

## Hard Spelling Words (for middle rounds; when 25-50 contestants remain)

Please put a checkmark next to the word when you use it

Please jump around the document and do not read aloud in linear order

**Antediluvian** (an-tee-di-**loo**-vee-uhn) *Lat* - very old, old-fashioned, or out of date; antiquated; primitive

- Your *antediluvian* ideas of fashion seem to include bustles and hoop skirts.

**Deliquescence** (del-i-**kwes**-uhns) *Lat* – the act of melting away, tendency to melt

- The summer *deliquescence* of popsicles running up the forearm is a childhood staple.

**Logorrhea** (law-guh-**ree**-uh) *NL* - pathologically incoherent, repetitious speech; incessant or compulsive talkativeness

- Obviously, the publisher saw a one-time author with severe *logorrhea* problems.

**Phantasmagoria** (fan-taz-muh-**gawr**-ee-uh) *F* - a shifting series of illusions or deceptive appearances, as in a dream or as created by the imagination.

- Filmmaker Terry Gilliam buries them up to the eyeballs in *phantasmagoria*.

**Interlocutory** (in-ter-**lok**-yuh-tawr-ee) *Lat* - of the nature of, pertaining to, or occurring in conversation

- They're objecting to everything, entering what are called *interlocutory* appeals.

**Autochthonous** (aw-**tok**-thuh-nuhs) *Gk* - aboriginal; indigenous, formed in the region where found

- Heroes emerge as *autochthonous* beings from the nation/state, rising up to defend it in its time of need. (Andrew Bickford)

**Pococurante** (**poh**-koh-koo-ran-tee) *IT* - a careless or indifferent person

- The only child of an interminably famous literary theorist, and now *pococurante* chair of the English Department, Hank published one critically acclaimed novel.

**Fluxion** (**fluhk**-shuhn) - an act of flowing

- Their bodies continually going up and down upon perpetual *fluxion*, they never could live if their minds did the same, like the minds of stationary landmen.

**Loquacious** (loh-**kwey**-shuhs) *Lat* - talking or tending to talk much or freely; talkative; chattering; babbling; garrulous

- He who seldom speaks, and with one calm well-timed word can strike dumb the *loquacious*, is a genius or a hero.

**Borborygmus** (bawr-**buh**-rig-muhs) *NL* - a rumbling or gurgling sound caused by the movement of gas in the intestines

- *Borborygmus* is the audible result of the process of peristalsis.

**Ennui** (ahn-wee) F - a feeling of utter weariness and discontent resulting from satiety or lack of interest; boredom

- To love to read is to exchange hours of *ennui* for hours of delight. (Charles de Montesquieu)

**Acquiesce** (ak-wee-es) F - to assent tacitly; submit or comply silently or without protest; agree; consent

- The strongest and most effective force in guaranteeing the long-term maintenance of power is not violence in all the forms deployed by the dominant to control the dominated, but consent in all the forms in which the dominated *acquiesce* in their own domination.

**Bivouacking** (biv-oo-ak-ing) F- to rest or assemble in a military encampment made with tents or improvised shelters, usually without shelter or protection from enemy fire.

- All the *bivouacking* in the world won't save you from an atom bomb.

**Commissar** (kom-uh-sahr, kom-uh-sahr), Russ/Ger/ML - 1a: a Communist party official assigned to a military unit to teach party principles and policies and to ensure party loyalty, *b*: one that attempts to control public opinion or its expression, 2: the head of a government department in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics until 1946

- As *commissar* of war led the Red Army to defeat the Entente in their invasion of Soviet Russia.

**Corpuscle** (kawr-puh-suh l, -puhs-uh l) L - *biology*: one of the cells that move in the body; *especially*: a blood cell

2: a minute particle

- The question whether a *corpuscle* actually has a material gravitating nucleus is undecided, but there are strong reasons for believing that its mass is entirely due to the electric charge.

**Ameliorate** (uh-meel-yuh-reyt, uh-mee-lee-uh-) [from L, meliorate], to make (something, such as a problem) better, less painful, etc.

- Trying to *ameliorate* the suffering of people who have lost their jobs

**Recalcitrant** (ri-kal-si-truh nt) L - stubbornly refusing to obey rules or orders

1: **obstinately** defiant of authority or restraint, 2a: difficult to manage or operate, *b*: not responsive to treatment c: **resistant**

- A heart-to-heart talk with the *recalcitrant* youth revealed that he had a troubled life at home.

**Pernicious** (per-nish-uh s), L - causing great harm or damage often in a way that is not easily seen or noticed

- More *pernicious* still has been the acceptance of the author's controversial ideas by the general public.

**Soliloquy** (*suh-lil-uh-kwee*), *L* - a long, usually serious speech that a character in a play makes to an audience and that reveals the character's thoughts

- But if it is hard for the theatergoer to catch all the meanings in Macbeth's rippling *soliloquies*, then how much harder is that task when Shakespeare seems unable or unwilling to unpack his obscurities. —James Wood, *New Republic*, 26 June 2000

**Nadir** (*ney-der, ney-deer*), *ME/MF/Arabic* - the worst or lowest point of something

2: the point of the [celestial sphere](#) that is directly opposite the [zenith](#) and vertically downward from the observer

- The relationship between the two countries reached a *nadir* in the 1920s.

**Fennec** (*fen-ek*), *Arabic* - a small pale-fawn fox (*Vulpes zerda* syn. *Fennecus zerda*) with large ears that inhabits the deserts of northern Africa and Arabia

- *Fennecs* are desert-dwelling foxes found in northern Africa and the Sinai and Arabian peninsulas.

**Azimuth** (*az-uh-muh th*), *ME/MF/Arabic* - 1: an arc of the horizon measured between a fixed point (as true north) and the vertical circle passing through the center of an object usually in astronomy and navigation clockwise from the north point through 360 degrees, 2: horizontal direction expressed as the angular distance between the direction of a fixed point (as the observer's heading) and the direction of the object

- The number above the beginning of each trace is the source *azimuth* and below is the epicentral distance.

**Bezoar** (*bee-zawr, -zohr*), *MF/ML/Arabic/Persian* - any of various calculi found chiefly in the gastrointestinal organs and formerly believed to possess magical properties —called also *bezoar stone*

- The concretions known as *bezoar-stones*, formerly much used in medicine and as antidotes of poison, are obtained from the stomach of the wild goat.

**Halal** (*huh-lahl*), *Arabic* - accepted by Muslim law as fit for eating; selling or serving halal food

- The menu has a heavy focus on vegetarian dishes, plus a variety of traditional *halal* meals

**Mihrab** (*meer-uh b*), *Arabic* - a niche or chamber in a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca

- *Mihrabs* are usually ornately decorated.

**Salaam** (*suh-lahm*), *Arabic* - 1: an obeisance performed by bowing very low and placing the right palm on the forehead, 2: a salutation or ceremonial greeting in the East

- A gong sounds, people *salaam* and the women wear baggy pantaloons and veils.

**Coffle** (**kaw-fuh l**, **kof-uh l**), *Arabic* - a train of slaves or animals fastened together

- The traders removed the restraints when the *coffle* neared the market.

**Alkali** (**al-kuh-lahy**), *ME/ML/Ar* - 1: a soluble salt obtained from the ashes of plants and consisting largely of potassium or sodium carbonate; broadly: a substance (as a hydroxide or carbonate of an alkali metal) having marked basic properties, 2: [alkali metal](#), 3: a soluble salt or a mixture of soluble salts present in some soils of arid regions in quantity detrimental to agriculture

- The [mineral](#) trona, a compound of sodium carbonate and bicarbonate, is one naturally occurring *alkali*...

**Camphor** (**kam-fer**), *ME/ML/Arabic/Malay* - a white substance with a strong smell that is used in medicine and to keep insects away

: a tough gummy volatile aromatic crystalline compound  $C_{10}H_{16}O$  obtained especially from the wood and bark of the camphor tree and used as a liniment and mild topical analgesic in medicine, as a plasticizer, and as an insect repellent

- Camphorated oil is 20% *camphor* in olive oil.

**Minaret** (**min-uh-ret**, **min-uh-ret**), *French/Turkish/Arabic* - a tall, thin tower of a mosque with a balcony from which the people are called to prayer

- They were exceptionally friendly, and even encouraged your correspondent to climb up the *minaret*.

**Tamarind** (**tam-uh-rind**), *Sp&Pg/Arabic* - tropical Old World tree (*Tamarindus indica*) of the legume family with hard yellowish wood, pinnate leaves, and red-striped yellow flowers; *also*: its fruit which has an acid pulp often used for preserves or in a cooling laxative drink

- The *tamarind* tree grows about 80 ft (24 m) tall and has featherlike leaves.

**Dugong** (**doo-gong**, **-gawng**), *New Latin* (genus)/ probably from dugong in Cebuano or a related Austronesian language of the central Philippines - a Sirenian mammal (*Dugong dugon* of the family Dugongidae) of a monotypic genus that has a bilobed tail and in the male upper incisors altered into short tusks and that inhabits warm coastal waters chiefly of southern Asia, Australia, and northeastern Africa

- The reef is home to tremendous coral diversity as well as numerous species of fish and marine mammals such as the *dugong*.

**Pangolin** (**pang-guh-lin**, **pang-goh-**), *Malay* - any of a family (Manidae of the order Pholidota) of Asian and African toothless mammals having the body covered dorsally with large imbricated horny scales —called also *scaly anteater*

- When threatened, the *pangolin* (Malayan for “rolling over”) curls up or emits an odoriferous secretion.

**Mahatma** (*muh-haht-muh, -hat-*), *Sanskrit* - a person who is respected for being good, wise, and holy

2: a person of great prestige in a field of endeavor

- She is considered a *mahatma* among her people.

**Gymkhana** (*jim-kah-nuh*), *Hindi* - a meet featuring sports contests or athletic skills: as *a*: competitive games on horseback, *b*: a timed contest for automobiles featuring a series of events designed to test driving skill

- In addition, there will be several *gymkhana* games which will provide plenty of fun and excitement for the society folk.

**Basmati** (*bahs-mah-tee*), *Hindi* - Basmati Rice, a kind of long rice that is used especially in Indian and Middle Eastern cooking.

- White rice is normally used in this common dish, but brown *basmati* is even better.

**Gingham** (*ging-uh m*), *Malay* - a cotton cloth that often is marked with a pattern of colored squares, a clothing fabric usually of yarn-dyed cotton in plain weave

- A red and white *gingham* tablecloth was laid on the ground for the picnic.

**Gourami** (*goo-rah-mee*), *Malay* - any of numerous African and Asian tropical freshwater bony fishes (order Perciformes)

- Other *gouramis*, several of them popular in home aquariums, are Asian members of different genera and families.

**Masala** (*ma-sa-la*), *Hindi & Urdu* - a varying blend of spices used in Indian cooking

- Every time we go there, he orders chicken tikka *masala*.

**Asana** (*ah-suh-nuh*), *Sanskrit* - any of various yogic postures

- The philosophy of an *asana* practice lies in its mindful execution, not in how far one can go in each pose.

**Batik** [*buh-teek, bat-ik*], *Javanese* - a fabric printed by an Indonesian method of hand-printing textiles by coating with wax the parts not to be dyed; *also*: the method itself

- Communities visited specialize in a number of textile arts; including silk felt manufacture and *batik* dyeing.

**Charpoy** [*chahr-poi*], *Hindi/Urdu* - a bed used especially in India consisting of a frame strung with tapes or light rope

- A *charpoy* is a bed, and everybody in Rubbulgurh puts one outside, for sociability, in the evening.

**Mahout** [*muh-hout*], *Hindi/Urdu* - a keeper and driver of an elephant

- The donation covers not only vet bills but also the salary of the beast's *mahout*, or elephant handler.

**Lahar** [lah-hahr], *Javanese* - a moving fluid mass composed of volcanic debris and water

- The *lahar* was terrifyingly high and steaming hot, they reported.

**Ampere** [am-peer, am-peer], *French* - the practical meter-kilometer-second unit of electric current that is equivalent to a flow of one coulomb per second or to the steady current produced by one volt applied across a resistance of one ohm

- Parks often base the charge of the site upon the electrical *ampere* hookup.

**Jeremiad** [jer-uh-mahy-uh d, -ad], *French* - a prolonged lamentation or complaint; *also*: a cautionary or angry harangue

- In fact, the book is a sort of *jeremiad* against environmental threats to the great wilderness areas of the country.

**Quixote** [kee-hoh-tee, kwik-suh t], *Spanish* - a quixotic person

- Some consider love stories to have a character that is *quixote*.

**Quisling** [kwiz-ling], *Norwegian* - a person who helps an enemy that has taken control of his or her country

- He warned that all *quislings* would be punished without mercy.

**Angstrom** [ang-struh m], *Swedish* - a unit of length equal to one ten-billionth of a meter

- A phosphorus atom has an atomic radius of one *angstrom*.

**Tortoni**: [tawr-toh-nee] ice cream made of heavy cream often with minced almonds and chopped maraschino cherries and often flavored with rum

- There is no better dessert than *tortoni*.

**Bromeliad** [broh-mee-lee-ad], *New Latin*- any of the chiefly tropical American usually epiphytic plants comprising the pineapple family and including Spanish moss and various ornamentals

- It features the desert garden, succulent garden, moat garden and the new *bromeliad* garden.

**Philippic** [fi-lip-ik] *Latin/Greek* - a discourse or declamation full of bitter condemnation

- The head coach was briefly suspended after launching into a foul-mouthed *philippic* during a press conference.

**Sauerbraten** [souuh r-braht-n, sou-er-; *German* zou-uh r-braht-n] *German* – oven-roasted or pot-roasted beef marinated before cooking in vinegar with peppercorns, garlic, onions, and bay leaves

- Every time I go to Germany I seek out the best *sauerbraten*.

**Tchotchke** [**chahch-kuh**] *Yiddish* – knickknack, trinket

- A bedroom with polka-dot curtains, flowery wallpaper, and shelves cluttered with *tchotchkes* from a lifetime of vacations.

**Perestroika** [**per-uh-stroi-kuh**; *Russian pyi-ryi-stroi-kuh*] *Russian* – the policy of economic and governmental reform instituted by Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union during the mid-1980s

- Well, top-down *perestroika* reform did not work for that nice Mr. G. out East, and it won't work for us.

**Apparatchik** [**ah-puh-rah-chik**; *Russian uh-puh-rah-chyik*] *Russian* – a very loyal member of an organization (such as a company or political party) who always obeys orders

- The President, Islam Karimov, was a Soviet *apparatchik* who found Muslim fundamentalism a useful justification for repression.

**Balalaika** [**bal-uh-lahy-kuh**] *Russian* – a usually 3-stringed instrument of Russian origin with a triangular body played by plucking or strumming

- He plays the *balalaika* with ease.

**Mynheer** [**mahyn-hair, -heer**] *Dutch* – a male Netherlander —used as a title equivalent to *Mr.*

- When in the Netherlands, be sure to address him as *Mynheer* Smith.

**Waterzooi** [**va-ter-zoy**] *Dutch* – a stew of fish or chicken and vegetables in a seasoned stock thickened with cream and egg yolks

- Nothing is more delicious on a cold winter's night than a steaming bowl of *waterzooi*.

**Flense** [**flens**] *Dutch* – to strip (a whale, seal, etc.) of blubber or skin

- I could not contain my revulsion when they told me the next step was to *flense* the seal.

**Witloof** [**wit-lohf**] *Dutch* – chicory; also Belgian endive

- I usually add *witloof* to my salads.

**Springbok** [**spring-bok**] *Afrikaans* – a small, very fast deer that lives in Africa

- *Springbok* are often hunted by cheetahs on the plains of Africa.

**Keeshond** [**keys-hond, kees-**] *Dutch* – any of a Dutch breed of compact medium-sized dogs that have a dense heavy grayish coat and a foxy head

- Originally a dog kept by working-class people, the *keeshond* was the symbol of the 18th-century Dutch Patriots Party.

**Uitlander** [**ahyt-lan-der, oit-**; *Dutch oit-lahn-duh r*] *Afrikaans* – foreigner; especially a British resident in the former republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State

- The Transvaal's long-established rural population of Boers (Afrikaners), afraid of being overwhelmed, passed laws to restrict the *Uitlanders'* influence.

**Obsequious** [*uh b-see-kwee-uh s*] *Middle English* – too eager to help or obey someone important

- She's constantly followed by *obsequious* assistants who will do anything she tells them to.

**Philhellene** [*fil-hel-eeen*] *Greek* – admiring Greece or the Greeks

- I have long considered myself a *philhellene* because of my obsession with the ruins in Athens and Greek mythology.

**Cappelletti** [*kap-uh-let-ee; Italian kahp-pel-let-tee*] *Italian* – pasta in the form of little peaked hats filled with a savory mixture

- You will find the most authentic *cappalletti* in Italy.

**Pizzicato** [*pit-si-kah-toh; Italian peet-tsee-kah-taw*] *Italian* – used as a direction in music to indicate that notes should be played by plucking the strings of a violin, viola, cello, etc., with the fingers instead of by using a bow

- At this point, the music calls for playing the cello *pizzicato*.

**Intaglio** [*in-tal-yoh, -tahl-; Italian een-tah-lyaw*] *Italian* – 1. A: an engraving or incised figure in stone or other hard material depressed below the surface so that an impression from the design yields an image in relief; B: the art or process of executing intaglios; C: printing (as in die stamping and gravure) done from a plate in which the image is sunk below the surface; 2. something (as a gem) carved in intaglio

- Examine the quality of embossed stamps and *intaglio* printing.

**Nescience** [*nesh-uh ns, nesh-ee-uh ns, nes-ee-*] *Latin* – lack of knowledge or awareness; ignorance

- The appalling *nescience* of today's high schoolers concerning international affairs outraged us.

**Crystalline** [*kris-tl-in, -ahyn, -een*] *Middle English/Latin/Greek* – clear and shining like crystal; made of or similar to crystal or crystals

- We could see fish swimming beneath the *crystalline* ice of the frozen lake.

**Nucleolus** [*noo-klee-uh-luh s, nyoo-*] *Latin* – a spherical body of the nucleus of most eukaryotes that becomes enlarged during protein synthesis, is associated with a nucleolus organizer, and contains the DNA templates for ribosomal RNA

- The *nucleolus* is elongated, and its longest measurement lies in the direction of the equatorial plane of the nucleus.



**Entablature** [en-**tab**-luh-cher, -choo r] *French/Italian* – a horizontal part in classical architecture that rests on the columns and consists of architrave, frieze, and cornice

- While it was probably badly wrecked by the Romans at the sack of the city, its massive columns with the *entablature* survived.

**Sanguine** [sang-gwin] *Middle English* – confident and hopeful

- She has a *sanguine* disposition.

**Quietus** [kwahy-**ee**-tuh s] *Middle English* – final settlement (as of a debt); removal from activity, *especially* death; something that quiets or represses

- She was granted a *quietus* on the remainder of the debt in the old man's will.

**Ferrule** [fer-uh l, -ool] *Middle English/French/Latin* – a usually metal ring or cap that is placed around the end of a wooden stick or handle to strengthen it

- Neither stick has a *ferrule*, or any indication that one was ever fitted.

**Rubicund** [roo-bi-kuhnd] *Middle English/Latin* – having red or pink skin

- The *rubicund* face of his father.

**Panoply** [pan-uh-plee] *Greek* - a group or collection that is impressive because it is so big or because it includes so many different kinds of people or things

- Nobody saw a *panoply* of State, local or even federal taxes and compliance regulations on the Internet as constructive.

**Rebarbative** [ree-**bahr**-buh-tiv] *French* – repellent, irritating

- There are aspects of that writer's personality that any reasonable person would regard as *rebarbative*, but we're just reading his novels—not marrying him.

**Aventurine** [uh-**ven**-chuh-reen, -rin] *French* - glass containing opaque sparkling particles of foreign material (as copper or chromic oxide)

- Please note that the round *aventurine* beads are paler than the photo shows.

**Peripatetic** [per-uh-puh-**tet**-ik] *Middle French & Latin* – of, relating to, or given to walking, moving or traveling from place to place

- She worked as a *peripatetic* journalist for most of her life.

**Gravitas** [grav-i-tahs, -tas] *Latin* – a very serious quality or manner

- The new leader has an air of *gravitas* that commands respect.

**Flagitious** [fluh-**jish**-uh s] *Middle English* - marked by scandalous crime or vice

- His *flagitious* crimes are well known throughout the country.

**Trilobite** [trahy-luh-bahyt] *Greek* - any of numerous extinct Paleozoic marine arthropods (group Trilobita) having the segments of the body divided by furrows on the dorsal surface into three lobes

- They found a number of *trilobite* fossils during the archaeological dig.

**Politesse** [pol-i-tes; French paw-lee-tes] *French* - formal [politeness](#) : [decorousness](#)

- We've known each other for years so you needn't use that *politesse* tone with me.

**Celesta** [suh-les-tuh] *French* - a keyboard instrument with hammers that strike steel plates producing a tone similar to that of a glockenspiel

- One of the most interesting instruments sometime seen in an orchestra is the *celesta*.

**Ortolan** [awr-tl-uh n] *French* - an Old World bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) having a greenish-gray head and breast, streaky brown back and wings, and a yellow throat

- And if you can stomach his account of how to prepare and eat an *ortolan*, you've got a stronger constitution than me.

**Theodicy** [thee-od-uh-see] *French* - defense of God's goodness and omnipotence in view of the existence of evil

- Traditional *theodicy*, he writes, can make no sense of the theological issues posed by the Nazi onslaught against the Jews.

**Isochronous** [ahy-sok-ruh-nuh s] *Greek* – isochronal uniform in time: having equal duration: recurring at regular intervals

- In so far as the vibrations may be regarded as *isochronous*, the distance between consecutive corresponding points of the recurrent figure, or, as it may be called, the wavelength of the figure is directly proportional to the velocity of the jet.

**Accoutrement** [uh-koo-ter-muh nt, -truh-] - [equipment](#), [trappings](#); *specifically*: a soldier's outfit usually not including clothes and weapons —usually used in plural

- This vacuum cleaner has all of the *accoutrements* for cleaning furniture as well as floors.

**Anaphylactic** [an-uh-fuh-lak-tik] of, relating to, affected by, or causing [anaphylaxis](#) or anaphylactic shock

- And you don't know when you're going to have that one reaction and go into *anaphylactic* shock and maybe drop dead.