

2004 Scripps National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List: Words Appearing Frequently

aardwolf

n
/ 'ärd.wulf /
Afrikaans
a striped hyenalike mammal of southern and eastern Africa that feeds chiefly on carrion and insects.
Termites are the favorite food of the aardwolf.

abacus

n
/ 'abəkəs /
Gk > L
a calculating instrument for performing arithmetical processes by sliding counters by hand on rods or in grooves.
The grocer used an abacus instead of a modern cash register.

abalienation

abalone

n
/ .abə'lōnē /
Sp
a gastropod mollusk that clings to rocks tenaciously with a broad muscular foot.
At the beach, Marta made a necklace from the shell of an abalone.

abandonment

abattoir

n
/ 'abə.twär /
F
slaughterhouse.
At the end of the day the battlefield at Hastings looked like an abattoir.

abbot

abbreviate

abbreviation

abdicate

v
/ 'abdəkāt /
L
relinquish formally, renounce.
The crown prince will abdicate his throne so that his brother may rule.

abdomen

n
/ 'abdəmən /
L > F
region of an insect's body.
The three main body parts of an insect are the head, the thorax, and the abdomen.

abdominal

abecedarium

abecedarius

n
/ .ābē(,)sē'da(a)rēəs /
L
a poem in which the lines or stanzas begin with the letters of the alphabet in regular order.
Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a famous abecedarius.

aberrant

aberration

n
/ .abə'rāshən /
L
deviation from the natural state or from a normal type.
Jane's outburst at the meeting was a shocking behavior aberration, for her manner is usually so reserved.

abeyance

n
/ ə'bāən(t)s /
L > F + EcF
[has homonym: obedience]
cessation or suspension (as of a customary practice).
Use of the swimming pool was put in abeyance until a new lifeguard could be hired.

abhor

abhorrence

abidance

n
/ ə'bīd'ən(t)s /
E
compliance.
Abidance with the golden rule helps one have a happy life.

ability

abiogenist

abjuration

ablution

n
/ ə'blüshən /
L
the washing of one's body or part of it as a religious rite.
A common example of ablution in Judaism is washing the hands before a meal that includes bread.

abolition

abominable

adj
/ ə'bām(ə)nəbəl /
L > F > E
worthy of or causing loathing or hatred.
Charlie's abominable pretense of being attracted to Jane was the result of a dare by his friends.

aborigine

n
/ .abə'rijə(,)nē /
L
[Note: Could be confused with aborigine.] one of the native people especially as contrasted with an invading or colonizing people.
Cathy Freeman, an Australian aborigine, carried the flame into the Olympic stadium.

abracadabra

n
/ .abrəkə'dabrə /
L
confused or unintelligible language
: nonsense.
Despite the abracadabra in the poem "Jabberwocky," its message is rather clear.

abrasion

n
/ ə'brāzhən /
L
wearing, grinding, or rubbing away by friction.
Moving glaciers caused abrasion on Earth's surface.

abrasive

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abrogated

abruptly

adv

/ ə'brəp(t)lē /

L

in a manner that produces the effect of a sudden ending.

George's mom stopped abruptly at the door of his room when she saw his pet python on the floor.

absciss

abscissa

n

/ ab'sisə /

L

the horizontal coordinate of a point in a plane Cartesian coordinate system obtained by measuring parallel to the x-axis.

Bill was asked to mark the point on the graph at which the abscissa is 4 and the ordinate is 7.

abscond

abscondence

abseil

n

/ 'äp.zil /

G

descent in mountaineering by means of a rope looped over a projection above.

In her wilderness survival class, Elisa learned how to perform an abseil without losing control.

absence

abstemious

adj

/ abz'tēmēəs /

L

sparing in eating and drinking.

Evelyn is abstemious by nature and never orders dessert.

abstention

n

/ əbz'tenchən /

L

withholding of a vote.

Helga resented her senator's abstention on the crime bill.

abstinence

abstractive

abstruse

adj

/ əbz'trüis /

L

[has obsolete variant with similar pronunciation: obtruse] difficult to comprehend or understand.

Mr. Thompson's abstruse calculations covered the blackboard.

absurdity

abundance

abysmal

adj

/ ə'bizməl /

Gk > L > E

having the characteristics of an abyss : bottomless.

Ahmet jumped his motorcycle over the abysmal gorge.

abysmally

acacia

n

/ ə'kāshə /

Gk > L

any plant of the genus of woody plants of warm regions having pinnate leaves and white or yellow flower clusters.

Giraffes have specialized teeth that help them comb leaves from the spiny branches of the acacia.

academia

n

/ ,akə'dēmyə /

Gk > L

life and interests associated with a school especially of higher learning.

Robert prefers academia to the business world.

academic

adj

/ ,akə'demik /

Gk > L > F

relating to a school, especially an institution of higher education.

Claudia postponed her academic pursuits after learning of her father's serious illness.

acarology

accede

accelerate

v

/ ik'selə.rāt /

L

add to the speed of or quicken the motion of.

To qualify for the finals, the jogger had to accelerate his pace.

accelerator

accentuator

acceptance

accessible

adj

/ ik'sesəbəl /

L

capable of being reached or easily approached.

Wilbur made sure his restaurant was accessible to those in wheelchairs.

accession

n

/ ik'seshən /

L > F

the act of attaining or coming to high office or a position of honor or power.

The best seller chronicled the accession of the new prince.

accessorial

accidental