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Scripps National Spelling Bee

Vocabulary List for Fourth Graders

2016-2017

1. **smirk** (*verb*) to smile in a false way or as if pleased with yourself.
2. **destiny** (*noun*) fate.
3. **monkeys** (*plural noun*) primates that are smaller than apes and have longer tails.
4. **studio** (*noun*) a place to study various performing arts such as dancing, singing or acting.
5. **nifty** (*adjective*) handy.
6. **janitor** (*noun*) someone who keeps an apartment, office or other building clean and who makes minor repairs.
7. **pottery** (*noun*) an article made of fired clay.
8. **wonderful** (*adjective*) unusually good, interesting, amusing or lovely.
9. **square** (*noun*) a rectangle with all four sides equal.
10. **belief** (*noun*) when trust or confidence is placed in a person or thing.
11. **contract** (*noun*) an agreement between two or more people to do or not to do something.
12. **anteater** (*noun*) a mammal that has a long narrow snout, long sticky tongue and usually no teeth and that feeds entirely on insects.
13. **pouring** (*verb*) causing or allowing something to flow in a steady stream.
14. **lantern** (*noun*) a portable lamp.
15. **subtracting** (*verb*) taking away an amount from a total.
16. **portable** (*adjective*) light enough to be carried.
17. **twine** (*noun*) a strong string made by twisting two or more strands together.
18. **estate** (*noun*) the sum of all property and debts that someone leaves behind when they die.
19. **umbrella** (*noun*) a small portable covering that provides protection against the weather.
20. **timidly** (*adverb*) in a way that is not brave or courageous.
21. **observe** (*verb*) obey.
22. **trance** (*noun*) daze.
23. **elderly** (*adjective*) advanced in years.
24. **liquid** (*noun*) an extremely fluid substance that flows freely like water.
25. **deadline** (*noun*) a date or time before which something must be done.
26. **country** (*noun*) a political state or nation.
27. **flexible** (*adjective*) bending easily without breaking.
28. **promote** (*verb*) to move forward in station, rank or honor.



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This list includes 50 challenging fourth grade words and, to extend learning, 50 challenging fifth grade words. If you learn the spellings and meanings of these 100 words, you will be well prepared for a fourth grade classroom bee. If you would like to be well prepared for a school spelling bee, ask your teacher for the 450-word School Spelling Bee Study List.

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|-----|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 29. | massive | <i>(adjective)</i> | weighty : heavy. |
| 30. | bronze | <i>(noun)</i> | a substance made of copper and tin mixed together and that is used to make industrial items, art and bells. |
| 31. | climbed | <i>(verb)</i> | used your hands to raise yourself upwards. |
| 32. | teaspoon | <i>(noun)</i> | a small tool consisting of an oval or round shallow bowl with a handle and used for stirring a drink and as a unit of measure. |
| 33. | balance | <i>(noun)</i> | stability as a result of equally spreading your weight. |
| 34. | knitting | <i>(verb)</i> | making something (such as clothing) from yarn either by hand using long needles or with a machine. |
| 35. | merely | <i>(adverb)</i> | barely, only, simply. |
| 36. | furnish | <i>(verb)</i> | to add necessary and decorative items to a room. |
| 37. | passage | <i>(noun)</i> | a brief section of a written work or speech that is mentioned by itself as noteworthy or relevant. |
| 38. | complaints | <i>(plural noun)</i> | expressions of unfairness. |
| 39. | thunderbolt | <i>(noun)</i> | a flash of lightning along with a loud, distant rolling sound. |
| 40. | nonsense | <i>(noun)</i> | words or language that have no meaning. |
| 41. | mansion | <i>(noun)</i> | a home that is impressive due to its size. |
| 42. | laundry | <i>(noun)</i> | a group of clothes or household linens to be washed. |
| 43. | available | <i>(adjective)</i> | free and able to do something at a particular time |
| 44. | lodging | <i>(noun)</i> | a temporary place to stay. |
| 45. | portions | <i>(plural noun)</i> | parts of a whole. |
| 46. | gallant | <i>(adjective)</i> | brave, dashing and chivalrous. |
| 47. | veins | <i>(plural noun)</i> | tubes that carry blood from different parts of your body to your heart. |
| 48. | mountain | <i>(noun)</i> | a high landmass rising to form several peaks. |
| 49. | whistling | <i>(verb)</i> | making clear sounds by blowing air through pursed lips. |
| 50. | voyage | <i>(noun)</i> | a journey by water : cruise. |
| 51. | hooves | <i>(plural noun)</i> | curved, hard coverings that protect the feet of an animal (such as a horse or goat). |
| 52. | funnel | <i>(noun)</i> | a tool shaped like a hollow cone with a tube extending from the point that is used to direct the flow of liquid. |
| 53. | gravely | <i>(adverb)</i> | seriously. |
| 54. | hiccups or hiccoughs | <i>(plural noun)</i> | sounds in your throat caused by sudden, involuntary movements of your chest muscles. |
| 55. | performance | <i>(noun)</i> | a public presentation (as of a dramatic work). |
| 56. | specific | <i>(adjective)</i> | falling into a precisely stated category. |
| 57. | dowdy | <i>(adjective)</i> | old-fashioned : out of date. |
| 58. | indicate | <i>(verb)</i> | to point at. |
| 59. | clause | <i>(noun)</i> | a group of words in a sentence that has its own subject and verb. |



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60.	failure	<i>(noun)</i>	lack of success.
61.	biology	<i>(noun)</i>	the science of life.
62.	hangar	<i>(noun)</i>	a covered and usually enclosed area or a large shed for housing and repairing aircraft (as airplanes).
63.	quality	<i>(noun)</i>	a special or distinguishing attribute : characteristic.
64.	saucepan	<i>(noun)</i>	a deep cooking utensil with a long handle used for stewing or boiling.
65.	invisible	<i>(adjective)</i>	out of sight : hidden.
66.	classical	<i>(adjective)</i>	relating to music other than popular music or music for entertainment.
67.	blurred	<i>(adjective)</i>	characterized by dimness, indistinctness or obscurity.
68.	contestants	<i>(plural noun)</i>	persons that participate in a competition.
69.	farfetched	<i>(adjective)</i>	not easily or naturally reached by logic or reason.
70.	bemused	<i>(adjective)</i>	having or showing feelings of wry entertainment especially from something that is surprising or perplexing.
71.	clients	<i>(plural noun)</i>	patrons, customers.
72.	tightrope	<i>(noun)</i>	a tightly stretched cord or wire on which acrobats perform.
73.	innocent	<i>(adjective)</i>	free from legal guilt or responsibility for wrongdoing or failure.
74.	dignified	<i>(adjective)</i>	showing or expressing formality, seriousness and self-confidence in appearance, manner or language.
75.	priority	<i>(noun)</i>	something that is more important than other things and needs to be done or dealt with first.
76.	delicate	<i>(adjective)</i>	easily damaged, broken or hurt.
77.	applause	<i>(noun)</i>	approval publicly expressed (as by clapping hands).
78.	bargain	<i>(noun)</i>	something whose value to the purchaser is greater than its cost.
79.	fortune	<i>(noun)</i>	good luck : success.
80.	vocabulary	<i>(noun)</i>	the whole amount of words used by a language, group or individual.
81.	caterpillar	<i>(noun)</i>	the larva of a butterfly or moth that is long and looks like a worm with legs.
82.	wistfully	<i>(adverb)</i>	in a thoughtfully sad or mournful manner.
83.	annual	<i>(adjective)</i>	occurring, appearing, made or done every year or once a year.
84.	beckon	<i>(verb)</i>	to appear inviting : attract.
85.	creation	<i>(noun)</i>	an original work of art or of the imagination.
86.	dumbwaiter	<i>(noun)</i>	a small elevator used for carrying food and dishes or small goods from one floor of a building to another.
87.	unbearable	<i>(adjective)</i>	not able to be endured.
88.	cupboard	<i>(noun)</i>	a closet with shelves to receive cups, dishes or food.
89.	dimension	<i>(noun)</i>	measurement in a single line (as length, height or width).
90.	initials	<i>(plural noun)</i>	the first letters of each word in a person's name.
91.	daunted	<i>(verb)</i>	made (someone) afraid : intimidated.



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| 92. | settee | <i>(noun)</i> | a medium-sized sofa with arms and a back. |
| 93. | digestive | <i>(adjective)</i> | relating to the action or process of converting (food) into a form that can be absorbed. |
| 94. | lounge | <i>(verb)</i> | to stand, sit or recline lazily : loaf. |
| 95. | marooned | <i>(verb)</i> | put ashore on a desolate island or coast and left to one's fate. |
| 96. | poisonous | <i>(adjective)</i> | having the qualities or effects of a substance that in the right amounts can harm or kill a living thing. |
| 97. | vinegar | <i>(noun)</i> | a sour liquid used as a condiment or a preservative and is often seasoned especially with herbs. |
| 98. | moisture | <i>(noun)</i> | a small amount of liquid dispersed in air and appearing as fog or condensed as dew on a cool surface. |
| 99. | terrier | <i>(noun)</i> | a type of small dog now mainly kept as a pet but originally used for hunting. |
| 100. | gymnastics | <i>(plural noun)</i> | systematic physical exercises along with performance on apparatus (as rings or bars) that are designed to promote strength, flexibility, agility, coordination and body control. |