High School Spelling Bee Words

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.

High School Spelling Bee Words

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. cartography

The practice of making maps.

Early cartography often left unexplored coastlines blank.

2. polyhedron

A solid bounded by flat polygonal faces.

The student built a paper polyhedron with twelve faces.

3. autobiography

A written account of a person’s life by that person.

The novelist’s autobiography begins with a childhood train ride.

4. calligraphy

Decorative handwriting shaped with carefully controlled strokes.

A panel of gold calligraphy hung above the doorway.

5. photosynthesis

The process in which organisms use light energy to make sugars from simpler materials.

The class tracked how light affected photosynthesis in aquatic plants.

6. anthropology

The study of humans, their cultures and their development.

Her interest in anthropology began with a study of family storytelling.

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7. rhetoric

The use or study of language for persuasion and expression.

The class analyzed the rhetoric of the closing argument.

8. hypothesis

A proposed explanation that can be examined or tested.

One unexpected result challenged the team’s hypothesis.

9. consensus

General agreement within a group.

The panel reached a consensus about the final design.

10. metaphor

A figure of speech that describes one thing in terms of another.

The poet used a cracked bell as a metaphor for lost trust.

11. paradox

A statement or situation whose apparent contradiction invites closer thought.

The final line presented a paradox that divided the seminar.

12. anecdote

A short account of a particular incident.

The speaker opened with an anecdote about her first telescope.

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13. juxtaposition

The placement of things side by side for comparison or effect.

The juxtaposition of a census map and a family photo changed how we read both.

14. ubiquitous

Seeming to be present everywhere.

Portable cameras became ubiquitous on the survey team.

15. conscientious

Taking great care to do a task thoroughly and properly.

Their conscientious editor checked every footnote against its source.

16. ephemeral

Lasting for only a brief time.

The artist used ice to make an ephemeral sculpture.

17. prerogative

A right or privilege belonging to a particular person or group.

Choosing the opening piece was the conductor’s prerogative.

18. asymmetry

A lack of matching form or balance on opposite sides.

The architect used asymmetry to draw attention to the entrance.