

Spelling List for Years 11 – 12 (senior high)

abate	angst	bipartisan	conclusive	degenerate
aberrant	anguish	bittersweet	concur	degrade
abhorrent	animosity	bland	condescension	delightful
abominable	antagonistic	blasphemy	condone	delineate
abomination	antidote	blissful	confound	delirious
abrasive	antipathy	bolster	congenial	deluded
absolute	antiquated	bona fide	connoisseur	demeanour
absorbed	antithesis	boon	conscientious	demure
abstract	antonym	braggart	consensus	denounce
abstruse	apathy	brawn	consenting	depict
accessible	aphorism	brevice	consistency	deplore
acclaim	apoplectic	brooding	conspire	depraved
accolade	appease	brusque	constraint	depravity
acerbic	apprehension	butress	construe	deprecate
Achilles heel	arbitrary	cache	contagious	depressing
acquiescence	archaic	cajole	contemplate	deride
acrimonious	ardour / ardor	callous	contemptible	derision
acronym	arid	camaraderie	contemptuous	derivative
acute	arrogance	candour / candor	contend	deseccration
ad hoc	articulate	cantankerous	contented	desire
ad nauseam	artisan	capricious	contentious	desist
adequately	ascendancy	captivating	contrite	desolate
adherent	ascetic	caricature	contrition	despicable
adjacent	aspiration	cathartic	contrived	despondent
admirable	aspire	cavorting	copious	despot
adore	assuage	celestial	cordial	detached
adulation	astounding	censure	corroborate	deterrent
adversary	astute	certitude	courageous	detrimental
adverse	atrocious	challenging	coy	devious
aesthetic	attentive	chameleon	crass	devise
affable	attribute	charismatic	craving	diabolical
affinity	audacious	charlatan	credence	diatribe
affirmation	augment	charming	credibility	diffuse
aggressor	auspicious	chauvinist	credulous	digression
agreeable	austere	chortle	crème de la crème	diligence
alacrity	austerity	chronicle	crest-fallen	dim
albeit	authentic	clamour / clamor	criterion	diminution
alienate	authoritarian	clemency	cryptic	disastrous
alleviate	autonomous	cliché	cursor	disband
alluring	aversion	coerce	curtail	discerning
aloof	awkward	coercion	cynic	discombobulated
altercation	awry	coherent	cynicism	discordant
altruistic	banal	collaborate	daunt	discredit
ambiguous	bane	colloquial	dawdle	discrepancy
ambivalence	becoming	comforting	dazzling	discriminating
amend	belies	comical	de rigueur	discursive
amiable	belittle	commemorate	dearth	disdain
amorphous	belligerent	compelling	debilitate	dishevelled
ample	bemoan	compile	debunk	disinclination
amusing	benevolent	complaisant	decadent	disinterested
anagram	benign	compliance	decisive	dismal
analogy	bequeath	composed	decorum	dismantle
anarchist	bereft	compose	defame	disparage
androgynous	bevy	conciliatory	deference	disparity
anecdote	biased	concise	defiance	dispassionate

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dispel	episodic	flippant	hierarchy	incessant
disputatious	eponym	florid	hilarious	incidental
disseminate	equanimity	fluctuate	hindrance	incisive
dissent	equivocal	foolhardy	hoard	incite
dissipate	equivocate	foremost	homogeneous	incline
dissonance	erratic	foresight	homograph	inclusive
dissuade	erroneous	forestall	homonym	incoherent
distant	erudite	forsake	homophone	incongruous
distressing	esoteric	forthright	hone	inconsequential
disturbing	espouse	fortuitous	horrendous	incorrigible
divergent	esteem	foster	hospitable	incumbent
diverse	et al	fracas	hostile	indifferent
divulge	ethereal	frail	hostility	indigent
docile	eulogy	frightful	humane	indiscriminate
doctrine	euphemism	frivolous	humorous	indolent
dogmatic	euphonious	frugality	hybrid	indomitable
dormant	euphoria	fulfilled	hyperbole	induce
double entendre	evanescent	furtive	hypocritical	indulge
doyen	exacerbate	futile	hypothetical	industrious
droll	exacting	galvanise / galvanize	idiom	ineffable
dubious	exalt	garbled	idiosyncrasy	ineffectual
dull	exemplary	garrulous	idyllic	inept
duplicity	exemplify	genial	ignominy	inequity
duration	exhaustive	genre	illicit	inert
dutiful	exhilarating	glib	illuminate	inertia
ebb	exonerate	gloomy	illusory	inevitably
ebullient	expedient	glutton	imbalance	infamous
eccentric	expedite	gorge	immaculate	infer
eclectic	expertise	gracious	immoral	infernal
eclipse	explicit	grandiose	immutable	infiltrate
effervescent	expository	gratifying	impair	influential
egotistical	expunge	gratuitous	impartial	infuse
elated	exquisite	gravity	impassive	ingenious
eloquence	extol	gregarious	impeccable	ingrate
elusive	extraneous	grievance	impecunious	inherent
embellish	extraordinary	gripe	impede	initiate
embroiled	extricate	grudging	impel	innate
emphasis	exuberance	guile	imperative	innocuous
emphatic	facile	gullible	imperceptible	innovation
emulate	facilitate	gung-ho	imperious	innuendo
enchanting	fallacious	hackneyed	impervious	inopportune
endorse	fanaticism	hallowed	impetuous	insatiable
enduring	farcical	hamper	implausible	insidious
engender	fastidious	handsome	implicitly	insightful
enigma	fateful	hardy	impoverished	insignificant
enigmatic	fatuous	harmonious	impregnated	insinuate
enmity	faux pas	haste	impromptu	insipid
enormity	feasible	haughtiness	impudence	inspiring
enormousness	femininity	haughty	in lieu	instigate
enthraling	fervour / fervor	heartless	inaccurate	insufferable
enthusiasm	fickle	hedonist	inadequate	insular
enumerate	figurative	heed	inadvertently	insulting
ephemeral	flagrant	heinous	inane	insurgent
epic	flattering	heresy	incense	insurmountable
epiphany	flawed	hiatus	incentive	intangible

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integral	malapropism	nonentity	patronizing	predator
integrity	malevolent	nostalgia	pedantic	predecessor
intermittent	malice	noteworthy	pejorative	predilection
intervene	malicious	notoriety	penchant	preposterous
intimate	malign	nouveau-riche	pensive	prestige
intimidate	marred	novelty	perceptive	presumptuous
intractable	masculinity	novice	perfunctory	pretentious
intrepid	materialism	nuance	peripheral	prevalent
intricate	maverick	nullify	perjury	problematic
intrinsic	meagre / meager	obdurate	pernicious	proclivity
introspective	meander	obliterate	perpetuate	prodigal
intuition	measly	oblivion	persona	prodigious
inundate	mediate	oblivious	persona non grata	prodigy
irascible	mediocrity	obnoxious	perturbed	profane
ironic	meditative	obscure	pervasive	profligate
irrational	medley	obsequious	pessimism	profound
irrelevant	meek	obsessive	pessimist	profusion
irreproachable	melancholy	obstinate	petty	proliferation
irresolute	melee	obstreperous	petulant	prolific
irreverence	menacing	obtuse	phalanx	prologue
jargon	mercenary	officious	phenomena	prophetic
jewel	merciless	ominous	phenomenon	propriety
jocular	mercurial	onerous	philanthropist	protagonist
joie de vivre	merry	onomatopoeia	philosophical	protract
joyful	metaphor	opaque	picturesque	proverb
joyous	methodical	opportunist	pinning	provincial
judicious	meticulous	optimist	pious	provisional
justification	metonymy	optional	pitfall	provocative
juxtapose	misanthrope	opulence	pithy	proximity
kindle	miserly	orator	pivotal	prudent
kowtow	misnomer	ornate	placate	pseudonym
labyrinth	misogynist	ostentatious	placid	pugnacious
laconic	misspent	outrageous	plagiarise / plagiarize	pungent
lament	mitigate	overt	platitude	punitive
lassitude	mnemonic	oxymoron	plausible	quagmire
lavish	mock	pacifist	pleasing	quaint
legacy	modus operandi	pacifying	pleasurable	quandary
lethargic	mogul	painstaking	plethora	quell
levity	mollify	palindrome	pliant	querulous
libel	momentous	palpable	plight	quintessential
linger	monotonous	paltry	poignancy	raconteur
listlessness	monotony	panache	poignant	ramble
litotes	morbid	parable	pomposity	rancour / rancor
loathe	morose	paradigm	pompous	rant
loathsome	mournful	paradox	ponder	rapacious
lofty	mundane	paragon	porous	ratify
loquacious	muted	parody	potent	rational
lucid	naivete	parry	pragmatic	raucous
lurid	narrative	parsimony	prattle	reactionary
Machiavellian	nauseating	partial	precarious	rebuttal
machinate	nauseous	partisan	precedent	recalcitrant
magnanimous	nefarious	passé	precipitate	recant
magnate	negate	passive	precipitous	receptive
magnetic	nemesis	pathetic	preclude	recluse
maladroit	nonchalant	patronising /	precocious	recount

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rectify	savoury / savory	stingy	tranquil	wistful
redundant	scanty	stoic	tranquillity	withhold
reflective	scenic	stouish	transcendent	witty
refute	sceptical / skeptical	strident	transient	woeful
regretful	scion	strut	transparent	yearning
reinvigorate	scrupulous	stupefy	trepidation	zealot
reiterate	scrutinise / scrutinize	stupidity	trifling	zestful
relegate	scurrilous	stupor	trite	
relinquish	seclusion	subdued	trivial	
relish	sectarian	sublime	turbulence	
reminiscent	secular	submissive	turmoil	
remorse	sedentary	subordinate	tyranny	
renegade	segue	subside	ubiquitous	
renounce	self-deprecating	substantiate	uncaring	
repel	self-effacing	subterfuge	undermine	
repentant	self-righteous	subtlety	unforgiving	
replete	semantics	succinct	uniformity	
reprehensible	sequester	supercilious	universal	
repress	serendipity	superficial	unkempt	
reprimand	serene	superfluous	unprecedented	
reproach	serenity	suppress	unpretentious	
reprove	servile	surly	unrequited	
repudiate	severity	surmount	untoward	
repugnant	shallow	surpass	unwarranted	
repulsive	shrewd	surreptitious	unworthy	
rescind	simile	susceptible	usurp	
resigned	singular	swindler	vacillate	
resonates	slacken	sycophant	venerate	
respite	slander	symbolism	veracity	
resplendent	slang	symmetry	verbose	
responsibility	slothful	sympathiser	vernacular	
restraint	slovenly	synecdoche	viable	
reticent	sluggish	synonym	vigorously	
retiring	sociable	taciturn	vigour / vigor	
retract	solemnity	tactile	vile	
revere	solicit	taint	vilify	
reverent	solitude	tangible	vindicate	
rhetoric	sombre / somber	tantamount	vindictive	
rhetorical	soothing	tautology	virtuoso	
rigorous	sophisticated	taxing	virtuous	
risqué	spendthrift	tedious	virulent	
robust	spiteful	temper	vitriolic	
rudimentary	spontaneity	tempestuous	vivacious	
rueful	spoonerism	tenacity	vociferous	
ruffian	sporadic	tentative	volatile	
ruthless	spurious	tenuous	voluminous	
sagacious	spurn	termination	voracious	
sage	squalor	terse	voyeurism	
sanctimonious	squander	thought-provoking	voyeuristic	
sanctuary	stagnant	threadbare	vulgar	
sans	stanza	thrilled	whimsical	
sarcasm	static	thrive	whinging	
sarcastic	steadfast	tirade	whining	
satisfying	stereotype	tormenting	wicked	
saturate	stimulating	tractable	wilful / willful	

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 three from his collection.



Those Weapons of Mass Destruction must be somewhere.



Tobacco Industry shreds evidence

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



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