



College Word of the Week



The College Word of the Week activity came from my own fifth grade teacher, Miss Jackson, who was always looking for exciting ways to motivate us when we were learning new words.

The college word was a bonus on our weekly spelling test and we earned additional points if we spelled it correctly and knew its meaning. We couldn't believe that our teacher actually thought we were capable of learning words that college students used! Well, we were and we did; and our entire class was energized by this simple weekly exercise.

“Loquacious” means talkative or excessively chatty. It was the very first college word Miss Jackson taught our class. (I wonder why?) She would use it, as well as other college words, during her lessons throughout the week. She gave kudos to those who found ways to incorporate them into daily conversations. As we practiced for our spelling test, she made sure to remind us that we should have no problem spelling and defining our regular word list if we could spell and define the college word.

When I became a fifth grade teacher, I used this activity with my students and experienced equal levels of success. It's just as easy for families to use this activity at home with their children, so I would give additional college word activities for my “hungry learners” as an additional challenge. Families can use some of the ideas below for the college word challenge. A starter list of college words can be found on the following page.

- Write college words on a kitchen window with washable markers to encourage daily practice.
- Challenge your child to write a short story using 10 college words.
- Have your child read through the newspaper and highlight college words to study in the future.
- Encourage your child to create a photo album with all college word cards, where the word is visible but the definition is on the back of the card. Challenge family and friends to guess what the words mean.
- Organize a spelling bee.





College Word Starter Lists



1. Conciliate (verb) – to overcome the distrust or hostility of; to placate or win over
2. Skylark (verb) – to frolic; sport
3. Pantehnicon (noun) – a furniture van; moving van
4. Zoosemiotics (noun) – the study of the sounds and signals used in animal communication, as song in birds or tail-wagging in dogs
5. Vox populi (noun) – the voice of the people; popular opinion
6. Nixie (noun) – a letter or parcel that's undeliverable because of a faulty or illegible address
7. Skerrick (noun) – a small piece of quantity; a bit
8. Towser (noun) – a big dog
9. Jamboree (noun) – a carousal; any noisy merrymaking
10. Alliaceous (adj.) – having the odor or taste of garlic, onion, etc.

1. Chimerical (adj.) – wildly fanciful; highly unrealistic
2. Parsimonious (adj.) – frugal or stingy
3. Pugnacious (adj.) – inclined to quarrel or fight; combative
4. Lucida (noun) – the brightest star in a constellation
5. Abeyance (noun) – temporary inactivity, cessation, or suspension
6. Peradventure (noun) – chance, doubt, or uncertainty
7. Matriculate (verb) – to enroll in a college or university as a candidate for a degree
8. Truepenny (noun) – a trusty, honest fellow
9. Stultify (verb) – to make, or cause to appear, foolish or ridiculous
10. Bumptious (adj.) – offensively self-assertive



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