

Spelling List for Years 7 – 8 (junior high)

ability	argument	blast	cast	complain
absolutely	arrange	blind	castle	complex
abuse	arrest	blood	catch	computer
accepted	arrive	board	chain	conduct
accuse	article	boil	chairman	confidence
achieve	artist	bomb	challenge	confirm
active	assess	bond	champion	conflict
activity	asset	bone	championship	conservative
addition	assist	boom	channel	considerable
address	association	boot	chapter	constant
administration	assume	border	character	consumer
admit	attend	bore	chart	contact
adopt	attention	born	chase	contest
adult	attitude	borrow	chat	cope
advance	attract	boss	cheap	copy
advantage	audience	bother	cheer	core
advice	August	bottle	cheese	corner
affair	aunt	bottom	chemical	correspondent
affect	author	bound	chicken	cotton
afternoon	auto	bowl	childhood	count
agency	autumn	brain	chocolate	countryside
agent	average	branch	choice	county
agreement	avoid	brand	choose	couple
ahead	await	brave	Christian	cousin
aim	award	bread	Christmas	crack
aircraft	aware	breakfast	church	craft
airline	awful	breast	citizen	crash
airport	background	breath	civil	crazy
alarm	backing	bridge	clash	cream
album	badly	brief	classic	creative
alive	balance	bright	classical	credit
ally	balloon	broad	clean	crew
alone	ban	brush	clever	cricket
alternative	bare	budget	client	crime
amount	bargain	bunch	climate	criminal
anger	baseball	burn	climb	crisis
angle	basic	burst	clothing	critic
angry	basis	bury	cloud	critical
annual	bathroom	businessmen	coach	crop
anybody	battle	busy	coal	cross
anyone	beach	butter	coalition	crowd
anyway	bean	button	coast	crown
anywhere	bear	bye	coffee	cruise
apart	behalf	cabinet	collapse	cry
apartment	behave	cable	collect	culture
apparently	behaviour / behavior	calm	collection	cure
appeal	bend	camera	college	currency
appearance	benefit	camp	comfort	curtain
apple	bet	cancer	comment	customer
apply	beyond	candidate	commercial	daily
approach	bid	captain	commission	damage
approve	billion	caption	commit	danger
April	birth	career	communist	dangerous
aren't	bitter	caring	compare	data
argue	blame	cash	competition	date

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dead	due	extra	fuel	highly
dear	dump	extremely	fully	hint
death	duty	facility	fun	hole
debate	earlier	factory	function	holiday
debt	earn	failure	funny	hook
decade	easily	fair	gain	hostage
December	eastern	faith	gang	hotel
deck	edition	false	garden	housing
declare	editor	famous	gas	huge
decline	effective	fashion	gate	hunt
defeat	eighteenth	favour / favor	gather	hurt
defence / defense	eighth	favourite / favorite	general	husband
defend	eightieth	feature	generally	ice
degree	elect	February	generation	ideal
delay	element	federal	gentle	identify
deliver	eleventh	federation	giant	ignore
democracy	emerge	fee	gift	ill
democrat	emergency	feed	goal	image
democratic	employee	feeling	god	imagine
deny	encourage	fellow	gold	immediate
depend	engine	female	golf	impact
deputy	enjoy	fence	governor	import
desk	ensure	festival	grab	impose
despite	enter	fifteenth	grade	impossible
destroy	entire	fifth	grain	improve
detail	entry	fiftieth	grand	incident
determine	environment	fighter	grant	include
diet	environmental	file	grass	including
difficulty	equal	finance	grave	income
dinner	equation	fine	gross	increasingly
dirty	equipment	fix	growth	indeed
discovery	escape	flight	guarantee	independent
discussion	especially	float	guard	indicate
disease	essential	flood	guess	individual
dish	establish	floor	guest	industrial
dismiss	estate	flow	guide	inflation
display	estimate	focus	guilty	influence
dispute	Europe	folk	guy	injury
district	evening	following	hadn't	insist
division	eventually	fool	hair	inspire
doctor	everybody	football	handle	instance
document	everyone	foreign	hang	instead
domestic	evidence	forget	hardly	institute
dominate	exact	formal	hasn't	insurance
double	examine	fortieth	haven't	intend
doubt	excellent	forward	healthy	international
dozen	except	fourteenth	hearing	interview
draft	exchange	fourth	he'd	introduce
drag	executive	freedom	height	investigate
drain	exist	frequent	hell	investment
dramatic	expensive	fresh	he'll	investor
dream	expert	Friday	hello	invite
dress	export	friendly	hero	involve
drift	express	fruit	hi	iron
drum	extend	fry	hide	issue

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item	mainly	muscle	ourselves	prepare
it'll	maintain	museum	overall	presence
jail	majority	myself	owner	pressure
January	maker	narrow	pack	pretty
jet	male	national	package	prevent
joint	manage	nationalist	pain	previous
joke	management	natural	park	pride
journal	manager	nature	parliament	priest
journalist	March	nearby	particular	primary
joy	marriage	nearly	particularly	prince
judge	marry	neat	partner	princess
juice	mass	necessary	path	principal
July	master	neck	patient	principle
jump	mate	neighbour / neighbor	payment	print
June	maximum	neither	penny	prison
junior	May	net	perfect	prisoner
justice	maybe	network	perform	private
key	means	newspaper	performance	prize
kilometre / kilometer	meanwhile	nice	period	probably
kitchen	meat	nineteenth	personal	production
knowledge	media	ninetieth	phone	professional
lack	medical	ninth	photograph	professor
lad	medium	no one	physical	profit
lady	memory	nobody	pile	programme / program
lake	mention	nod	pill	progress
lane	mess	noise	pilot	project
largely	message	none	pipe	promise
latest	method	nor	pitch	promote
launch	metre / meter	normal	planet	proper
lawyer	midnight	north-east	please	property
leadership	mild	north-west	plus	proposal
leading	military	nose	pocket	propose
leaf	mill	novel	poem	prospect
league	million	November	pole	protest
lend	millionth	nowhere	policeman	prove
lens	ministry	nuclear	policy	publish
lesson	minority	obvious	political	pump
liberal	mirror	occasion	politician	punch
library	Miss	occupy	politics	pupil
lie	missing	occur	poll	purchase
lift	mission	o'clock	pollution	purpose
likely	mistake	October	poor	push
limit	mix	odd	popular	quality
link	model	officer	population	quarter
loan	modern	okay	port	queen
Lord	Monday	onto	position	quiet
loss	monthly	opinion	positive	quote
loud	mood	opportunity	possibility	rabbit
lovely	mortgage	opposition	possible	racing
lower	mostly	option	possibly	radical
luck	motor	organisation / organization	potential	railway
lunch	mouth	organise / organize	pour	range
magazine	movement	original	powerful	rapid
magic	movie	otherwise	practice	raw
mail	murder		prefer	ray

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reaction	roll	she'd	south-west	supply
realise / realize	roof	shell	spark	suppose
reality	route	she's	speaker	surround
rear	row	shift	specific	survey
recall	royal	shirt	speech	survive
recently	rugby	shock	speed	suspect
recession	ruin	shoe	spirit	sweep
recognise / recognize	runner	shopping	split	sweet
recommend	running	shortly	spokesman	swing
reduce	rush	shoulder	sport	switch
refer	sack	shouldn't	spray	tail
reflect	sad	shout	spread	talent
reform	safe	sight	spring	tall
refugee	safety	significant	stable	tank
refuse	sail	silent	stake	tape
regard	saint	silver	stamp	target
regional	salt	similar	standard	task
regular	sand	simply	stare	taste
reject	Saturday	singer	statement	tea
relation	scale	site	station	teach
relationship	scene	situation	status	tear
relief	schedule	situation	steady	technique
religion	scheme	sixth	steal	technology
religious	science	sixtieth	steam	telephone
remove	score	ski	stem	television
rent	screen	skill	sterling	tend
repeat	search	skin	stick	tennis
replace	seat	sleep	stir	tenth
reply	secret	slide	stone	terrible
reporter	secretary	slightly	storm	territory
reporting	section	slim	straight	theatre
representative	sector	slip	strain	theory
republic	secure	smart	strange	therefore
republican	security	smash	strategy	they'd
request	seed	smell	stream	they'll
require	self	smile	strength	they've
reserve	senate	smoke	stress	thick
resident	senator	soccer	stretch	thin
resolution	senior	social	strike	thirteenth
resource	separate	society	string	thirtieth
respect	September	software	strip	threat
respond	series	soil	structure	threaten
response	serious	soldier	struggle	throughout
responsible	serve	solid	studio	throw
restaurant	service	solution	stuff	Thursday
reveal	session	solve	stupid	thus
revel	settle	somebody	style	ticket
review	settlement	somehow	succeed	tie
rice	seventeenth	someone	success	till
rich	seventh	somewhat	successful	tiny
ride	seventieth	somewhere	suffer	tired
ring	severe	sorry	sugar	title
risk	shake	source	suit	tomorrow
rival	sharp	south-east	Sunday	ton
rocket	shed	southern	super	tone

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tonight	voter
tool	warn
tooth	wash
tough	waste
tour	weapon
tower	wear
traditional	we'd
transfer	wedding
transport	Wednesday
traveller / traveler	weekend
treat	weekly
treatment	weight
treaty	welcome
trial	we'll
troop	weren't
truly	whatever
trust	what's
truth	whenever
Tuesday	while
twelfth	whilst
twentieth	whip
twin	whisper
twist	whom
type	who's
unable	wicket
uncle	wing
underground	winner
understanding	winning
unfair	wipe
unhappy	wire
uniform	withdraw
university	wonderful
unknown	worried
unless	worry
unlikely	worth
unusual	wound
upper	writing
upset	wrong
urge	yard
urgent	yen
useful	yours
user	yourself
valley	youth
variety	
various	
vegetable	
vehicle	
version	
victim	
victory	
video	
village	
violence	
visitor	
volume	

A word about the spelling list

The words that appear in this list are British English, with American English appearing in red (for those using an American syllabus). Whilst you are not expected to know the definition of each and every word it would certainly help if you learnt as many as possible. If you don't possess a decent dictionary then now is the time to buy one. I believe the best dictionary on the market is *Collins Cobuild Learner's Dictionary, Concise Edition* ISBN 0-00-712640-9. It is an indispensable reference book for all students from intermediate level upwards.



The Cobuild provides additional information about word frequency and grammar, and it is from this information that I have based three of the four spelling lists. Whenever you look up a word you can see immediately if it is a very common word or not. About half the entries in the dictionary have a frequency marker. They work on a scale from five black diamonds down to no diamonds at all (these are words which you are more likely to read or hear than use regularly).

Words with five black diamonds are **the most frequently used words** and form a huge proportion of the language – the 'grammar' words, such as *of, the, as, with, also* and so on, as well as frequently used vocabulary words such as *carry, sit, and think* etc. There are just over 600 entries (head words) in this band, representing over 1,500 different forms. The Year 6 spelling list is based on the five black diamond words. In addition to these an extra 300 words have also been added to the Year 6 list. The majority of these additional words are classified as **common words** (three diamonds) and would normally appear in the Years' 9 -10 list, however I feel they are more appropriate for the Year 6 list and have therefore included them. Words such as *birthday, cat, clock, milk, pet, sick, swim, tap, truck, wet* and so on.

Words with four black diamonds (just over 1,000) are classified as **very common words**. These account for a total of nearly 2,500 forms, and together with the five-diamond words **account for 75% of all English usage**. **Together these two bands represent the essential core of English**. The Years' 7-8 spelling list has been based on the four black diamond words.

Words with three, two, and with one black diamond are progressively less frequent. The Years' 9 -10 spelling list is based predominately on the three diamond words. The words for Years 11-12 were individually chosen from the three, two and one diamond words and selected on their relevance to essay writing; this list was compiled by me. Whilst the Cobuild Dictionary has been used as a guide throughout, I take full and absolute responsibility for the final spelling lists which appear on www.pocketbasics.com - Lyn Magree, 8 February 2004.

Pronunciation

Pronouncing a particular word can sometimes prove difficult and at times embarrassing. There are two reliable ways you can find out how to pronounce a word correctly. **1** at the back or front of every dictionary you will find the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) which is used to show how the words are pronounced. Be warned though, this area is grammarian turf and probably best left to those with a serious interest only (but not to say you can't poke your head in and give it a go). **2** the Merriam-Webster OnLine Dictionary www.m-w.com offers audio pronunciation. It is as simple as typing the word and pressing the go button . The definition will appear in addition to an audio button . The great thing about this service is that you can press the audio button over and over again until you have the pronunciation down pat (and no one need ever know). All those tricky words can now be conquered! Words like *apoplectic, awry, genre, hyperbole, obstreperous, scion* and so on. This link is a must for every student. It also offers a free 'word of the day' email service. Great for those adults interested in expanding their vocabulary.

Spelling

There are various guides and rules used for spelling. However, I find in many cases it simply comes down to practise, practise and more practise. When learning to spell a new word keep in mind that it is much easier to spell a word you've seen and heard before. So before you launch into learning the definition of a new word first try to become familiar with it by saying it over and over again.

Example

say it: supercilious, supercilious, supercilious, supercilious, supercilious, supercilious, supercilious

spell it: Super · cili · ous, super · cili · ous, super · cili · ous, super · cili · ous, super · cili · ous, super · cili · ous

learn it: Behaving or looking as though one is superior to others e.g. - *a supercilious shop assistant*.

A word about essay writing

Two students are each given an identical 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle, but only one student is given a picture of the finished puzzle. Both students are capable of completing the puzzle but does the student with the finished picture have an advantage over the one without?

Having a picture of what the final outcome is supposed to look like is so much easier than taking a stab in the dark and guessing. Writing an essay is the same thing. Bookstores are filled with books on how to write an A⁺ essay. They will tell you that to receive top marks an essay must:

- demonstrate extensive, detailed knowledge, insightful understanding and sophisticated evaluation of the ways meanings are shaped and changed by context, medium of production and the influences that produce different responses to texts.
- display a highly developed ability to describe and analyse a broad range of language forms, features and structures of texts and explain the ways these shape meaning and influence responses in a variety of texts and contexts.
- present a critical, refined personal response showing highly developed skills in interpretation, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of texts and textual detail.
- exhibit an ability to compose imaginatively, interpretively and critically with sustained precision, flair, originality and sophistication for a variety of audiences, purposes and contexts in order to explore and communicate ideas, information and values.

Great. But what does it all mean? Until you actually read an A⁺ essay you're pretty much left guessing as to what one actually looks like and how all the pieces fit together.

The Sydney Morning Herald is one of Australia's leading newspapers. Each day you can log on to www.smh.com.au and read the opinion of one of the Herald's 15 columnists. You don't have to agree with their view (and there will be times when you won't) but do observe their style, their use of vocabulary, quotes, and transitional words. Their depth of knowledge on the subject. When juxtaposing one image against another how they do it with great effect. How they move the reader from paragraph to paragraph with the greatest of ease. Also observe the gutsy way they open their piece and the thought provoking way they close. Whether you agree with the contents or not, is not the issue. The issue is about observing quality writing; writing that is informative, well written, and tight. Writing that reflects what an A⁺ grade essay looks like.

There are two types of newspapers; broadsheets and tabloids. Broadsheets are generally regarded as more serious than tabloids. Choose an online broadsheet newspaper from your city or state and make it your homepage. Ensure that it includes opinions, letters to the editor and political cartoons. If you seriously want to get a better picture as to what a decent essay looks like then you should make the effort to read one everyday. Also take the time to read the major stories of the day and note how news stories differ in style and language to that of opinions.

Observe some of these great openers ...

History is junked, and we're losing the voices of entire generations

In the midst of the melee about our culture last week, a reminder came about why young people should study history, strangely enough from teen queen Britney Spears. "Honestly," she said, "I think we should just trust our President in every decision he makes and we should just support that." – *Julia Baird, The Sydney Morning Herald, September 13, 2003*

Orchestral magic is music to our ears

Jacarandas. Jasmine. Frangipani. Cicadas. Long dusks. It is that time of year. Even the local brothel not far from home has embraced the season of good karma with a hearty display in its front window of Santa and his reindeer. – *Paul Sheehan, The Sydney Morning Herald, December 15, 2003*

PM is the tip from Gough

At a cocktail party a couple of months ago I encountered Gough Whitlam in an ebullient mood. "Do you think Mark Latham will be the next leader of the Labor Party?" I asked. The great man fixed me with a glittering eye, like the Ancient Mariner. "The next prime minister of Australia, comrade," he boomed. – *Mike Carlton, The Sydney Morning Herald, December 6, 2003*

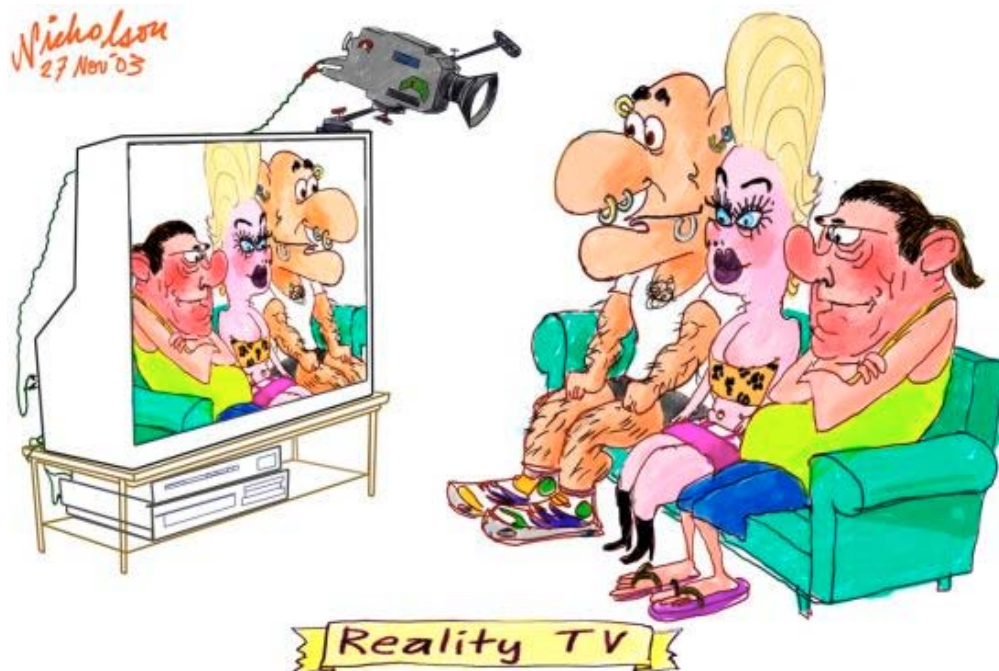
A word about political cartoons

At some stage you may be given a political cartoon and asked to comment (in writing) on it. A cartoonist uses drawings to comment and interpret the news of the day. Their cartoons are generally acerbic, poignant, and devastatingly accurate. Often they will say what can't be written. *The Age* newspaper has an excellent article on the role cartoonist play. It can be found in the education section at www.theage.com.au. Cartoons make great classroom debate by helping students hone their observation skills. What may appear obvious to one student will not always be obvious to another. Class discussion will help students to open their eyes and to view cartoons from a different perspective.

Peter Nicholson is one of Australia's leading cartoonists and draws for *The Australian* newspaper www.theaustralian.com.au. Peter has hundreds of cartoons on his website – all of them excellent and all worthy of debate. Here are just two from his collection.



Nicholson of "The Australian" newspaper: www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au



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