for any literate student to know, particularly if they're college or business-bound. Learning the words below will help you in your reading comprehension, on your college prep tests, in your term papers, and career applications. But, most of all, they will enable you to impress your friends, relatives, and prospective employers with your WORD PROWESS!

College Prep Words

In this section, you will find college-prep words that are likely to appear on exams.

A			
Aberration -	Departure from what is right.	Advocate -	To support or plead in favor of a cause.
Abeyance -	Postponement of an activity.	Aesthete -	Someone who admires beauty.
Abstemious -	Moderate in one's consumption.	Aggrandize -	To increase or exaggerate.
Abstruse -	Hard to understand.	Alacrity -	Speed
Accolade -	Praise or acknowledgment.	Altruistic -	Unselfishly placing others' welfare above one's own.
Acerbic -	Sour or bitter.	Ambivalence -	Indecision.
Acrimonious -	Sarcastic or rancorous.	Ambulatory -	Capable of moving, specifically, walking.
Acuity -	Perceptiveness or discernment.	Ameliorate -	To improve.
Acute -	Sharp or keen; or, severe (as in pain)	Amiable -	Friendly, likable, or congenial.
Adept -	Skilled or masterful.	Amorphous -	Without shape.
Adherent -	A supporter or follower.	Animate -	To impart motion or life to.
Adjunct -	Something attached in a subordinate position.	Anomaly -	Something that is irregular or doesn't follow the typical rules.
Admonish -	To warn or reproach.	Antediluvian -	Very old, or antiquated.
Adroit -	Skillful or deft.	Antipathy -	Aversion to something.
Adulation -	Excessive admiration or flattery.	Apathy -	Indifference.
Adulterate -	To contaminate or render impure.		

Aperture - A gap or orifice, as found in a camera to control light.
 Apocryphal - Of questionable truth.
 Apotheosis - Exaltation or canonization.
 Appease - To pacify.
 Approbatory - Approving, or sanctioning.
 Arable - Land that is able to be plowed or cultivated.
 Arrogant - Proud or egotistical.
 Ascetic - One who practices self-denial for religious reasons.
 Assuage - To calm or lessen the severity of something.
 Atrophy - To deteriorate as a result of lack of use.
 Audacity - Insolence or gall.
 Authoritarian - One who behaves like a tyrant or demands absolute obedience.
 Avarice - Greed
 Aviary - A large enclosure where birds are housed.
 Avouch - To affirm the truth of.
 Avow - To confess, or assert.

B

Baleful - Ominous or evil.
 Balm - A salve for soothing or healing.
 Banal - Commonplace, trite.
 Bane - The cause of destruction, or, a fatal affliction
 Barbarity - Savagery or inhumanity.
 Barren - Devoid of vegetation or incapable of fertility.
 Befuddle - To confuse.
 Belated - Overdue.
 Beleaguer - To surround with troops.
 Belittle - To cut down, or disparage.
 Bemoan - To lament or rue.
 Bemused - Bewildered.
 Bilk - To swindle or defraud.
 Blandishment - Coaxing or enticing through flattery.
 Bliss - Happiness.
 Blithe - Happy, lighthearted.
 Boisterous - Rowdy, noisy, or unrestrained.
 Boorish - Unrefined, classless, or rude.

Brevity - Conciseness.
 Broach - To bring up.
 Browbeat - To bully or intimidate.
 Bungle - To botch.
 Buttress - A reinforcement, usually of stone or brick.

C

Cacophonous - Inharmonious, discordant.
 Callow - Immature or inexperienced.
 Candid - Frank or straightforward.
 Carouse - To drink heavily, usually in public.
 Cease - To stop an activity.
 Celerity - Speed.
 Censorious - Highly critical.
 Charlatan - A fraud, fake, or poser.
 Chary - Wary, conservatively cautious.
 Chasten - To reprove.
 Cherubic - Angelic, innocent.
 Chimerical - Whimsical, unrealistic.
 Chronic - Habitual.
 Churlish - Vulgar or surly.
 Circuitous - Taking the long rambling route to one's point.
 Clamor - A hubbub, or loud commotion.
 Clandestine - Concealed, or done furtively so as not to be discovered.
 Clemency - Mercy or leniency.
 Cloister - A quiet convent, or to seclude oneself as though in a monastery.
 Coagulate - To go from a liquid to a semisolid mass, or congeal.
 Coalesce - To unite, merge, or fuse.
 Coddle - To spoil or indulge.
 Coercion - To force through pressure or intimidation.
 Cognate - Related by blood, origin, or character.
 Commensurate - Equal in proportion, corresponding.
 Compile - To gather data.
 Concomitant - Concurrent or coexistent.
 Concordance - Agreement.
 Confluence - Blending together.
 Confound - To confuse or damn.

Conglomerate - A corporation or cluster, or partnership.
 Conjugal - Pertaining to marriage.
 Constrict - To restrict or squeeze.
 Contentious - Prone to argument.
 Contrite - Regretful for one's sins, Apologetic.
 Conundrum - A dilemma or puzzle.
 Convoke - To meet or assemble.
 Copious - Ample or abundant.
 Corpulence - obesity.
 Coterie - A select group of like-minded people who meet.
 Crass - Vulgar or unrefined.
 Credulous - Believing, gullible.
 Cryptic - Puzzling, mystifying.
 Ctenoid - Having comblike teeth.
 Cuboid - In the shape of a cube.
 Cucullate - In the shape of a hood.
 Curmudgeon - A stubborn, bitter person.

D

Daub - To smear or spread like whitewash.
 Dawdle - To idle, or procrastinate.
 Dearth - Insufficiency or lack of enough supplies.
 Debased - Degraded in character or value.
 Decipher - To figure out, interpret, or decode a puzzle.
 Declivity - A downhill slope.
 Decorum - Propriety, observance of protocol, or appropriateness of conduct.
 Delectable - Delicious
 Deleterious - harmful or unhealthy.
 Delineate - To outline.
 Delusion - Misconception, hallucination.
 Demagogue - An opportunist leader who appeals to people's prejudices.
 Denounce - To condemn or accuse.
 Depravity - A disposition towards corruption.
 Deprecatory - Criticizing, or disapproving.
 Desecrate - To destroy something sacred.
 Desist - To stop or cease.
 Desolate - Lonely or barren.
 Despoil - To plunder or ravage.
 Despot - A tyrant or absolute ruler.
 Diatribe - A bitter tirade.

Didactic - Moralizing or academic.
 Diffidence - Shyness or insecurity.
 Dilatory - Lazy
 Diligent - Hardworking, persevering.
 Diminution - Diminishment or reduction.
 Disaffected - Disillusioned, disloyal or resentful.
 Disapprobation - Moral condemnation.
 Disband - To dissolve as an organization.
 Discontent - One who is dissatisfied.
 Discursive - Rambling.
 Dishearten - To discourage someone.
 Disinterment - The digging up a body from its grave.
 Disoblige - To affront.
 Disparage - To slight or belittle.
 Dispassionate - Calm or unbiased.
 Disputatious - Given to argumentation.
 Dissemble - To feign emotions or hide one's real feelings.
 Dissension - Refusal to comply with the majority opinion.
 Dissonant - Inharmonious.
 Dissuade - To convince against a course of intended action.
 Distend - To swell out.
 Dither - Agitation or turmoil.
 Divination - Foretelling or prophecy.
 Dolt - Idiot.
 Dotard - One whose mental faculties have deteriorated.
 Dubious - Doubtful or questionable.
 Duplicity - Fraud or double-dealing.

E

Edify - To improve through teaching.
 Efface - To erase.
 Effervescent - Bubbling with excitement.
 Effigy - A dummy likeness of a person or group.
 Effrontery - Nerve.
 Egregious - Offensive.
 Elegiac - Sorrowful.
 Elucidate - To explain or clarify.
 Emanate - To flow from a source.
 Emasculate - To weaken.
 Embroil - To get involved or entangled.

Emcee - The master of ceremonies.
 Empathize - To identify with another's feelings or plight.
 Emulate - To imitate, or model one's behavior after.
 Enervate - To weaken or wear out.
 Engender - To generate or bring into existence.
 Enigmatic - Puzzling.
 Enmesh - To entangle.
 Ennui - Boredom or listlessness.
 Enthral - To captivate.
 Entrench - To put up defenses or reinforce.
 Ephemeral - Short-lived.
 Epicure - Someone with refinement in their culinary taste.
 Epithet - A word to describe someone, often abusive.
 Equilibrium - balance.
 Equivocate - To avoid being pinned down.
 Erudition - Education or learning.
 Escapade - An unusual undertaking.
 Esoteric - Capable of being understood by a privileged elite.
 Espouse - To adopt or embrace a cause.
 Ethereal - Celestial or intangible.
 Eulogy - A speech of commendation.
 Euphonic - Pleasing to the ear.
 Evanescent - Vanishing, temporary.
 Exigent - Demanding immediate action.
 Exonerate - To remove from blame, acquit.
 Exorcise - To get rid of evil demons.
 Expatriate - To banish, or renounce loyalty to one's own country.
 Expedite - to speed up progress.
 Expunge - To get rid of purge, eliminate.
 Expurgate - To remove obscene or objectionable material.
 Extemporaneous - Unprepared or spontaneous, as in a speech.
 Extol - To exalt.
 Extradite - To give a fugitive over to another's authority or jurisdiction.
 Extricate - To remove from entanglement.

F

Fallible - Capable of imperfection.

Fallow - Land that was plowed but never seeded.
 Fastidious - Difficult to please, meticulous.
 Fathom - To discover the depth of something.
 Fatuous - vacuous, inane
 Fecund - productive.
 Felicity - Happiness.
 Fetid - Having a foul odor.
 Fetter - To restraint or tie up.
 Fickle - Changing, inconsistent.
 Fledgling - A young bird or an inexperienced novice.
 Flippant - Casually disrespectful, nonchalant, offhand.
 Florid - Rosy or flowery.
 Flout - To scorn or mock.
 Foible - A weakness, from the French for the weak part of a sword.
 Forswear - To forsake or to renounce under oath.
 Fulsome - Abundant or excessive.
 Fume - A smoke, odor, or gas.
 Furtive - Stealthy or clandestine.

G

Gambol - To frolic.
 Garble - To mix up or scramble.
 Garish - Gaudy or flashy.
 Garner - To acquire.
 Giddy - Lightheaded or lighthearted.
 Goad - To pressure or prod.
 Grandiloquence - Lofty expression.
 Grisly - Scary or gruesome.
 Grovel - To beg subserviently.
 Guile - Cunning.
 Guzzle - To gulp greedily.

H

Hackneyed - Tired or overdone.
 Haggle - To argue over price.
 Hallow - To respect or make sacred.
 Hamper - to interfere with progress.
 Harbor - To preserve a feeling or belief.
 Hardy - Sturdy enough to survive.
 Haughty - Proud or condescending.
 Hearten - To give hope to.

Hedge - To hem in.
 Hedonism - Indulgence in pleasure.
 Herald - To proclaim.
 Heretic - One who dissents, especially from the church's doctrine.
 Hiatus - Break or pause.
 Hilarity - Merriment.
 Histrionic - Affected or melodramatic.
 Hoary - having grey hair.
 Hyperbole - An exaggeration or figure of speech.

I
 Iconoclasm - An attack on institutional or religious beliefs.
 Ignoramus - Someone who is ignorant.
 Immutable - Unchanging.
 Impecunious - Very poor.
 Imperturbable - Too calm to disturb.
 Impervious - Not susceptible to penetration.
 Impetuous - Rash or instinctive.
 Impregnable - Impossible to capture.
 Impromptu - Spur-of-the-moment.
 Improvident - Rash, without a thought to the consequences.
 Impugn - To attack in an argument.
 Inauspicious - Not desirable or favorable.
 Inaudible - Difficult to hear.
 Incipient - In the initial stages of appearance.
 Incisive - Sharp or perceptive.
 Incisive - Taking a broad scope into consideration.
 Incoherent - Something that cannot be understood because it does not make sense.
 Incongruous - Incompatible, paradoxical.
 Incurable -
 Indecorous - In bad taste.
 Indefatigable - unable to be deterred from one's goal or exhausted.
 Indenture - A contract binding one into service.
 Indolence - Laziness.
 Inebriation - Drunkenness.
 Ingenuous - Simple or honest.
 Inimical - Hostile.
 Innocuous - Harmless.
 Inscrutable - Hard to understand.
 Insipid - Silly or banal.

Insolvent - Bankrupt.
 Intercede - To intervene and mediate.
 Intonate - To speak in a certain tone of voice.
 Intractable - Hard to control.
 Intrinsic - Inherent to the nature of a thing.
 Inveigh - To denounce angrily.
 Inveterate - Ingrained.
 Irascible - Easily irritated.
 Issue - To gush, emit, or discharge.

J
 Jettison - To discard or cast off.
 Jollity - Celebration.
 Judicious - Prudent.
 Juncture - An intersection or place of transition.
 Juxtapose - To put next to each other.

K
 Kinetic - Pertaining to motion.
 Kitsch - Art or literature that is pretentious, but vapid or sentimental.
 Kiosk - A small booth.
 Knotty - Tangled up.
 Knoll - A round hill.
 Kudos - Acclaim for one's action.

L
 Labyrinth - An intricate maze.
 Lachrymose - Sad, at the point of tears.
 Laconic - Concise or brief.
 Lamentation - Mourning.
 Lampoon - To make fun of.
 Languish - To lose strength.
 Largess - Liberal generosity.
 Lassitude - Listlessness.
 Laudable - worthy of praise.
 Laxity - Inattention to strict or rigid precision.
 Lethargy - Apathy.
 Levity - Inappropriate lightness.
 Linger - To stay.
 Lithe - Graceful or agile.
 Loutish - Awkward or clumsy.
 Ludicrous - Unthinkably absurd.
 Lurid - Socking or sensational.

M

Maladroit -	Inept or clumsy.
Malapropism -	The misuse (often comical) of a word.
Malevolent -	Spiteful or mean.
Malingering -	To fake sickness to get out of duty or work.
Marred -	Spoiled or damaged.
Maudlin -	Excessively sentimental.
Meander -	To take the curvy or long route.
Mendicant -	A beggar.
Meticulous -	Attentive to details, precise.
Mettle -	Stamina.
Mince -	To subdivide or chop.
Mire -	A bog.
Moribund -	Nearing death.
Motley -	Many-colored, having anomalous parts.
Multifarious -	Diverse, or having variety.
Mundane -	Commonplace, boring.
Munificent -	Liberal with one's philanthropy.

N

Nadir -	The lowest point.
Naïve -	Unsophisticated, simple.
Nascent -	In the birth stages.
Nebulous -	Hazy or vague.
Needle -	To goad.
Nefarious -	Infamous, or notoriously evil.
Nemesis -	An unbeatable opponent.
Neologism -	A new expression.
Noisome -	Disgusting or foul.
Noxious -	Harmful to health.

O

Obdurate -	Stubborn
Obsequious -	Fawning or servile.
Obviate -	To make something unnecessary.
Odious -	Arousing aversion.
Officious -	Eager to offer unwanted meddling.
Opaque -	Something that is not transparent or translucent and can't be penetrated by light.
Optimum -	Favorable or ideal.
Opulent -	Rich.
Ostentatious -	Pretentious or showy.

Ostracize - To banish or exclude.

P

Palpable -	Tangible or obvious.
Paltry -	Trivial or minor.
Panegyric -	Public praise at an assembly.
Paragon -	The model of perfection.
Pariah -	A socially unwanted person.
Parochial -	Pertaining to a religion or parish.
Parsimony -	Excessive thriftiness or stinginess.
Partisan -	A zealous supporter of a cause.
Pastiche -	A literary or musical mishmash that mimics a known work.
Paucity -	Lack of, or shortage.
Peccadillo -	Small weakness or sin.
Pedantic -	Booksmart or academic.
Peevish -	Sullen.
Pejorative -	derogatory or critical.
Percipient -	Keenly able to see.
Perfidy -	Betrayal of trust.
Peripheral -	Pertaining to the outer portion.
Perspicacious -	Sharp or perceptive.
Philistine -	One who is culturally ignorant.
Pique -	To arouse
Pithy -	Profound, yet concise.
Placid -	Peaceful.
Plaintive -	Sad
Platitude -	Lack of originality.
Plaudit -	Enthusiastic praise.
Pliable -	Flexible.
Poignant -	Profound or stimulating.
Polemical -	Controversial
Polyphony -	Music containing two melodies.
Porous -	Penetrable.
Posthumous -	Occurring after death.
Potable -	Suitable to drink.
Prattle -	meaningless chatter.
Precocious -	Premature.
Precursor -	Something that comes before something else.
Prescient -	Having knowledge of future events.
Primeval -	Belonging to an early or ancient age.
Primordial -	Original.
Proclivity -	A tendency or penchant.
Procrastinate -	To put off, postpone.
Prodigious -	Impressive or large.

Proficient - Competent or skilled.
 Progeny - A descendant.
 Prolific - Productive or fruitful.
 Prosaic - Dull or routine.
 Protean - Taking different shapes.
 Protract - To lengthen or drag out.
 Prudent - Cautious or wise.
 Puerile - Childish
 Pugilism - The sport of boxing.
 Pugnacity - Proclivity to fighting.
 Pulchritude - Aesthetic beauty.
 Pulverize - To pound into powder.

Q

Quagmire - A muddy bog or predicament.
 Quandary - A dilemma.
 Querulous - Given to disagreement.
 Quibble - To bicker over petty matters.
 Quixotic - Unrealistic, capricious.

R

Rabid - Crazy, fanatical, or sick.
 Ramble - To roam aimlessly.
 Rancorous - Resentful or hostile.
 Rarefy - To refine.
 Raucous - Boisterous or harsh.
 Raze - To level or destroy.
 Reactionary - Highly conservative.
 Recalcitrant - Stubborn, particularly towards authority.
 Recant - To disavow one's previous belief.
 Reconciliation - To reestablish a relationship.
 Redundant - unnecessarily repetitive.
 Refractory - resistant to treatment or authority.
 Refurbish - To renovate.
 Regimen - A system or government.
 Remedial - Targeted to correct a deficiency.
 Remuneration - Recompense.
 Rend - To tear apart.
 Reprobate - A shameless person without ethics.
 Repudiate - To refuse to acknowledge.
 Rescind - To void or take back.
 Resilient - Able to bounce back.
 Resonant - Echoing.
 Resplendent - Brilliant or shiny.
 Restive - Impatient, restless.

Retrospection - Looking back at the past.
 Reverent - Respectful or wroshipful.
 Ribald - Vulgar or obscene.
 Rudimentary - Fundamental or elementary
 Ruffian - A rowdy person or thug.
 Ruminare - To think or ponder.

S

Saccharine - Excessively sweet.
 Savant - A learned scholar.
 Scanty - Insufficient.
 Scoff - To mock.
 Sequester - To seclude or isolate.
 Soporific - Sleep-inducing.
 Spurious - Invalid or illegitimate.
 Spurn - To scorn or reject.
 Squalor - Extreme filth.
 Strategem - A military tactic.
 Strident - Piercing or shrill.
 Strife - Violent or bitter conflict.
 Stultify - To render ineffective.
 Supercilious - Haughty.
 Surfeit - Overindulgence.
 Surly - Rude or gruff.
 Surreptitious - Done secretly or furtively.
 Svelte - Graceful or thin.
 Sybarite - Someone dedicated to pleasure-seeking.
 Sycophant - An self-seeking flatterer.

T

Taciturn - Quiet or reserved.
 Tantamount - Equal to.
 Taper - To make something narrower towards its end.
 Tawdry - Cheap, but flashy.
 Temerity - reckless disregard for danger.
 Tensile - Stretchable
 Tenuous - Long and narrow.
 Tirade - A long, angry speech.
 Torpor - Inactivity.
 Trepidation - Dread.
 Truant - Lazy or absent.
 Turgid - Distorted or complex.
 Turpitude - Moral corruption.

U

- Undulate - To move in waves.
 Unfathomable - Hard to understand or believe.
 Unkempt - Poorly maintained, messy.
 Unscathed - Not hurt.
 Unwieldy - Hard to manage.
 Upbraid - To reproach.
 Upshot - The outcome.

V

- Vacillate - To waver.
 Variegated - Made of many colors.
 Vehement - Passionate, vigorous.
 Venerate - To worship.
 Veracity - Truth.
 Verbose - Excessively wordy or talkative.
 Verdant - Green or thick with vegetation.
 Viable - Practical, feasible.
 Vigilance - Watchfulness.
 Vilify - To damage one's character.
 Virulent - Fatal or poisonous.
 Vitriolic - Bitter or caustic.
 Vociferous - Loud, vocal, or outspoken.
 Voluble - Fluent.
 Voluminous - Large in size, number, or fullness.

- Voracious - Very hungry, ravenous, eager.
 Vouchsafe - To bestow.

W

- Wan - Pale.
 Waver - To fluctuate between alternatives.
 Whet - To stimulate.
 Wistful - Sad or melancholy.
 Woe - Grief or sorrow.
 Writhe - To contort.

X

- Xenophobe - One who is afraid of foreigners.

Y

- Yeoman - A common person.
 Yore - A long ago time.
 Yowl - To wail or howl.

Z

- Zealot - One who is fanatically enthusiastic towards a cause.
 Zenith - The opposite of nadir, the peak.

Greek and Latin Roots

Many English words stem from Greek and Latin roots! Knowing the root can help you decipher the definition of an unknown word. In this section, the most frequently occurring Greek and Latin roots are matched with their meaning.

Primary Roots Greek

A, an	not, without
Acro	high, extremity
Aero	air
Aesthe	feel
Agog	leader
Alg/o	pain
Ana	up, back, again, against, throughout
Andr/o	man, male
Anth/o	flower
Anthrop/o	man, human
Apo	separate, away
Arch, Archi, Archeo	first, ancient, rule
Arthr/o	joint
Astro/aster	star
Auto	same, self
Bar/o	pressure, weight
Bibli/o	book
Bio	life, living
Blast/o	cell, bud
Canon	rule
Cardi/o	heart, orifice
Carp/o	fruit
Cata	down, intensive, according to
Caust, caut	to burn
Cent/o, centri	center
Cephal/o	head
Chrom/o, chromat/o, chrome	color, pigment
Chron/o	time
Chrys/o	yellow, gold
Cosm/o	world, universe
Cracy, crat	government, rule
Crani/o	skull, cranium
Cryo	cold
Crypt/o	hidden
Cyan/o	blue
Cycl/o	circle, wheel
Cyt/o, cyte	cell
Dactyle/o	finger, toe, digit

Deca	ten
Dem/o, demi	people
Dendr/o, dendri	tree
Derma, derm, dermat/o	skin
Deuter	second
Di, diplo	two, double
Dia	through, across
Didac	teach

Primary Roots Latin

A, Ab, Abs	away, from
Acer, acr	sharp, bitter
Ad	to, toward
Agr/o, Agri	having to do with crops
Amat, amor, amic	love, friendly
Ambi-, amphi	both, around
Ann/enn	year, years
Ante	before, previous
Aqua	water
Arbor	tree
Arium, orium, ary	place for
Avi	bird
Ax	axis
Bell	war
Bene, bon	good
Bi, bin	two, twice
Cap(t)	seize
Carn, carni	meat, flesh
Cede, Ceed, Cess	to yield
Celer	swift
Cent	hundred
Centi	hundredth
Cerebr/o	brain
Cide	to kill, cut
Circum	around
Clud, clus	to close
Com	together, with
Cogn	knowledge
Contra	opposite
Copr/o, corpor, corpus	body
Cord	heart

Cred belief, believe
 Culp blame, fault
 De away, down
 Deca ten
 Deci tenth
 Demi half, less than
 Dent, denti tooth
 Dic, dict speak, word
 Du, duo two
 Duc, duct to lead
 E out
 Ego self
 Equ, equi equal
 Ex, Extra, extro outside, beyond
 Fac (t), fic make, do
 Fer bear, carry
 Don't, odont/o tooth
 Dox praise, belief
 Dyn, dyna, dynam/o energy, strength
 Dys bad, abnormal
 Ec, ex away from
 Ecto outside of
 Encephal/o brain
 Fid faith
 Gam/o, gameto, gamy marriage, union
 Gastr/o stomach
 Gen/o, gene, genesis origin, cause, race
 Geo Earth
 Ger old
 Gloss, glot tongue, language
 Graph write
 Gnos, gnom, gnomon knowledge
 Gon, gonio angle
 Gon/o, gony reproduction, generation
 Graph, graphy writing, science
 Gyn/o, gyne, gynec/o woman, female
 Gyr, gyro circle
 Hect, hecto, hecat hundred
 Helic/o circular, spiral
 Heli/o sun
 Hemo, hamat/o, heam, emia blood
 Hemi half, partly
 Hepat/o liver
 Hepta, hept seven
 Hetero different, other
 Hexa, hex six

Holo whole
 Homo, homoio, homeo same, equal
 Hydr/o water, liquid, hydrogen
 Hyp, hypo under, below, less
 Hyper above, excessive, beyond, over
 Iatr/o healing, medical treatment
 Icon/o image
 Ics study of, science, skill
 Idio peculiar, personal
 Iso equal, same
 It is inflammation
 Kilo thousand
 Kine, kinet, kinemat motion, division
 Latry worship
 Leuk/o, leuc/o white, colorless
 Lip/o fatt
 Lite, ite mineral, rock, fossil
 Lith/o stone, rock
 Log speech, word
 Log/o word, doctrine, discourse
 Macro large, long
 Mancy divination
 Mega, megal/o, large, million
 Melan/o black
 Meso middle
 Flor, flori flower
 Fid faith
 Fin end
 Fort strong
 Fug to run away
 Fus pour
 Endo inside
 Ep, epi on, over, among, at, after, to
 Erg/o work
 Erythr/o red
 Esthes, m aesthes, esthet feeling
 Eu well, good
 Grat grateful
 Greg floxk
 Gress, grad, gradi, grade to step, to go
 Ig, il, in, ilm, ir not, without
 In into, not
 Infra beneath, below
 Inter between, among
 Intra, intro into, inside
 Jct to throw

Judic	decide	Octa, oct, octo	eight
Junct	to join	Olig/o	few, deficiency
Jur	swear	Ology, logy	study of, science
Just	justice	Onym	name, word
Juxta	near, next	Op, ops, opt/o, ophthalm/o, opsy	eye, vision, sight
Lev	light	Ornith/o	bird
Lex	word, law	Ortho	straight, correct, vertical
Luc, lux, lumen	light, shining	Oste/o	bone
Libr	book	Pale/o	ancient
Lingu	language, tongue	Pan, panto	all
Liter	letter	Para	beside, abnormal, or protection
Loqu, locu	to speak	Path/o, pathy	disease, feeling
Lud, lus	to play	Ped/o	child
Lun, luni	moon	Penta, pent	five
Magn, magna, magni	great, large	Pept, peps	digestion
Mal, male	bad, evil, wrong	Peri	around
Man, mani, manu	hand	Pha	show, appear
Mar, mari	sea	Phag, phage	to eat
Matr, matri, mater	mother	Phil/o, phile	love, affinity, liking
Medi	middle	Phobia	fear
Mill	thousand	Phon/o, phone, phony	sound
Milli	thousandth	Phor, phore	to bear, carry, state, produce
Mit(t)	send	Phot/o	light
Mon, monit	warn, advise	Phyll/o	leaf
Mort	dead	Physi/o	nature, physical
Munt	world, earth	Phyt/, phyte	plant, to grow
Mut	change	Plas, plast, plasm, plasty	to form, cells, development
Nat	birth, born	Pneum/o, pneumon/o, pneumat/o, pnea,	breathing, lung, air
Nom, nomin, nomen, onomas,	name, noun	Pod, pode	foot, feet
Ob	against, toward	Polis	city, state
Ocul	eye	Poly	many
Oct	eight	Pro	before, in place of, in addition to, forth
Omni	all	Prot, proto	first, chief, primitive
Patr, patri, pater	father	Pseud/o	false
Meta	change, between, after	Psych/o	mind, soul, mental process
Meter, metr, metry	measure	Pter/o, pteryg, pteryx	wing, fin
Micro	small, millionth	Pyr	fire
Mis/o	to hate	Rhin/o	nose
Mono, mon	one, alone, single	Rhod/o	red
Morph/o	form	Rrhea, rrhoea, rrhag	flow, discharge
My/o	muscle	Scler/o	hard
Necr/o	dead, death	Scop, scope, scopy	to view observe
Neo	new, recent		
Nephr/o	kidney		
Neur/o	nerve		
Nom/o, nomy	law, rule, system of alws		

Som, somat	body	Tax/oo	arrangement
Pecu	money, property	Tele, tel, telo	end, complete, distant
Ped, pedi, pede	foot, feet	Ten	hold
Pel	to drive	Tend	stretch
Pend	hang, weigh, pay	Terr, terra, terri	earth, land
Per	through, wrong	Tetra	four
Plac	please	Thanat	death
Plen	full, fill	The, theo	God
Plic	fold	Therm/o	heat, temperature
Pon	put, place	Tom, tome, tomy, stomy	to cut
Port	to carry	Torque, tort	twist, turn
Post	after	Tract	draw, pull
Pre	before	Trans	across, through, beyond
Preter	Past, beyond	Tri	three
Prim	first	Trop/o, tropy	turning, changing, responding
Pro	forward, before	to stimulus	
Prol	offspring	Troph/o, trophy	nourish, grow
Purg	clean	Ultra	beyond
Quadr, quadri, quadru, quadra	four	Un	one
Quart	fourth	Uni	one
Quin, quint, quintu, quinque	five, fifth	Ver	true
Radic, radix	root	Verb	word
Ram, rami	branch	Vers, vert	turn
Reg, rect	rule, straightin	Viv, vivi, vit	life, live, living
Retro	back, behind	Voc, vok	voice, to call
Rog	ask	Vor	to eat
Rub	red	Xanth/o	yellow
Rupt	to break, burst	Xen/o	foreign
Scrib, script	to write	Xer/o, xeri	dry
Sect	to cut	Zo, zoo	animal
Semi	half, partially	Zyg/o	pair
Sept	seven		
Sex	six		
Simil, simul	like		
Sol	sun		
Soph, sophy	wise, wisdom		
Spect, spec, spic	to see, to look at		
Spectro	spectrum		
Sphere	ball		
Spir/o	breathe		
Spor/o, spori	to sow, spore		
Syn, sym, syl, sys	same, together		
Sta	stand		
Sub	under, beneath		
Suma, surem, super	highest, above		
Tang	touch		

More College Prep Words You Should Know!

Here are some more words you should know for your own enrichment! Can you brainstorm some more?

Abject -	miserable	Gamut -	the range or scope
Abnegate -	to give up something	Garrulous -	talkative
Accrue -	to gain or accumulate something	Germane -	relevant, pertinent
Acquiesce -	to agree to or comply with	Gratuity -	a tip
Acrimonious -	bitter or spiteful in tone	Harbinger -	foretelling, prediction
Adage -	a wise saying or proverb	Hermetic -	sealed from penetration
Amulet -	a charm that protects against evil.	Impeccable -	perfect
Apocalyptic -	pertaining to the end of the world	Implicate -	to incriminate
Apparition -	a ghost	Importune -	to beg or entreat
Arduous -	difficult	Incur -	to bring upon oneself
Attrition -	to weaken or get smaller	Infraction -	a breach of a law or moral
Austere -	bare or ascetic or somber	Intrepid -	brave
Auxiliary -	a subordinate helper	Itinerant -	rootless, or constantly traveling
Burgeon -	to grow or flourish	Jocose -	Joking
Cache -	a hidden storage place	Lapidary -	an engraver of precious stones
Calibrate -	to adjust	Limpid -	calm, peaceful
Caveat -	a disclaimer or warning	Litigious -	given to filing lawsuits
Concur -	to agree	Lucid -	clear, comprehensible
Congenial -	friendly	Lucrative -	financially rewarding
Construe -	to interpret	Lugubrious -	disproportionately sad
Credence -	belief or acceptance	Malfeasance -	corrupt action, typically by an official
Criterion -	standard of judgment	Malady -	sickness or disorder
Cull -	to choose from among a group.	Matrix -	a puzzle
Culminate -	to end with a climax	Menial -	fit for a servant
Deleterious -	harmful	Mendacity -	characterized by lying
Dichotomy -	two paradoxical halves	Mete -	fit or appropriate
Disbursement -	a payment	Misogynist -	one who hates women
Draconic -	very stern or severe, as in punishment	Nefarious -	very evil
Ecumenical -	having to do with the Christian church	Numismatics -	coin collection
Effete -	exhausted or unproductive	Obsolete -	out of date, no longer available
Empirical -	derived through experimentation or observation	Obtuse -	blunt or slow
Enclave -	a country inside a larger country	Orifice -	a cavity or opening
Endemic -	native or inherent to a region.	Peremptory -	putting an end to
Epitome -	representative of a group or class	Perennial -	recurring yearly
Euphemism -	a substitution for a crass phrase.	Perfunctory -	performed quickly or carelessly
Evince -	to show	Pertinent -	relevant
Exempt -	excused from	Plethora -	an excess or selection
Fortuitous -	lucky	Portentous -	foreboding
		Predilection -	tendency
		Pristine -	immaculate, clean, or pure

Propinquity - nearness or likeness
Protocol - the accepted rules of ceremonial
conduct
Quell - to stifle
Recidivism - relapsing into old behavior
Regalia - the attire and symbols of a royal
person
Regress - to slip backwards into a more
primitive state
Reprisal - retaliation
Requisite - necessary, required
Requite - to return, as in affection or debts
Rife - full of, prevalent with
Ruse - a trick or hoax
Saga - a long story
Salient - obvious, jutting out
Salubrious - healthy
Saturate - to soak
Saturnine - bitter or melancholy
Scrupulous - precise, careful, or painstaking
Sententious - moralizing

Sophistry - a misleading argument
Spasm - an involuntary muscle jerk
Sporadic - irregularly, occasionally occurring
Stentorian - loud
Stigmatize - to brand
Substantiate - to prove
Subterfuge - a fraudulent plot
Succinct - concise
Succor - aid or relief
Surmount - to overcome
Teeming - abundant or rife with
Threnody - a mourning song
Urbane - refined, courteous
Vapid - shallow, banal
Venal - minor
Vestige - residual trace
Vicarious - acting through another person
Vicinity - area, proximity, or region
Visceral - of the bodily organs
Viscous - sticky
Vulpine - like a fox

Frequently Misspelled Words

Sometimes, it's just as important to spell a word correctly as to know what it means. In addition to the words above, below are some of the most frequently misspelled words. With your help, you can take them off the list! To help you, here's a refreshment on the basic rules of spelling. It's by no means comprehensive, but these hints can be handy in improving your accuracy!

- ei vs ie:** Remember: "I before e except after c."
- prefixes:** Don't change the spelling of the root word when you add a prefix.
- suffixes:** If the word ends in a silent e, and the suffix begins with a vowel, nix the e (unless the final e is after a soft g or c sound, keep the e.)
 If the suffix begins with a consonant, keep the e, unless it comes after a vowel as in "argue."
 If the word ends in a consonant, double it before the suffix if the suffix starts with a vowel, unless the final consonant of the word comes after two vowels, or ends a syllable that is not stressed.
- plurals:** Add s to basic singular nouns.
 Add es to nouns that end with a s, z, x, ch, or sh.
 If a word ends in a consonant before a y, change the y to ies.
 If a word ends in a vowel before a y, keep the y and add an s.
 Add es to a word that ends in a consonant before an o.
 Add s to a word that ends in a vowel before an o.
 Change most nouns ending with fe to end in ves.
 Several nouns don't change at all in the plural.
 Some nouns just change internal spelling to designate a plural.
 Form the plural in the main word of compound nouns.
 Use an apostrophe before an s to make a number or symbol plural.

a cappella	aardvark	absence	abscess	abhorrent
abyss	abreast	accept	accidentally	accommodate
accompaniment	accomplish	accuracy	achievement	acquaintance
acquire	addendum	address	adhere	adolescent
aerial	affect	amateur	amphetamine	analyze
anecdote	anesthetic	annual	antidote	aphasia
apology	apparent	appearance	appropriate	approximately
aqueduct	arctic	ascend	ascetic	asparagus
aspirin	assassination	association	assuage	attendance
aural	auxiliary	awkward		
bacchanalian	ballistic	barred	basically	bassinet
believe	benefited	berserk	blasphemy	broccoli
buoy	bureaucracy	buzzard		
cafeteria	calendar	calisthenics	candidate	ceiling
cemetery	changeable	characteristic	chief	cocoa
collegiate	column	commitment	committee	communal
complicity	conceivable	condemn	conscience	conscientious
conscious	consistency	counterfeit	courteous	
dachshund	dealt	deceive	descend	desirable

despair disastrous	desperate discipline	dilemma dissatisfied	diphtheria dissolve	disappoint dystrophy
eccentricity efficiency environment exceed existence	ecclesiastic eighth epoch excellent extraordinary	ecstasy eligible equivalent exercise extremely	eczema embarrass euchre exhaust	eerie entirely exaggerate exhilarate
façade February fuselage	fallacy feign	fallopian fondue	fascinate foreign	fascist forerunner
gaiety government guillotine	garrison grammar	gauge grief	generic guarantee	glamorous
harass hippopotamus	height horrendous	heinous humorous	heroes hypocrisy	hieroglyphics
idiosyncrasy incidentally infinitesimal irresistible	idyllic independent insomnia	illiterate indispensable interrupt	immaculate inevitable irrelevant	impasse infinite irresponsible
knowledge				
labyrinth license	lacquer loneliness	lacrosse luscious	languorous lynx	legitimate
machismo manicotti mezzanine mnemonic	mackerel masseuse millennium molasses	maintenance Mediterranean miniature muscle	malaise mercenary mischievous mysticism	maneuver metamorphoses Mississippi
narcissism nuisance	necessary	niece	noticeable	nuclear
occurrence	onomatopoeia	opalescent	oscillate	
pamphlet precede	parallel preferred	possess prejudice	practically privilege	prairie psychedelic
quantity	queue	quiche		
rapport reminisce	receipt rhetorical	recognize resuscitate	recommend rubella	referred

salient	sallow	salmon	schedule	schizophrenia
scintillate	sclerosis	scurrilous	secede	seize
sergeant	shellac	siege	sierra	sincerely
sinew	skiing	solicit	sophomore	streusel
succeed	summary	superfluous	surreal	surrogate
surreptitious	susceptibility	sycamore	syntax	syringe
tambourine	temperature	thorough	transferred	truculent
unanimous	ubiquitous	unnecessary		
vacuum	vengeance	vicissitude	villain	voyeur
warrant	Wednesday	weird	whether	wintry
withdrawal	Worcestershire			
yield				
zinnia	zucchini			

Frequently Confused Words

Some words are frequently confused with each other because they are homonyms, that is, they sound similar, but have a completely different meaning and spelling. Make sure you know the difference between these sets of words!

accept/except	Advice/advise	access/excess	affect/effect	alley/ally
adverse/averse	allude/elude	allusion/illusion	altar/alter	ascend/assent
born/borne	breathe/breathe	capital/capitol	carat/caret/carrot/karat	cancel/censure
cite/site	climactic/climatic	coarse/course	complement/compliment	
conscience/conscious	council/counsel	currant/current	decent/descent	desert/dessert
device/devise	die/dye	discreet/discrete	duel/dual	elicit/illicit
emigrate/immigrate	eminent/imminent	envelop/envelope	implicit/explicit	fare/fair
farther/further	faze/phase	flare/flair	foreword/forward	formally/formerly
forth/fourth	gorilla/guerrilla	grate/great	heroine/heroin	hoarse/horse
human/.humane	immoral/amoral	ingenious/ingenuous	later/latter	lead/led
loose/lose	manor/manner	marshal/martial	moral/morale	naval/navel
pair/pear/pare	pedal/peddle	persecute/prosecute	personal/personnel	
perspective/prospective	populace/populous	precede/proceed		prescribe/proscribe
principle/principal	prophecy/prophesy	rein/reign	raise/raze	right/write/rite
sense/since/cents	shown/shone	stationary/stationery	straight/strait	suit/suite
thorough/through	track/tract	weather/whether		