

RHODIUM 1

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

abyss

Noun: a very deep hole; a very bad situation that will not improve

beguiling

Adjective: attractive, sometimes deceptively so

exuberant

Adjective: full of happiness, excitement and energy

formidable

Adjective: strong and slightly frightening; difficult and needing a lot of effort or thought

absentmindedly

Adverb: in a manner that seems forgetful, or seems not to be paying full attention

belligerently

Adverb: in a way that shows a wish to fight or argue

charismatic

Adjective: naturally possessing a special power that makes a person able to influence others, and attract their attention and admiration

dubiously

Adverb: in a way that is probably not true or fair or honest; in a way that shows you feel doubt, or do not feel sure that something is right or true

exquisite

Adjective: very beautiful and delicate; extremely strong, when used to describe feelings such as pleasure or pain

bewildered

Adjective: confused and uncertain

cataclysmic

Adjective: causing a lot of destruction or sudden violent change

debonair

Adjective: attractive, confident, and carefully and/or stylishly dressed (usually describing a man)

irksome

Adjective: annoying, irritating

voracious

Adjective: very eager for something, especially a lot of food; very strong, when used to describe an appetite for something, particularly food

confound

Verb: to confuse and very much surprise someone, so that they are unable to explain or deal with a situation

ironic

Adjective: interesting, strange, or funny, because of being very different from what you would usually expect; showing that you really mean the opposite of what you are saying

myriad

Adjective: many and varied; very large in number and/or having great variety (also a *noun*)

raucous

Adjective: loud and unpleasant, and maybe out-of-control

congeal

Verb: to change from a liquid or soft state, to a thick or solid state

exhilarating

Adjective: making you feel very excited and happy

RHODIUM 2

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

garish

Adjective: brightly coloured in an unpleasant or extreme way

intrepid

Adjective: extremely brave and showing no fear of, or willing to risk being in, dangerous situations

monotonous

Adjective: boring because never-changing

peripheral

Adjective: not as important as something else; happening at the edge of something

concise

Adjective: short and clear, expressing what needs to be said without unnecessary words

strident

Adjective: loud, unpleasant, and rough; expressed in forceful language that does not try to avoid upsetting other people

condescend

Verb: to behave in a way which shows that you consider yourself to be better or more intelligent than other people

eccentric

Adjective: strange or unusual, sometimes in a humorous way (also a *noun*)

gaunt

Adjective: very thin (particularly the face), especially because of illness or hunger

morose

Adjective: unhappy, annoyed, and unwilling to speak, smile, or be pleasant

sparse

Adjective: small in numbers or amount, often spread over a large area

pedant

Noun: a person who is too interested in formal rules and small details that are not important

deception

Noun: the act of hiding the truth, or a dishonest act, to make people believe that something is true when it is not, especially to gain an advantage

innate

Adjective: used to describe a quality or ability that a person or living thing is born with, or that is present naturally, not one that is learned

artisan

Noun: someone who does skilled, often traditional, work with their hands

innocuous

Adjective: completely harmless

prudent

Adjective: careful, and showing good judgement, in avoiding risks and uncertainties

meticulous

Adjective: very careful and with great attention to every detail

fortuitous

Adjective: to your advantage, but unplanned and/or happening by chance

sporadic

Adjective: happening sometimes, not regular, continuous, or part of a pattern

RHODIUM 3

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

ambivalence

Noun: the state of having two opposing feelings at the same time, or of being uncertain about how you feel

cantankerous

Adjective: arguing and complaining a lot

derogatory

Adjective: showing strong disapproval and lack of respect; critical and insulting

lucid

Adjective: clearly expressed and easy to understand (idea); thinking, reasoning or speaking clearly (person)

ornate

Adjective: having a lot of complication and/or decoration

precipice

Noun: a very steep side of a cliff or a mountain

exhaustive

Adjective: complete, detailed, and including everything

capacious

Adjective: having a lot of space (particularly inside), and able to contain a lot

ludicrous

Adjective: stupid, foolish, ridiculous or unreasonable, and deserving to be laughed at

truncate

Verb: to make something shorter or quicker, especially by removing the end of it

inconspicuous

Adjective: not easily or quickly noticed or seen, or not attracting attention

pristine

Adjective: new or almost new, and in excellent or near-perfect condition

unprecedented

Adjective: never having happened or existed before

anomaly

Noun: something that is different from what is usual, and is therefore noticeable, strange, or unsatisfactory

digress

Verb: to move away from the main subject you are talking or writing about, and to then talk or write about something else

unscathed

Adjective: without injury or damage having been caused

indifferent

Adjective: lacking feeling about, or not interested in or thinking about, something; neither particularly good, nor particularly bad

paragon

Noun: a person or thing that is perfect, or has an extremely large amount of a particular good characteristic

malleable

Adjective: easily changed or moulded into a new shape (substance); easily influenced, trained, or controlled (person)

antagonistic

Adjective: actively opposing, or showing dislike or unfriendliness towards, someone or something

RHODIUM 4

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

diligent

Adjective: working hard, with care and effort

fractious

Adjective: easily upset or annoyed, and often complaining

spurious

Adjective: false and not what it appears to be; to describe a reason or judgment which is false because based on something that has not been correctly understood

assuage

Verb: to make unpleasant feelings less strong; to soothe

docile

Adjective: quiet and easy to influence, persuade, or control

fraudulent

Adjective: dishonest and illegal; false and intended to deceive

pensive

Adjective: thinking in a quiet way, often with a serious expression on your face

insipid

Adjective: not having a strong taste or character; having no interest or energy

astute

Adjective: able to understand a situation quickly and see how to take advantage of it

frivolous

Adjective: silly or not important, rather than useful or serious; behaving in a silly way and not taking anything seriously

begrudge

Verb: to feel unhappy because someone has something that you think they do not deserve; to feel unhappy about spending money on something, or spending time doing something

subterfuge

Noun: a trick, or a dishonest way of achieving something

whimsical

Adjective: unusual and strange in a way that might be funny, endearing or annoying

nebulous

Adjective: (especially to describe ideas) not clear and having no form; vague

pertinent

Adjective: relating directly to the subject being considered; relevant

goad

Verb: to make a person or an animal react or do something, by continuously annoying or upsetting them

connoisseur

Noun: a person who knows a lot about, and enjoys, a particular subject or interest, and can judge quality and skill in that subject

irrevocable

Adjective: impossible to change

pervasive

Adjective: present or noticeable everywhere or in every part something

succinct

Adjective: said in a clear and short way; expressing what needs to be said without unnecessary words; concise

RHODIUM 5

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

consensus

Noun: a generally accepted opinion or decision among a group of people

petrify

Verb: to frighten someone a lot, especially so that they are unable to move or speak; when a dead thing changes to a substance like stone, over a long period of time

negligence

Noun: failure to give enough care or attention to someone or something, particularly when you are responsible for them/it

conspicuous

Adjective: very noticeable or attracting attention, often in a way that is not wanted

petulant

Adjective: easily annoyed and complaining in a rude, childish way

eloquent

Adjective: using language to express ideas or opinions clearly and well, so that they have a strong effect on others

gratuitous

Adjective: not necessary, or with no reasonable cause (to describe some form of bad behaviour)

recluse

Noun: a person who lives alone, and avoids going outside or talking to other people

instigator

Noun: a person who causes something to happen, especially something bad

colloquial

Adjective: informal and conversational, and more suitable for use in speech than in writing (to describe words/language)

appease

Verb: to prevent further disagreement, in argument or war, by giving to the opposing side something that they have demanded

discord

Noun: a lack of agreement, shared opinions, or trust between people; a group of musical notes that give an unpleasant sound when played together

finesse

Noun: great skill and/or style (also a verb)

vacuous

Adjective: not expressing or showing intelligent thought or purpose

flamboyant

Adjective: very confident in behaviour, or colourful in appearance, and liking to be noticed by others because of this

discrepancy

Noun: an unexpected difference between two things that should be the same, which suggests that something is wrong or requires explanation

flagrant

Adjective: shocking because of being so obvious (to describe a bad action or situation)

solace

Noun: help and comfort when you are feeling sad or worried (also a verb)

vapid

Adjective: showing no intelligence or imagination

arbitrary

Adjective: based on chance or desire, rather than being planned or based on reason

RHODIUM 6

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

apathy

Noun: behaviour that shows no interest or energy, and shows that someone is unwilling to take action, especially over something important

skirmish

Noun: a fight between a small number (of soldiers), that is usually short and not planned, and happens away from the main area of fighting (in a war); a short argument (also a *verb*)

frugal

Adjective: careful to use or consume only a small amount, or only as much as is necessary (usually money or food)

instigate

Verb: to cause an action, or event, or situation, or process to begin to happen

perceptive

Adjective: very good at noticing and understanding things that many people do not notice

antiquated

Adjective: old-fashioned, or unsuitable for modern society

lethargic

Adjective: having little energy; feeling unwilling and unable to do anything

articulate

Adjective: able to express thoughts and feelings easily and clearly, or showing this quality
Verb: to express in words; to pronounce

mire

Noun: an area of deep, wet, sticky earth; an unpleasant situation that is difficult to escape (also a *verb*)

circuitous

Adjective: not straight or direct; roundabout

staunch

Adjective: always loyal in supporting a person, organisation, or set of beliefs or opinions
Verb: to stop something happening, or prevent something from continuing, or to stop liquid, especially blood, from flowing out

collusion

Noun: agreement between people to act together secretly or illegally, in order to deceive or cheat someone

furtive

Adjective: behaving (a person) or done (an action) secretly and often dishonestly

stereotype

Noun: a fixed idea about what someone or something is like, especially an idea that is wrong; a person or thing thought to represent such an idea (also a *verb*)

vindicate

Verb: to show or prove that what someone said or did was right or true, or that someone is not guilty or free from blame, after others thought they were wrong or guilty

commandeer

Verb: to take possession of or control private property, especially by force or for military use

futile

Adjective: having no effect or success; achieving nothing (to describe an action)

interminable

Adjective: continuing for too long, seeming never to end, and therefore boring or annoying

augment

Verb: to increase the size or value of something by adding something to it

complacent

Adjective: feeling so satisfied with your own abilities or situation that you feel you do not need to try any harder

RHODIUM 7

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

infallible

Adjective: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

meander

Verb: to follow a route that is not straight or direct (e.g. journey, road, river); to walk slowly without any clear direction; having no clear purpose or direction (text, process, or activity)
Noun: a bend in a river, especially one of many

flaunt

Verb: to show, or make obvious, something you are proud of, in order to get admiration

infamous

Adjective: famous or well-known for something considered bad

archaic

Adjective: of or belonging to the past, particularly an ancient period in history; extremely old-fashioned

arcane

Adjective: mysterious or complicated, and therefore known and understood by only a few people

clandestine

Adjective: planned or done in secret, especially describing something that is not officially allowed

disdain

Noun: dislike of someone or something that you feel does not deserve your interest or respect (also a *verb*)

flippant

Adjective: not serious and/or rude about a serious subject, in an attempt to be funny or to appear clever

vehement

Adjective: expressing strong feelings, or shown by strong feelings or great energy or force

beneficiary

Noun: a person or group who receives money or some other advantage from, or as a result of, something else

bastion

Noun: something that keeps or defends a belief or a way of life that is disappearing or threatened; a part of the wall of a castle that sticks out from it in order to protect it

conflagration

Noun: a large and violent event, such as a war, involving a lot of people; a large fire that causes a lot of damage

controversy

Noun: a serious disagreement or argument, involving differing ideas or opinions about something, often public, or affecting or important to many people

diagnosis

Noun: a judgment about what a particular illness or problem is, especially made after examining it

ascertain

Verb: to discover something; to make certain of something

discordant

Adjective: producing an unpleasant sound

irrational

Adjective: not using reason or clear thinking; not reasonable

ubiquitous

Adjective: seeming to be everywhere

prolific

Adjective: producing a great number or amount of something

RHODIUM 8

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

condone

Verb: to accept, approve of, or allow behaviour that is wrong

eclectic

Adjective: combining or including whatever seems the best or most useful (methods, ideas, styles, etc.) from many different areas, rather than following a single system

irascible

Adjective: made angry easily

perpetuated

Verb (past tense): caused to continue

mundane

Adjective: very ordinary, and therefore boring and not interesting in any way

rancour

Noun: a feeling of hate and continuing anger about something in the past

strut

Verb: to walk in a proud way, trying to look important

Noun: a strong rod, usually made from wood or metal, that helps to hold something, such as a vehicle or building, together

edifice

Noun: a large building, especially an impressive one; a system that has been established for a long time

stupefying

Adjective: making someone unable to think clearly, usually because they are extremely tired or bored; very surprising or shocking

voluminous

Adjective: large and consisting of a lot of cloth (clothing); long and detailed (writing)

auspicious

Adjective: suggesting or predicting a positive and successful future

compliant

Adjective: willing to do what other people want you to do; something that obeys a particular rule or law

superficial

Adjective: not complete, and involving only the most obvious things; only on the surface of something; slight, not much; never thinking about things that are serious or important

austere

Adjective: very simple, with only the things that are absolutely necessary, especially because of severe limits on money or goods; plain and without decoration or unnecessary details; very severe and unfriendly in manner

dubious

Adjective: thought not to be completely true or moral, or not able to be trusted; feeling doubt, or not feeling certain

fortitude

Noun: courage when dealing with difficulty or pain, especially over a long period

aversion

Noun: a feeling of strong dislike, or of not wishing to do something

momentous

Adjective: very important, especially when having an effect on future events

intermittent

Adjective: not happening regularly or continuously; stopping and starting repeatedly, or with periods in between

quandary

Noun: a state of not being able to decide what to do about a situation in which you are involved

RHODIUM 9

WJS Spelling Challenge: word list with definitions

dilemma

Noun: a difficult choice that has to be made between two things that could be done

fastidious

Adjective: wanting every detail of something to be correct and perfect

indolence

Noun: the state of showing no real interest or effort

prodigious

Adjective: extremely great in ability, amount, or strength

fatuous

Adjective: stupid, foolish, not correct; not carefully thought about; done without thinking

parched

Adjective: dried out because of too much heat and/or not enough rain (especially of earth or crops); extremely thirsty

serene

Adjective: peaceful and calm; worried or irritated by nothing

discernible

Adjective: able to be seen, recognised, or understood

feasible

Adjective: able to be made, done, or achieved; possible, reasonable

indulgent

Adjective: allowing someone to have or do what they want, especially when this is not good for them

dexterous

Adjective: having the ability to perform a difficult action quickly and skilfully with the hands; having the ability to think quickly and effectively, or to do something difficult extremely well

incoherent

Adjective: expressed in a way that is not clear, especially with ideas or words that are not connected in a sensible or clear way

pallid

Adjective: very pale, in a way that looks unhealthy and not attractive

scrupulous

Adjective: doing everything correctly, and exactly as it should be done; extremely careful to do what is right, honest or moral

animosity

Noun: strong dislike, opposition, or anger

incongruous

Adjective: unusual or different from what is around, or from what is generally happening; appearing strange or wrong within a particular situation

palpable

Adjective: so obvious that it can easily be seen or known; (a feeling) so strong that it seems as if it can be touched or physically felt

pretentious

Adjective: trying to appear or sound more important or clever than it is / you are (especially in matters of art and literature)

scrutinise

Verb: to examine something very carefully, in order to discover information

inconsequential

Adjective: not important; can be ignored