



2007 LA County Spelling Bee Study Guide



indebted - in det uhd
owing something
I will forever be **indebted** to you for your kindness.

bullion - bool yon
gold or silver
A large shipment of gold **bullion** was delivered to the mint.

blasphemy - blas fuh mee
any irreverent act or utterance
It was **blasphemy** to speak ill of our teachers.

deciduous - di sij yu us
shedding leaves annually
The fall colors on the **deciduous** trees are beautiful.

statistician - stat is tish uhn
one engaged in compiling and analyzing numerical data
The team **statistician** lets us know our batting averages before every game.

rascal - rap scal yun
a rascal; a ne'er do-well
I was advised to stay away from the **rascal**.

dynamite - dye nuh mite
an explosive
They had to **dynamite** the building in order to knock it down.

raspberry - raz bear ee
small round fleshy red or black berry
These **raspberry** preserves won a blue ribbon at the county fair.

pasteurize - pas chuh rize
partial sterilization of a fluid by exposure to heat
The dairy will **pasteurize** milk before bottling.

reprehensible - rep ree hen sih bul
deserving to be reprehended
Assassination is a **reprehensible** crime.



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apparatus - ap pah rat us
equipment used to do a particular kind of work

The balance beam is an **apparatus** in gymnastics.

reminisce - rem uh nis
to think or talk about things from the past
At school I can **reminisce** about the good time I had at the spelling competition.

concerto - kuhn chair toh
a piece for one or more soloists and orchestra
She played the piano **concerto** beautifully.

hieroglyphs - hi ruh glifs
picture writing, especially ancient Egyptian tombs frequently contain
hieroglyphs depicting animals.

familiar - fuh mil yar
well acquainted
I am very **familiar** with the rigors of studying for a spelling competition.

abdominal - ab dom in ull
lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, or for the abdomen

The **abdominal** bandage seemed too tight.

refuge - ref youj
a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat
The deer sought a **refuge** from the hunters.

coalesce - koe uh les
to grow together; to unite or merge into a single body
The splint would help the broken bones to continue to **coalesce**.

subpoena - suh peen uh
a formal summons to attend court
She received a **subpoena** to testify in court.

plaintive - playn tiv
causing pity
The lost kitten gave a **plaintive** cry.



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counterfeit - kown ter fit
a copy or fake replica
The police figured out that the money was **counterfeit**.

unprecedented - un press uh den ted
unheard-of; novel
The president took **unprecedented** steps toward peace.

villain - vil lin
an evil person; scoundrel
In a melodrama, the audience boos whenever the **villain** appears.

mocha - moe kuh
a mixture of coffee and chocolate
Mocha is the flavor of the month at the ice cream parlor.

vehicle - vee hi kul
something used to transport persons or goods
We will need a **vehicle** that holds six people.

camouflage - kam uh flahj
the disguise applied to military equipment
The uniforms are now tan to **camouflage** them in the desert.

remnant - rem nant
what is left over; remainder; residue
The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a **remnant**.

accommodate - uh com oh date
to make fit, suitable, or congruous
The school can now **accommodate** handicapped students.

sandal - san duhl
a shoe consisting of a sole strapped to the foot
I had to take my **sandal** to the shoe repair shop to have the strap fixed.

license - lie suhnts
formal or legal permission to do something specified
In California, you are eligible to apply for a driver's **license** when you are sixteen.



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perseverance - per seh vir ens
continued or steadfast effort in spite of difficulties

After many years of **perseverance** the Wright Brothers finally made their airplane fly.

chrysanthemum - kri san thuh mum
popular plant grown for its long-lasting flowers

A **chrysanthemum** bouquet was the centerpiece for our Thanksgiving table.

battalion - buh tal yun
a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; and large group joined in some activity
He had command of a **battalion** during World War II.

fervent - fer vent
having or showing great warmth of feeling; intensely devoted or earnest; ardent
The children showed a **fervent** devotion to their pet.

adolescent - ad oh les sent
a person in the stage of life between puberty and adulthood
An **adolescent** frequently has trouble communicating with parents.

sequential - see kwen chull
arranged in order
The children were arranged in a **sequential** manner in front of the fireplace.

medley - med lee
a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works
The chorus performed a **medley** of show tunes.

carousel - kar uh SEL
a merry-go-round
I love riding the **carousel** at the park.

poise - poyz
calm, self-assured dignity
Her **poise** and grace were seen by all as she thanked everyone for their help.

binary - by nare ee
consisting of two things or parts
The invention was **binary** and easy to work.



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exhaustion - ig zaws chun
deprivation of strength or energy
The marathon runners' **exhaustion** was apparent as they entered the stadium.

antidote - an tih dote
something that relieves, prevents, or counteracts
Education is often said to be an **antidote** to crime.

remote - ruh mote
distant in connection
There is only a **remote** possibility of rain today.

crisis - cry sis
decisive or crucial time or stage of an event
We knew we had to deal with the **crisis** quickly and efficiently.

retrieve - ree treev
to get back; regain
I hope I can **retrieve** the lost data.

vestige - ves tij
a visible sign or trace left by something vanished or lost
Only a **vestige** of the city's previous grandeur remained after the bombing.

faucet - faw sit
a fixture for drawing a liquid from a pipe
A dripping **faucet** wastes a lot of water.

mathematician - math (uh) muh tish uhn
a specialist in the science of numbers
A **mathematician** at the university derived this new number theory.

anniversary - an uh vur suhr ee
the yearly commemoration of a special event
Our school will celebrate its fiftieth **anniversary** next year.

dilemma - di lem uh
predicament; a situation in which one must choose
It was a real **dilemma** deciding which college to attend.



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perceptible - pur sep tuh bul
capable of being noticed or observed
The difference between the two brands of hot dogs is hardly **perceptible**.

plague - playg
a disastrous evil, especially a large number of destructive pests
A **plague** of locusts destroyed this year's crops.

chorus - KOR uhs
music repeated between verses
The choir will sing the verses, and all will join in on the **chorus**.

occur - uh kur
to take place; happen
The celebration will **occur** next week.

caption - KAP shun
a heading or title, as of a newspaper article
The **caption** at the top of the story attracted my attention.

courier - kur ee uhr
a messenger
The bicycle **courier** sped through the city's streets.

deafen - def uhn
overwhelm with noise
The volume of the loudspeaker will **deafen** the audience.

carnivorous - kar niv uh ruhs
meat-eating
The lion is a **carnivorous** animal.

literature - lit ur uh chur
writings in prose or verse
My collection of children's **literature** includes many of the classics.

frontier - frun teer
a part of a country that faces another country
The **frontier** land was soon filled with immigrants from the neighboring country.



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repudiate - re pyood ee ate
to divorce, put away or discard
The woman wished to **repudiate** her husband after he abandoned the family.

conscientious - kahn shee en chuhs
scrupulous; careful
I try to be **conscientious** about getting my homework done.

linguistics - ling gwis tiks
science of language; study of the structure of languages
The study of **linguistics** can help a person spell better.

engrave - en grave
to cut or etch into a metal plate or other surface
We will want to **engrave** the coach's name on the trophy.

dispersion - dis pur zhun
the act of dispersing or spreading out
The **dispersion** of the children into the playground was immediate.

loquacious - loh kway shus
given to excess talking
The teacher became very frustrated with the **loquacious** nature of the students in the class.

foulard - foo lard
a thick, soft material of silk
Her dress was of flaming red **foulard**.

kayak - ky ack
an Eskimo canoe, or one similar
The ocean was too rough to take the **kayak** out today.

bureaucracy - byooh rock ruh see
a body of (hired) government officials
The federal government is criticized for the size of its **bureaucracy**.

recommend - rek uh mend
to suggest favorably
I **recommend** this book to you.



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ambience - ahm bee once
a surrounding or pervading atmosphere
The **ambience** in the fancy restaurant was soothing.

census - sen sus
an official enumeration of the population
The last **census** showed a population increase.

entrepreneur - ahn truh pruh nuhr
a person who takes the risk of starting and running a business
The young **entrepreneur** started a roommate matching business.

acoustics - uh koohs tiks
the qualities of a room that enhance or deaden sound
The concert hall is known for its fine **acoustics**.

bankrupt - bangk rupt
a person legally declared unable to pay debts
The store's owner was **bankrupt** and had to go out of business.

negotiate - nuh go she ate
the attempt to come to an agreement about something
The teenager tried to **negotiate** a later curfew with her parents.

seismic - size mik
relating to or caused by an earthquake
The scientists monitored all **seismic** activity.

furrier - furr ee ur
a dresser of or dealer in furs
The **furrier** appraised the mink coat at three thousand dollars.

curtain - kur tin
window drapery
The window **curtain** matched the bedspread in the room.

biscuit - biss kut
a small quick bread
Here's some honey for your **biscuit**.



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hinge - hinj

a joint or device on which a door, gate, lid, etc., swings

The **hinge** needed oiling.

fictitious - fik tish us

imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended

Some novelists use a **fictitious** name to hide their identity.

tortoise - tor tuhs

a land turtle

In one of Aesop's fables, the **tortoise** wins a race against the hare.

criticism - krit ih cizm

the act of fault finding, showing disapproval

The review was filled with harsh **criticism** of the writer's style.

procession - pro sess shun

orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way

The elephants moved in an orderly

procession.

centrifugal - sen trif yu gal

radiating or departing from the center

The road was banked to counteract the **centrifugal** force.

reconnaissance - rih kan uh sentz

preliminary survey of an area to gain information

Many missions of **reconnaissance** were flown over the enemy's territory.

abbreviate - uh bree vee ayt

shorten

In formal papers, it is not proper to **abbreviate** words.

amphibious - am fib ee uhs

capable of operating on land or water

D-day was marked by an **amphibious** assault.

equivalent - ee kwiv uh lent

equal in quantity, value, force, meaning

Although their education had been **equivalent**, one twin did much better in mathematics than the other.



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fraud - frawd
deceit

Cellular phone **fraud** is costing millions to legitimate users.

physique - fi zeek

the build of a person's body

The body builder had a muscular **physique**.

complexion - kuhm plek shun

the skin color of the face

People with a fair **complexion** need to be very careful in the sun.

aerial - air ee ul

of or relating to the air or atmosphere

From the helicopter, we had a spectacular **aerial** view of the waterfalls.

abeyance - uh bay ents

a temporary inactivity or suspension of activity

The school rule had been in **abeyance** since 1978.

existence - ig zis tun(t)s

the state or fact of being

They were debating the **existence** of life on Mars.

surveillance - sur vay luhn(t)s

close watch

The police kept a constant **surveillance** at the suspect's house.

spectrum - spek trem

a continuous range or entire extent

The newspaper reported a wide **spectrum** of opinions.

preliminary - pree lim uh nair ee

introductory to the main discourse

You will have an opportunity to ask questions during the **preliminary** round of the competition.

scheme - skeem

a systemic or organized design

That is a nice color **scheme** you have picked out.