Hard Spelling Bee Words With Pronunciations

Student answer sheet

Name _____ Date _____

Listen to the reader. Write one spelling on each numbered line.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____

After checking, circle the two spellings you want to try again.

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Host key / keep with the reader

Say the word, read the sentence, then repeat the word. Use the meaning if the speller asks for a clue.

1. mnemonic

A device or pattern that helps someone remember something.

The climbers used a mnemonic to recall the order of their checks.

2. pharaoh

A ruler of ancient Egypt.

The inscription listed the gifts presented to the pharaoh.

3. pterodactyl

A flying reptile of an extinct group with wings supported by an elongated finger.

The exhibit showed how a pterodactyl supported its wing membrane.

4. pseudonym

An assumed name used in place of a person’s real name.

The novelist chose a pseudonym for a detective series.

5. rendezvous

An arranged meeting at a particular place and time.

The hikers chose the old bridge for their rendezvous.

6. rhythm

A repeated pattern of beats or movement.

The paddlers settled into a steady rhythm across the lake.

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7. onomatopoeia

The naming of something using a word that imitates its sound.

The poet used onomatopoeia when the loose shutter clacked in the wind.

8. synecdoche

A figure of speech that uses a part to stand for the whole, or the whole for a part.

Calling a whole ship a sail is an example of synecdoche.

9. chrysanthemum

A flowering garden plant often grown for its colorful autumn blooms.

A yellow chrysanthemum bloomed beside the greenhouse door.

10. kaleidoscope

A viewing device that uses mirrors to create changing patterns.

A twist of the kaleidoscope rearranged the bright glass shapes.

11. labyrinth

A complicated network of passages that can be hard to find a path through.

The maze designer sketched a labyrinth with three circular corridors.

12. idiosyncrasy

A habit or feature distinctive to a particular person or thing.

The clockmaker recognized one idiosyncrasy of that old mechanism.

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13. acquiesce

To accept something without further objection.

The committee agreed to acquiesce to the revised timetable.

14. appoggiatura

An ornamental musical note that leads into a principal note.

The violinist leaned into the appoggiatura before resolving it.

15. chiaroscuro

The use of strong contrasts between light and dark in visual art.

The portrait’s chiaroscuro made the candlelit face seem to emerge from the wall.

16. sphygmomanometer

An instrument used to measure blood pressure.

The museum displayed a hand-pumped sphygmomanometer beside an early stethoscope.

17. susceptible

Likely to be affected or influenced by something.

The exposed clay was susceptible to cracking in direct sunlight.

18. sacrilegious

Showing disrespect for something held sacred.

The villagers considered selling the ceremonial objects sacrilegious.