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Scripps National Spelling Bee

Vocabulary List for Sixth Graders

2016-2017

- vertical** (*adjective*) perpendicular to the plane of the horizon or to a primary axis : upright.
- inlet** (*noun*) a narrow strip of water running into the land or between islands.
- botany** (*noun*) the branch of science dealing with plants.
- linen** (*noun*) a strong cloth made of flax noted for its strength and coolness but that wrinkles easily.
- esteem** (*noun*) approval and respect often blended with great liking because of worthy qualities.
- mildew** (*noun*) a whitish growth produced on organic matter and on plants by fungi.
- gourd** (*noun*) a fruit that is hard-shelled, inedible and used often for decoration, and that comes from a vine.
- pitiful** (*adjective*) deserving or giving rise to compassion.
- concise** (*adjective*) expressed using few words and without unnecessary detail.
- perimeter** (*noun*) the sum of the lengths of the line segments forming a polygon.
- thicket** (*noun*) a dense growth of shrubbery or small trees.
- naturalist** (*noun*) someone who studies the physical world and everything in it, such as plants and animals.
- quashed** (*verb*) put an end to.
- microscope** (*noun*) an instrument used for looking at very small objects so that they appear larger.
- cathedral** (*noun*) a church that was once a bishop's church.
- diligent** (*adjective*) characterized by steady, earnest, attentive and energetic effort.
- auction** (*noun*) a public sale of property to the person who pays the most.
- sediment** (*noun*) material or a mass of material deposited (as by water, wind or glaciers).
- fervently** (*adverb*) in a manner characterized by often deep intensity of feeling or expression.
- bushel** (*noun*) a unit of dry measure used in the U.S.
- clodhopper** (*noun*) a large heavy shoe.
- unappealing** (*adjective*) lacking interest or charm : plain.
- dandruff** (*noun*) small white flakes that form on and shed from skin, especially the scalp.



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This list includes 50 challenging sixth grade words and, to extend learning, 50 challenging seventh grade words. If you learn the spellings and meanings of these 100 words, you will be well prepared for a sixth 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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| 24. | pensive | <i>(adjective)</i> | absorbed or engrossed in or given to sober thoughtfulness. |
| 25. | gnarled | <i>(adjective)</i> | warped or twisted with or as if with knots. |
| 26. | peculiar | <i>(adjective)</i> | distinctive. |
| 27. | cutlery | <i>(noun)</i> | tools used to cut, serve and eat food. |
| 28. | equestrian | <i>(adjective)</i> | of, relating to or featuring horseback riding. |
| 29. | oblivious | <i>(adjective)</i> | unaware. |
| 30. | spatula | <i>(noun)</i> | a flat thin dull-edged tool used for spreading or mixing soft substances, scooping, or lifting. |
| 31. | tuition | <i>(noun)</i> | the price of or payment for instruction. |
| 32. | bedraggled | <i>(adjective)</i> | left wet and limp by or as if by rain. |
| 33. | paisley | <i>(adjective)</i> | woven or printed with an elaborate design of curved abstract figures. |
| 34. | orchestra | <i>(noun)</i> | a large group of players of musical instruments including typically strings, woodwinds, brasses, and percussion organized for performing one of the larger forms of concert music. |
| 35. | satchel | <i>(noun)</i> | a small bag usually of leather or canvas with a flat bottom and a shoulder strap. |
| 36. | herring | <i>(noun)</i> | a food fish that is often eaten smoked or salted, or preserved as sardines. |
| 37. | coronet | <i>(noun)</i> | a small crown. |
| 38. | precursor | <i>(noun)</i> | a forerunner. |
| 39. | infuriating | <i>(adjective)</i> | enraging, maddening. |
| 40. | suet | <i>(noun)</i> | the hard fat about the kidneys and loins in beef and mutton that when melted forms tallow. |
| 41. | forfeit | <i>(verb)</i> | to lose the right to something because of an error, fault, offense or crime. |
| 42. | partridge | <i>(noun)</i> | a medium-sized, short-winged game bird with short legs and neck. |
| 43. | arduous | <i>(adjective)</i> | difficult. |
| 44. | mastiff | <i>(noun)</i> | a very large powerful dog used chiefly as a watchdog and guard dog. |
| 45. | pauper | <i>(noun)</i> | a very poor person. |
| 46. | armadillo | <i>(noun)</i> | a burrowing nocturnal mammal with a bony shell shielding its head and body. |
| 47. | reggae | <i>(noun)</i> | popular music of Jamaican origin that combines indigenous styles with elements of rock and soul music. |
| 48. | marionette | <i>(noun)</i> | a puppet moved by strings or by hand. |
| 49. | algae | <i>(plural noun)</i> | any of various single- and many-celled usually aquatic plant or plantlike organisms that are mostly photosynthetic. |
| 50. | tortoise | <i>(noun)</i> | a turtle — used especially of land-dwelling turtles. |
| 51. | varsity | <i>(noun)</i> | the main team representing a school or club in a sport or other competition. |
| 52. | antidote | <i>(noun)</i> | something that stops the effects of poison. |
| 53. | emperor | <i>(noun)</i> | the sovereign or supreme monarch of an extended territory. |
| 54. | mystic | <i>(noun)</i> | a follower of a spiritual way of life. |



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55.	resonate	<i>(verb)</i>	to echo again or repeat.
56.	zodiac	<i>(noun)</i>	a figure representing the signs and the symbols of 12 constellations that combine to form an imaginary belt in space.
57.	ravine	<i>(noun)</i>	a small narrow steep-sided valley that is usually worn down by running water : gorge, gulch.
58.	hovel	<i>(noun)</i>	a small shabby house or hut.
59.	sentries	<i>(plural noun)</i>	soldiers standing guard.
60.	rendition	<i>(noun)</i>	interpretation : performance.
61.	nonviolent	<i>(adjective)</i>	not done with the use of physical force : peaceful.
62.	enchantment	<i>(noun)</i>	the act or action of charming or bewitching.
63.	perilous	<i>(adjective)</i>	full of or involving danger.
64.	servitude	<i>(noun)</i>	the condition of subjecting to slavery or something like slavery.
65.	derelict	<i>(adjective)</i>	forgotten, run-down.
66.	charismatic	<i>(adjective)</i>	possessing a special magnetic charm or appeal.
67.	heredity	<i>(noun)</i>	qualities and traits someone gets from ancestors.
68.	prosthetic	<i>(adjective)</i>	of or relating to an artificial device to replace a missing part of the body.
69.	treatise	<i>(noun)</i>	a piece of writing that provides a thorough and careful discussion or argument about a subject.
70.	avian	<i>(adjective)</i>	of, relating to or characteristic of birds.
71.	indifference	<i>(noun)</i>	an attitude that something does not matter one way or another.
72.	epithets	<i>(plural noun)</i>	words or phrases meant as insults.
73.	compatriots	<i>(plural noun)</i>	close associates or colleagues.
74.	petrifying	<i>(verb)</i>	turning organic matter into stone or a stony substance.
75.	tremendous	<i>(adjective)</i>	astonishing due to extreme size, power, greatness or excellence.
76.	engineering	<i>(noun)</i>	the science that applies the properties of matter and energy to create machines and structures.
77.	alliance	<i>(noun)</i>	a union made in order to work toward common goals or interests.
78.	discreetly	<i>(adverb)</i>	in a tactful manner.
79.	enumerated	<i>(verb)</i>	listed one after another.
80.	feckless	<i>(adjective)</i>	impractical and lazy or lacking ambition.
81.	implacable	<i>(adjective)</i>	not capable of being calmed or soothed.
82.	opinionated	<i>(adjective)</i>	firmly sticking to one's own view or belief : obstinate.
83.	javelin	<i>(noun)</i>	a long spear used in a sport in which people see how far they can throw it.
84.	lyre	<i>(noun)</i>	a stringed musical instrument used by the ancient Greeks.
85.	artillery	<i>(noun)</i>	the missiles fired by the weapons of war.
86.	stratagems	<i>(plural noun)</i>	clever tricks used to deceive or outsmart an enemy.



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87.	austere	<i>(adjective)</i>	plainly simple and without decoration.
88.	venerable	<i>(adjective)</i>	deserving of respect due to age, character and accomplishments.
89.	Icarus	<i>(noun)</i>	a figure in Greek mythology who flies away from imprisonment using artificial wings but falls when he flies too close to the sun, melting the wax of his wings.
90.	oracle	<i>(noun)</i>	a person of great authority or wisdom whose opinions or judgments are regarded with great respect.
91.	antiquated	<i>(adjective)</i>	no longer used or popular due to being very old : obsolete.
92.	pearlescent	<i>(adjective)</i>	having the appearance of mother-of-pearl.
93.	bestial	<i>(adjective)</i>	of or relating to an animal.
94.	tenaciously	<i>(adverb)</i>	in a very determined manner : persistently.
95.	cavalcade	<i>(noun)</i>	a procession of riders or carriages.
96.	burglarious	<i>(adjective)</i>	of or suitable for the use of one who breaks into a building illegally especially with intent to steal.
97.	scrumptiously	<i>(adverb)</i>	in a delightful or excellent manner.
98.	boulevards	<i>(plural noun)</i>	broad streets; especially: ones that are more showy than an ordinary street with trees along the center or sides.
99.	laburnums	<i>(plural noun)</i>	plants of a small genus of poisonous shrubs and trees with bright yellow flowers.
100.	thaumaturge	<i>(noun)</i>	a person who performs miracles : a magician.