List 122. SPELLING DEMONS—ELEMENTARY

Those who study children’s spelling errors and writing difficulties have repeatedly found that a relatively small number of words make up a large percentage of all spelling errors. Many commonly misspelled words are presented in this Spelling Demons list. Other lists in this book, such as Homophones, Instant Words, and Subject Matter Words, can also be used as spelling lists.

about  dairy  hour  quarter  teacher  vacation
address  dear  house  quiet  tear  very
advise  decorate  instead  quite  terrible  wear
again  didn’t  know  raise  Thanksgiving  weather
all right  doctor  laid  read  their  weigh
along  early  latter  received  there  were
already  Easter  lessons  remember  they  we’re
although  easy  letter  right  though  when
always  enough  little  route  thought  which
among  every  loose  said  tired  white
April  everybody  loving  Santa Claus  whole
arithmetic  favorite  making  Saturday  women
aunt  February  many  school  would
awhile  fierce  maybe  schoolhouse  write
balloon  first  minute  say  writing
because  football  morning  several  wrote
been  friendly  mother  shoes  you
before  forty  name  since  your
birthday  fourth  neither  skating  you’re
blue  Friday  nice  skiing  your
bought  friend  nice  skis  your
built  fuel  o’clock  some  yours
busy  getting  off  something  you’ve
buy  goes  open  sometime  you’re
children  grade  once  spent  your
chocolate  guard  outside  store  you’ve
choose  guess  party  straight  you’ve
Christmas  half  peace  studying  you’ve
close  Halloween  people  sugar  you’ve
color  handkerchief  piece  summer  you’ve
come  haven’t  played  Sunday  you’ve
coming  having  please  suppose  you’ve
cough  hear  poison  sure  you’ve
could  heard  please  surely  you’ve
couldn’t  height  practice  surprise  you’ve
country  hello  pretty  surprised  you’ve
cousin  here  principal  surrounded  you’ve
cupboard  hospital  principal  surrounded  you’ve
Secondary students may misspell words on the elementary list of Demons, and as their writing is more advanced than the younger students, they may also have trouble with these Demons. If you use these for spelling lessons, don't assign too many at once—pick and choose some you know they need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>absence</th>
<th>approach</th>
<th>category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>absolutely</td>
<td>approximately</td>
<td>ceiling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acceptable</td>
<td>arctic</td>
<td>celebrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accidentally</td>
<td>argue</td>
<td>cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accommodate</td>
<td>arguing</td>
<td>certainly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accompany</td>
<td>argument</td>
<td>character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accurate</td>
<td>around</td>
<td>chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accustomed</td>
<td>arrangement</td>
<td>cite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ache</td>
<td>assistance</td>
<td>college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>achieve</td>
<td>athlete</td>
<td>comfortable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acknowledgment</td>
<td>attempt</td>
<td>coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acquaintance</td>
<td>attendance</td>
<td>committed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acquire</td>
<td>author</td>
<td>committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>across</td>
<td>awful</td>
<td>comparative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>actually</td>
<td>awkward</td>
<td>complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>address</td>
<td>balloon</td>
<td>concede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adolescent</td>
<td>banquet</td>
<td>conceive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advantageous</td>
<td>bargain</td>
<td>condemn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advertisement</td>
<td>beautiful</td>
<td>conquer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advice</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>conscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>again</td>
<td>beginning</td>
<td>conscientious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>against</td>
<td>belief</td>
<td>conscious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aisle</td>
<td>believe</td>
<td>consider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all right</td>
<td>beneficial</td>
<td>continually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>almost</td>
<td>benefited</td>
<td>control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>although</td>
<td>bicycle</td>
<td>controversial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>always</td>
<td>biggest</td>
<td>controversy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amateur</td>
<td>boundary</td>
<td>council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ambition</td>
<td>breathe</td>
<td>courageous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>among</td>
<td>brilliant</td>
<td>courteous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amusing</td>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>analyze</td>
<td>built</td>
<td>criticize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ancient</td>
<td>bulletin</td>
<td>crowd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>announces</td>
<td>buried</td>
<td>dangerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>annually</td>
<td>bury</td>
<td>deceive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>answered</td>
<td>business</td>
<td>decided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anticipated</td>
<td>busy</td>
<td>decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anxious</td>
<td>cafeteria</td>
<td>defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apology</td>
<td>calendar</td>
<td>definitely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apparent</td>
<td>captain</td>
<td>definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appearance</td>
<td>career</td>
<td>democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appreciate</td>
<td>carrying</td>
<td>dependent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>descend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>describe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>desert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>despair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>develop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dilemma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>diligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disagreeable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disappear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disappoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disastrous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>discipline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>discover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dissatisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>divided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>doubt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>dropped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>drowned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>eighth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>eleventh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>embarrass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>emigrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>endeavor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>enough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>equipped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>especially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>eventually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>evidently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>exaggerate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>except</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
excitement
exercise
exhausted
exhibit
existence
expense
experience
explanation
extraordinary
extremely
familiar
fascinate
fascinating
favorite
fierce
finally
flies
foreign
formerly
fortunately
forty
forward
fourth
friend
gaiety
gauge
generally
genuine
government
grammar
grateful
grieve
guarantee
guard
guessed
guidance
guilty
handkerchief
happened
having
heard
height
heroes
hesitate
hindrance
honorable
hoping
humorous
hurrying
hypocrite
ignorant
imaginary
immediately
importance
impossible
incredible
independent
Indian
individual
innocent
intelligence
interest
interrupt
irrelevant
its
jealousy
judgment
knife
knowledge
laboratory
led
leisure
library
license
lieutenant
lightning
likely
listener
literature
lose
losing
luxury
magnificent
making
maneuver
marriage
mathematics
meant
medicine
mere
million
miniature
miscellaneous
mischief
mischievous
moral
muscle
mysterious
naturally
necessary
neither
niece
nonsense
noticeable
numerous
obedience
occasion
occasionally
occur
occurred
occurrence
occurring
often
omitted
opinion
opportunity
ordinary
paid
parallel
paralyzed
particular
performance
perhaps
permanent
permitted
personal
personnel
persuade
physical
picnicking
planned
pleasant
pledge
political
portrayed
possess
possible
practical
precede
prefer
preferred
prejudice
preparation
prepare
prescription
prestige
prevalent
principal
principal
privilege
probably
procedure
profession
professor
prominent
pursue
quantity
quiet
realize
really
receipt
receive
recognize
recommend
referred
referring
relief
remember
renowned
repetition
representative
responsibility
responsible
restaurant
rhythm
running
sacrifice
safety
salary
sandwich
satisfactory
saucer
scene
schedule
scheme
science
seize
sense
sensible
separate
sergeant
serious
shining
shriek
siege
similar
sincerely
skiing
soldier
sophomore
source
speak
special
speech

319
stationary  stationary  stopped  stopped  straight  straight  strength  strength  stubborn  stubborn  studying  studying  substantial  substantial  subtle  subtle  succeed  succeed  success  success  sufficient  sufficient  suggestion  suggestion  summary  summary  supersede  supersede  suppose  suppose  surprise  surprise  susceptible  susceptible  swimming  swimming  system  system  technique  technique  temperature  temperature  terrible  terrible  therefore  therefore  thief  thief  thorough  thorough  tired  tired  together  together  toward  toward  tragedy  tragedy  transferred  transferred  tremendous  tremendous  tries  tries  truly  truly  twelfth  twelfth  unnecessary  unnecessary  until  until  unusual  unusual  using  using  usually  usually  vacant  vacant  vacuum  vacuum  valuable  valuable  vegetable  vegetable  vengeance  vengeance  victim  victim  villain  villain  visible  visible  waive  waive  weigh  weigh  weird  weird  woman  woman  wrench  wrench  write  write  written  written  yacht  yacht  yield  yield

See also List 122, Spelling Demons—Elementary; List 124, Spelling Demons—National Spelling Bee List.