

Spelling List for Years 9 – 10 (high school)

abandon	anniversary	cancel	compose	courage
abroad	announcement	capable	comprehensive	coverage
absence	antique	capacity	compromise	criticise / criticize
absolute	anxiety	capture	concede	criticism
academic	anxious	carbon	concentrate	crucial
acceptable	appal / appall	carrier	concentration	crystal
access	application	casualty	concept	cue
accident	appoint	category	concert	cultural
accommodation	appointment	Catholic	concession	curious
accompany	appreciate	Catholicism	conclude	cutting
accurate	appropriate	cautious	conclusion	cycle
accusation	approval	cease	concrete	dare
acid	arise	ceasefire	condemn	deadline
acknowledge	arrangement	celebrate	confident	debut
acquire	arrival	celebration	confront	declaration
acquisition	aside	cereal	confrontation	decorate
acre	aspect	ceremony	congressional	deficit
activism	assault	chamber	connection	define
actor	assembly	chaos	conscience	definitely
actress	assistance	characteristic	conscious	definition
actual	assistant	charity	consciousness	delegate
adequate	associate	charter	consequence	delegation
adjust	assumption	Christ	considering	deliberate
admire	assure	cigarette	consist	delight
advertise	athlete	cinema	consistent	demonstrate
advise	atmosphere	circuit	constitution	demonstration
adviser	attach	circumstance	construct	deposit
advocate	attorney	cite	construction	depression
afford	attractive	civilian	consult	depth
afraid	auction	clinic	consultant	description
afterwards	ballot	code	contemporary	desert
agenda	barely	colleague	content	deserve
aggressive	barrier	collective	context	designer
agricultural	basically	colonel	continent	desperate
agriculture	beaten	column	contract	dessert
alcohol	beauty	combat	contrast	detective
alert	bedroom	combination	contribute	device
Allah	beer	combine	controversial	dialogue
allegation	beginning	comedy	controversy	diary
allege	belief	comfortable	convention	diplomat
alliance	belong	command	conventional	diplomatic
allied	beneath	commander	conversation	disappear
alongside	bloody	commentator	convert	disappointed
alter	boost	commerce	convict	disaster
altogether	breathe	commissioner	conviction	discipline
amateur	breed	communicate	convince	disclose
amazing	brilliant	communication	cooperate	discount
ambassador	broadcast	comparison	corporation	distribution
ambition	broadcasting	compensation	corruption	divorce
amendment	broker	compete	cottage	drama
amid	Buddha	competitive	cough	eager
analysis	Buddhism	competitor	counsel	earnings
analyst	Buddhist	complaint	counter	ease
ancient	burden	complicated	counterpart	echo
Anglican	calculated	component	coup	economic

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economy	expand	given	inner	living
edit	expectation	glad	innocent	load
editorial	expense	glance	inquiry	lobby
efficient	experiment	global	inspect	local authority
elderly	explanation	golden	inspector	location
electoral	explode	govern	install	loiter
electric	exploit	gradual	instant	lonely
electricity	explore	graduate	institution	loose
electronic	explosion	guerrilla	instruct	luxury
elegant	expose	guitar	integrate	manner
eliminate	exposure	habit	intellectual	manual
elsewhere	expression	harass	intelligence	manufacture
embassy	extensive	harbour / harbor	intelligent	margin
emotion	extent	harm	intense	marine
emotional	extreme	hate	intention	maroon
emphasise / emphasize	fabric	headline	interim	married
empire	faction	headquarters	interior	mask
employ	fade	heal	internal	massive
employer	fairly	heaven	invasion	mayor
employment	familiar	helicopter	invest	meal
empty	fancy	highlight	invitation	meaning
enable	fantasy	hire	involvement	mechanism
encounter	fare	historic	Islam	medal
enemy	fate	historical	Islamic	medicine
engage	fault	holy	jacket	membership
engineer	fierce	homeless	janitor	mental
enhance	financial	honest	jazz	merchant
enormous	fiscal	honour / honor	jersey	mere
enterprise	flavour / flavor	horror	jewellery	merely
entertain	flee	household	Jewish	merger
entitle	fleet	humour / humor	journey	metal
entrance	flexible	illegal	judgement	militant
equity	forecast	illness	jury	miner
equivalent	foreigner	illustrate	justify	minimum
era	formula	imagination	keen	minor
error	forth	immigration	knife	missile
essentially	fortune	immune	knock	mixture
establishment	foundation	implement	label	mobile
etc.	frame	implication	laboratory	moderate
ethnic	fraud	imply	landscape	modest
everywhere	freeze	impress	latter	molecule
evil	friendship	impression	laughter	monetary
exactly	frustrate	impressive	layer	monitor
examination	fulfil	improvement	leak	moral
exception	fundamental	incredible	lean	moreover
excerpt	furniture	index	leap	motion
excess	gallery	inevitable	lease	motivate
exciting	gamble	infect	leather	mount
excuse	gear	infection	lecture	musical
execute	gene	inform	legislation	musician
exhaust	generate	ingredient	liberate	Muslim
exhibition	generous	initial	liberty	mutual
exile	gentleman	initially	licence / license	mystery
existing	genuine	initiative	literary	myth
	gesture	injured	literature	native

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naturally	parish	premium	reference	sacrifice
naval	parishioner	preparation	referendum	sake
navy	parliamentary	prescription	regime	salary
necessarily	parochial	preserve	register	sample
negative	participate	presidency	regret	sanction
negotiate	partly	presumably	regulation	satellite
negotiation	partnership	previously	regulator	satisfied
nerve	passage	prime	relate	sauce
nervous	passenger	prior	relative	savings
nevertheless	passion	priority	relax	scandal
newly	pause	privatise / privatize	relevant	scientific
nightmare	peaceful	procedure	reliable	scream
normally	peak	proceed	reluctant	script
notion	peer	procrastinate	rely	seal
numerous	penalty	profession	remaining	segment
nurse	pension	profile	remark	seize
objective	pepper	prominent	remarkable	select
observe	per cent	prompt	remind	selection
obtain	percentage	proof	remote	sensible
occasional	perfectly	proportion	renew	sensitive
occupation	permanent	prosecute	repair	seriously
offence	permission	protein	reputation	servant
offensive	permit	proud	requirement	shade
offering	personality	province	rescue	shadow
opening	personally	provision	resign	shame
opera	personnel	provoke	resignation	shareholder
operator	perspective	psychological	resist	sheet
opponent	persuade	psychology	resistance	shelter
oppose	pharmacy	publication	resolve	shore
opposite	phase	publicity	resort	shortage
opt	philosophy	publisher	restore	sigh
orange	phrase	publishing	resume	signal
ordinary	plain	pure	retail	silence
origin	plait	purse	retain	slice
originally	planning	pursue	retire	slight
ought	plastic	qualified	retirement	smooth
outcome	plate	quantity	retreat	socialist
outline	platform	racial	revenue	solicitor
output	pleasant	rage	reverse	soul
outstanding	pleasure	raid	revolution	spare
overcome	pledge	rail	revolutionary	specialise / specialize
overnight	plenty	rally	reward	specialist
overseas	plot	rank	rhythm	species
overwhelming	ploy	rare	rid	specifically
owe	plunge	rarely	rider	spectacular
ownership	poetry	rating	riot	speculate
pace	portrait	react	roach	spiritual
pact	pose	reasonable	romantic	spite
painful	poverty	reckon	rose	sponsor
palace	practical	recognition	rouge	spur
pale	praise	recover	rough	squad
panel	precisely	recovery	routine	squeeze
panic	predict	recruit	ruling	stadium
parallel	pregnant	reduction	rumour / rumor	statistic
paranoia	premier	reel	rural	steel

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stimulate	tradition	wine
stomach	traffic	wise
strategic	tragedy	withdrawal
strengthen	trail	witness
strict	transform	wooden
striking	transition	wrap
stroke	treasury	yacht
subsequent	tremendous	yield
subsidy	trend	youngster
substance	trigger	zone
substantial	triumph	
substitute	tube	
sufficient	tune	
suggestion	tunnel	
suitable	typical	
summit	ultimate	
superb	unemployment	
superior	unexpected	
supreme	unfortunately	
surely	unidentified	
surgery	unique	
surplus	united	
surrender	unity	
suspend	universe	
suspicion	urban	
sustain	valuable	
symbol	vary	
sympathy	vast	
symptom	venture	
tackle	venue	
tactic	verdict	
takeover	vessel	
tale	veteran	
technical	via	
teenager	vice	
temperature	victimise / victimize	
temple	violate	
temporary	violent	
tendency	virtually	
tension	virus	
terrorist	visible	
text	vision	
theme	vital	
therapy	vitamin	
thorough	voluntary	
threatening	volunteer	
throat	vulnerable	
tide	wage	
tight	wake	
tissue	weaken	
torture	wealth	
tournament	weigh	
trace	welfare	
tract	whereas	
trader	widespread	

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 cartoonists 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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