

St Mark's Catholic School

Spelling Bee



Year 7

2026



A

abbreviation - a shortened word or phrase

abhor - find disgusting

abrasive - sharply disagreeable, unpleasant, or harsh

absence – not present

abundant - present in great quantity

accentuate - stress or single out as important

accidentally – not on purpose

accomplice - a person who joins with another in carrying out some plan

acknowledgement – accepting that something is true or right

acoustics – the scientific study of sound

acquiesce - agree or express agreement

acquire – to get something; to collect

acrimonious - marked by strong resentment or distrust

adulation - exaggerated flattery or praise

aesthetic - characterised by an appreciation of beauty or good taste

alleviate - provide physical relief, as from pain

ambiguous - having more than one possible meaning

amphibious – animals that live in water and on land

anonymous - having no known name or identity or known source

anthropomorphic - suggesting human features for animals or inanimate things

arbitrary - based on or subject to individual discretion or preference

archetype - something that serves as a model

assimilation - the process of absorbing one cultural group into another

audacious - prepared to gamble or take risks

auspicious - indicating favourable circumstances and good luck

authoritative - of recognised power or excellence

B

barbaric - without civilizing influences

bastion - projecting part of a wall or other fortification



beguile - attract; cause to be enamoured

belligerent - characteristic of an enemy or one eager to fight

beneficiary – someone who receives something good/an advantage

benevolent - showing or motivated by sympathy and understanding

bequeath - leave or give, especially by will after one's death

besiege – surround, to force to give up

bewildered - perplexed by many conflicting situations or statements

blasphemy - disrespectful language

boisterous - noisy and lacking in restraint or discipline

bourgeois - being of the property-owning class

boycott - refuse to sponsor; refuse to do business with

buoyancy - light-heartedness; ability to float

bureaucracy - unnecessary procedures that obstruct action

C

cacophonous - having an unpleasant sound

capricious - determined by chance or impulse rather than by necessity

caricature - represent a person with comic exaggeration

catharsis - cleansing of emotional tensions

chameleon – a lizard that can change colour to suit its surroundings

charisma - personal attractiveness that enables you to influence others

clandestine – behaved with hidden aims or methods

clique - an exclusive circle of people with a common purpose

coercion - using force to cause something to occur

colloquial - characteristic of informal spoken language or conversation

compensation - something given or received as payment

conceited - having an exaggerated sense of self-importance

conglomerate - a group of diverse companies under common ownership

conjecture - a hypothesis that has been formed by speculating

conspicuous - obvious to the eye or mind

conundrum - a difficult problem



convivial - fond of the pleasures of good company

copious - large in number or quantity

correlation - a statistical relation between two or more variables

cryptic - having a secret or hidden meaning

cumbersome - difficult to handle or use because of size or weight

cynical - believing the worst of human nature and motives

D

debacle - a sudden and complete disaster

debilitate - make weak

decadence – excessive pleasure or luxury

defiance - an act boldly resisting authority or an opposing force

delicacy - something considered best to eat

delirious – unable to speak or think clearly because of a fever

demeanour - the way a person behaves toward other people

derivation - the source or origin from which something comes

destitute - poor enough to need help from others

dexterity - capability in using both hands

didactic - instructive, especially excessively

diminutive – very small

disastrous – extremely bad or unsuccessful

discreet – not obvious, not attracting attention

discrepancy - a difference between conflicting facts or claims or opinion

disingenuous - not straightforward or honest

disparage - express a negative opinion

disseminate – distribute or publicise

dissimilar - not alike

dissipate - cause to separate and go in different directions

docile - willing to be taught or led or supervised or directed

dubious - uncertainty or doubt

duplicity - the act of deceiving



dystopian - an imaginary place where life is extremely bad

E

eccentricity – a person who has an unusual way of behaving, slightly strange

eclectic - selecting what seems best of various styles or ideas

edible - suitable for use as food

effervescent - marked by high spirits or excitement

egalitarian - favouring social equality

eloquent - expressing yourself readily, clearly, effectively

elucidate - make clear and comprehensible

emancipate - free from slavery or servitude

embarrassment – a feeling of shame or awkwardness

encyclopedia – a book/set of books giving information on different subjects

endeavour - attempt with effort

entrepreneur - someone who organises a business venture

enunciate - express or state clearly

ephemeral – lasting only a short time

epiphany - an inspiration

etymology - a history of a word

euphoria - a feeling of great elation

exacerbate - make worse

exhilarate – to excite

exonerate - pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

expedite - process fast and efficiently

exploitation - an act that victimises someone

exquisite - delicately beautiful

exuberant - joyously unrestrained

F

facetious – not serious about a serious subject

fallacy - a misconception or delusion



farical - broadly or extravagantly humorous
fastidious - giving careful attention to detail
feasible - capable of being done with means at hand
fiasco - a complete failure or collapse
finesse - subtly skilful handling of a situation
flabbergasted - as if struck dumb with astonishment and surprise
flourish - grow vigorously
foliage - the leaves of one or more plants
forensic - used in the investigation of facts or evidence in court
forfeit - lose the right to or lose by some error, offense, or crime
formidable - extremely impressive in strength or excellence
fortified - having something added to increase the strength
fractious - easily irritated or annoyed
frenetic - fast and energetic in an uncontrolled or wild way
frugal - avoiding waste

G

galvanise - stimulate to action
gastronomy - the art and practice of preparing and eating good food
genealogy – the study of past and present family members
genial - diffusing warmth and friendliness
genuflect - bend the knees and bow before a religious superior or image
genuine - real
germinate - cause to grow or sprout
ghastly - shockingly disgusting
gourmet - a person devoted to and knowledgeable about fine food
grandeur - the quality of being magnificent or splendid
gratuitous - unnecessary and unwarranted
grievance - a complaint about a wrong that causes resentment
guarantee – a promise that something will be done or happen, sometimes written
gullible - naive and easily deceived or tricked



H

habitual - commonly used or practiced

haphazardly - without care; in a slapdash manner

harangue - address forcefully

heinous - extremely wicked or deeply criminal

haemorrhage - the flow of blood from a ruptured blood vessel

hereditary - passed on by established rules of descent

heterogeneous - consisting of elements not of the same kind or nature

hiatus - an interruption in the intensity or amount of something

hierarchy - a series of ordered groupings within a system

hieroglyphic - belonging to a writing system using pictures as symbols

histrionic - overly dramatic or emotional

holocaust - an act of mass destruction and loss of life

honourable – honest and fair

humanitarian - marked by devotion to popular welfare

hyperbole - extravagant exaggeration

hypothetical - a possibility

I

ideological - concerned with or suggestive of mental concepts

idiosyncrasy - a behavioural attribute peculiar to an individual

imminent - close in time; about to occur

imperceptible - impossible or difficult to sense

impetuous - marked by violent force

impromptu - without advance preparation

inaugurate - commence officially

incite - provoke or stir up

incognito - without revealing one's identity

inconspicuous - not prominent or readily noticeable

incorrigible - impervious to correction by punishment



incredulous - not disposed or willing to believe; unbelieving

indigenous - originating where it is found

indispensable – cannot do without

indomitable - impossible to subdue

inevitable - incapable of being avoided or prevented

inherent - existing as an essential constituent or characteristic

innocuous - lacking intent or capacity to injure

insatiable - impossible to fulfil, appease, or gratify

insidious - working or spreading in a hidden and usually injurious way

insubordination - defiance of authority

intrinsic - belonging to a thing by its very nature

iridescent – showing many bright colours that change with movement

irrational – without reason

irresistible – cannot be resisted (said no to)

J

jaundiced – affected by resentment or slightly yellow in colour

jeopardise - pose a threat to; present a danger to

jingoist - an extremely patriotic nationalist

joyful - full of or showing high-spirited merriment

judicious - marked by the exercise of common sense in practical matters

juggernaut - a massive unstoppable force

jurisdiction - the territory within which power can be exercised

K

kinaesthetic – know where the parts of your body are and how they are moving

kinetic - characterised by motion

knead - use the hands to mix and work something into a uniform mass

L

lachrymose –showing sorrow



lackadaisical - idle or indolent especially in a dreamy way
languid - lacking spirit or liveliness
languish – become feeble
laudable - worthy of high praise
league - a group of teams playing a sport who take part in competitions between each other
legitimacy - undisputed credibility
leniency - kindness as a consequence of being tolerant
lethargic - deficient in alertness or activity
liability - something that holds you back
lieutenant - an officer of middle rank in the armed forces
linguistic - consisting of or related to language
litigation - a legal proceeding in a court
ludicrous - inviting ridicule
lustrous - reflecting light

M

macabre - shockingly repellent; inspiring horror
magnanimous - noble and generous in spirit
malaise - a general feeling of discomfort, uneasiness, or depression
malevolent - wishing or appearing to wish evil to others
malingerer - someone shirking duty by feigning illness or incapacity
malleable - easily influenced
martyr - one who suffers for the sake of principle
matriarchy - social organization in which a female is the family head
meagre - deficient in amount or quality or extent
mechanic – someone who fixes engines
melancholy - characterized by or causing or expressing sadness
memorabilia - a record of things worth remembering
mendacious - intentionally untrue
metamorphosis - significant change in appearance or character or circumstances
meticulous – being precise with details



microcosm - a miniature model of something

militarism – the belief that a country should have a strong army

mischievous – behaving in a way that is slightly naughty but is not meant to cause harm

mnemonic - the practice of aiding the memory

monolithic - consistency and total uniformity

myriad - a large indefinite number

N

naïve - showing simplicity or innocence

narcissist - someone who is excessively self-centered

nauseous - causing a sick feeling

nefarious - extremely wicked

negligence - failure to act with the prudence of a reasonable person

nocturnal - belonging to or active during the night

nonchalant - marked by casual unconcern or indifference

notoriety - the state of being known for some unfavourable act or quality

nuance - a subtle difference in meaning or opinion or attitude

nuisance - anything that disturbs, endangers life, or is offensive

nutrient - any substance that can be metabolised to give energy

O

obedient - obeying the commands of those in authority without question

oblivious - lacking mindful awareness

obstreperous - noisily and stubbornly defiant

odious - unmistakably detestable

odyssey - a long wandering and eventful journey

officious - intrusive in a meddling or offensive manner

ominous - threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments

omniscient - knowing, seeing, or understanding everything

onomatopoeia - using words that imitate the sound they signify

opaque - not transmitting or reflecting light or radiant energy



orthodox - adhering to what is commonly accepted

oscillate - move or swing from side to side regularly

ostentatious - tasteless or vulgar

overzealous - marked by excessive enthusiasm for a cause or idea

P

palliative - moderating pain or sorrow by making it easier to bear

pandemonium - a state of extreme confusion and disorder

paradigm - a standard or typical example

patriarchal - of a social organization with the male as the head

perilous - fraught with danger

perseverance – not giving up

persuade – an reasoned argument that makes someone think in a similar way

pernicious - exceedingly harmful

perpetuate - cause to continue or prevail

philanthropist - someone who makes charitable donations

plethora - extreme excess

pneumonia – a disease of the lungs

poignant - keenly distressing to the mind or feelings

portentous - of momentous or ominous significance

possession – to own something

prerequisite - something that is needed or obligatory in advance

privilege – an honour

prodigy - an unusually gifted or intelligent person

prophecy - knowledge of the future, as from a divine source

pseudonym – not a real name

psychological – of the mind

pugnacious - ready and able to act with force or violence

Q

quadrilateral - a four-sided polygon



quaff - swallow hurriedly or greedily or in one draught

quaint - attractively old-fashioned

quandary – not being able to decide what to do

quarantine - isolation to prevent the spread of infectious disease

querulous - habitually complaining

quizzical - playfully vexing, especially by ridicule

R

raconteur – a person good at telling stories/anecdotes

rambunctious - noisy and lacking in restraint or discipline

ravenous - extremely hungry

recipient - a person who is sent something

reconcile - bring into consonance or accord

recuperation – to become well again

refulgent – giving off light, shining

rejuvenate - return to life; get or give new life or energy

relinquish - turn away from; give up

reminiscent - serving to bring to mind

renegade - someone who rebels and becomes an outlaw

renunciation - the act of sacrificing or giving up or surrendering

repertoire - the range of skills in a particular field or occupation

reprehensible - bringing or deserving severe rebuke or censure

repugnant - offensive to the mind

resuscitate - cause to regain consciousness

reverberate - ring or echo with sound

rhetorical - relating to using language effectively

rigorous - demanding strict attention to rules and procedures

S

sacrilegious - grossly irreverent toward what is considered holy

salubrious - promoting health



scrupulous - characterized by extreme care and great effort
sedentary - requiring sitting or little activity
serendipity - good luck in making unexpected and fortunate discoveries
simultaneous - occurring or operating at the same time
spontaneous - said or done without having been planned in advance
sporadic - recurring in scattered or unpredictable instances
supercilious - having or showing arrogant disdain or haughtiness
superfluous - more than is needed, desired, or required
supplementary - functioning in a supporting capacity
sycophant - a person who tries to please someone to gain an advantage
synonymous - meaning the same or nearly the same

T

tangible - perceptible by the senses, especially the sense of touch
tedious - so lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness
tenuous - lacking substance or significance
thespian - of or relating to drama
trajectory - the path followed by an object moving through space
transcendental - existing outside of or not in accordance with nature
tremulous - quivering as from weakness or fear
troglodyte - a primitive person who lived in a cave
truncate - make shorter as if by cutting off
tyranny - dominance through threat of punishment and violence

U

ubiquitous - being present everywhere at once
umbrage - a feeling of anger caused by being offended
unconscious – not conscious, not awake
undulate - move in a wavy pattern or with a rising and falling motion
urchin - a poor and often mischievous city child
usury - the act of lending money at an exorbitant rate of interest



utopian - characterised by or aspiring to impracticable perfection

V

vacuous - devoid of intelligence

vanquish - defeat in a competition, race, or conflict

vehement - marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions

verbose - using or containing too many words

verisimilitude - the appearance of truth; the quality of seeming to be true

vernacular - characteristic of or appropriate to everyday language

vicarious - experienced second-hand

vicinity - a surrounding or nearby region

visceral - obtained through intuition rather than from reasoning

vitriolic - harsh, bitter, or malicious in tone

vivacious - vigorous and animated

vociferous - conspicuously and offensively loud

vulnerable - capable of being wounded or hurt

W

wanderlust - very strong impulse to travel

whimsical - led by chance or impulse rather than by necessity

witticism – a creative message that has the power to evoke laughter

wondrous - extraordinarily good or great

X

xenophobia - a fear of foreigners or strangers

Y

yield – produce or to give way

Z



zealous - marked by active interest and enthusiasm

zeitgeist – general set of beliefs or values from a time in history

zenith - the highest point of something

zephyr - a slight wind

Pilgrims of Hope / Jubilee Year Vocabulary

companionship – togetherness in unity for a common purpose

discernment – making the right choice

enkindled – set on fire, illumined, brought to life

redeemed – saved from sin

renewal – to start again with fresh hope

transformative – the power to change something for the better

yearning – a strong feeling of wishing; wanting something

Subject Specific Vocabulary

Art

analogous – colour groupings that have similarities.

complementary – pairs of colours which cancel each other out and create grey or black.

tertiary – a colour produced by an equal mix of a primary and secondary colour adjacent to it on the colour wheel.

Computing

accumulator - a register for short-term, intermediate storage of arithmetic and logic data in a computer's Central Processing Unit (CPU)

concatenation - concatenation means joining two strings together. For example, you may wish to concatenate a first name and surname to form a person's full name

encryption – encryption is the process of encoding data or a message so that it cannot be understood by anyone other than its intended recipient

protocol - a set of rules that allow two devices to communicate

defragmentation - defragmentation involves rearranging the information on a disk so that files appear in continuous sequences of clusters



algorithm - an algorithm is a set of instructions for solving a problem or accomplishing a task

authentication - verifying a user identity before they can use a program with username and password

English

anaphora - the repetition of words or phrases in a group of sentences, clauses, or poetic lines.

onomatopoeia - the formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named (e.g. cuckoo, sizzle)

antithesis - a person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else.

hamartia - a fatal flaw leading to the downfall of a tragic hero or heroine.

soliloquy - an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially by a character in a play.

denouement - the final part of a play, film, or narrative in which the strands of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved.

hubris - excessive pride or self-confidence.

synecdoche - a type of figurative language where a part of something represents its entirety.

patriarchy - a system or society in which men are all-powerful and women are excluded from positions of influence or responsibility.

Geography

tsunami - A very large and dangerous ocean wave that is caused by an earthquake under the sea

alluvium - All deposits laid down by rivers, especially in times of flood

climatologist - A scientist who is an expert in climate and climate change

globalisation - Increased connections between countries

infrastructure - The basic services needed for a country to operate e.g. roads, railways, power and water supplies

magnitude - The shaking of the ground as a result of the total energy released by an earthquake.

History

enfranchisement - the right to vote

emancipation - to be freed from slavery

decolonisation - the process by which Imperial powers give up colonial control of their empires



mechanisation - the process of work moving from man power to machine/steam power

feudalism - a system of power dictated by ownership of land

Maths

rhombus – a quadrilateral with four equal sides

quadratic - involving terms where the highest power is two.

reciprocal - the **reciprocal** of a number is 1 divided by the number

probability - the chance that a given event will occur

isosceles - a triangle with 2 sides of equal length

coefficient – a number placed before a variable

parallelogram - a quadrilateral with 2 pairs of parallel sides.

collinear - when three or more points lie on a straight line

dodecahedron - a 3D shape with 12 flat faces

subtrahend - a quantity or number to be subtracted from another.

asymptote - a line that a curve approaches, as it heads towards infinity.

Media Studies

archetype - a universal type or model of character that is found in many different texts

paradigm - a typical example or pattern of something

anchorage - way in which a caption or piece of written text holds or fixes the meaning of an image in place, encouraging the reader to make a preferred reading

simulacrum - an image or representation of someone or something.

bricolage - (in art or literature) construction or creation from a diverse range of available things.

conglomerate - a large corporation that owns a large number of media companies, such as television, radio, internet, publishing – giving the conglomerate control in the market.

hegemony - the dominance in the media of a particular social group.

MFL

auxiliary - providing supplementary or additional help and support



bilingual - a person fluent in two languages / speaking two languages fluently

conjugation - the variation of the form of a verb in an inflected language such as Latin, by which the voice, mood, tense, number, and person are identified

francophone - French-speaking

Hispanic - relating to Spain or to Spanish-speaking countries, especially those of Central and South America

infinitive - the basic form of a verb, without an inflection binding it to a particular subject or tense

multilingualism - (of people or groups) able to use more than two languages for communication, or (of a thing) written or spoken in more than two different languages

participle - In grammar, a participle is a form of a verb that can be used in compound tenses of the verb.

polyglot - a person who knows and is able to use several languages.

Music

syllabic - one syllable per beat.

melismatic - many syllables per beat.

monophonic - one sound.

polyphonic - many sounds.

crescendo - getting louder.

diminuendo - getting quieter.

accelerando - getting faster.

sforzando - suddenly loud

Vivace - very fast.

PE

agility - the ability to move and change direction quickly (at speed) whilst maintaining control.

coordination - the ability to use different (two or more) parts of the body together, smoothly and efficiently.

dehydration - excessive loss of body water interrupting the function of the body.

hydration - having enough water to enable normal functioning of the body.

fitness - the ability to meet/cope with the demands of the environment

flexibility - the range of movements possible at a joint

health – a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity



cardiovascular – relating to the heart and blood vessels.

RE

apostle – each of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ

transcendent – above or beyond the range of human experience

miracle – an extraordinary event that cannot be explained

martyr – a person who is killed because of their beliefs

omnipotence – the quality of having great power

incarnation - a person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or quality

transubstantiation - the conversion of the substance of the Eucharistic elements into the body and blood of Christ at consecration, only the appearances of bread and wine still remaining

omniscient – knowing everything

Science

opaque - a material that light cannot pass through

photosynthesis- a chemical reaction requiring light to produce glucose for plants

meiosis- cell division which makes sex cells, gametes

mitochondrion- an organelle in a cell where respiration takes place

foetus - the embryo of a mammal, bird or reptile from the point at which bones and organs form

distillation - the process of separating a mixture of liquids by boiling off and then condensing the more volatile liquid

evaporation - the process of turning a liquid into a gas below its boiling point

chromatography - the process of separating a mixture of soluble compounds using an absorbant material

refraction - the change in direction of a wave or ray of light as it crosses a boundary between two different media

enzyme- a biological catalyst

antibiotic - a substance produced by a microbe that kills or stops the growth of other microbes

effervescence - bubbling due to a gas released from a substance in solution



satellite - a small object in space that is in orbit around a much larger object under the attraction of gravity.

heterozygote - an individual with two different alleles for a particular inherited character

homeostasis - the process of regulating the internal environment of the body within very narrow limits

rheostat - a variable resistor with two connections used to vary the current in a circuit

Technology

embellish - to decorate an item/surface by adding decorative details and features, which makes the overall impact more appealing or attractive

durability - the ability of a product to perform its normal/required function over a period of time, and withstand some wear, pressure or damage.

aesthetic - a core design principle that defines a design's pleasing visual qualities.

sustainability - the ability for an item to be maintained at a certain rate or level.

manufacture - the processing of raw materials into finished goods through the use of tools, human labour, machinery and chemical processing

specification - a design specification is a detailed document that provides explicit requirements for a product and how the product is to be put together.

synthetic - an item made from artificial materials, chemicals or substances.

kneading - to press something, especially a mixture for making bread, firmly and repeatedly with the hands and fingers.

