

The School Spelling Bee Study List is broken down into three levels of difficulty: One Bee, Two Bee and Three Bee. Three Bee words include words appropriate for seventh and eighth grade.

The list below includes 100 challenging **eighth** grade words. If you learn the spellings and meanings of these words, you will be well prepared for your eighth-grade classroom bee. To prepare for a school spelling bee, ask your teacher for the full 450-word School Spelling Bee Study List, which includes these words, the remainder of the Three Bee words, and the One Bee and Two Bee words.

1.	arable	<i>adjective</i>	capable of being plowed : fit for crop production.
2.	surfactant	<i>noun</i>	a substance useful for its cleansing, wetting, dispersing, or similar powers.
3.	nitrogen	<i>noun</i>	a common nonmetallic element that constitutes 78 percent of the atmosphere by volume and occurs as a constituent of all living cells.
4.	paralysis	<i>noun</i>	a state of powerlessness or inactivity.
5.	metronome	<i>noun</i>	an instrument that emits an audible repetitive tap regulated to mark rhythm.
6.	attorney	<i>noun</i>	one whose profession is to conduct lawsuits for clients or to advise as to the prosecution or defense of lawsuits : a lawyer.
7.	snivel	<i>verb</i>	to speak or act in a whining or weakly emotional manner.
8.	contemptible	<i>adjective</i>	meriting scorn and condemnation as paltry, mean, or vile.
9.	altimeter	<i>noun</i>	an instrument for measuring height (as above sea level or ground level).
10.	jugular	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to the throat or neck.
11.	insolent	<i>adjective</i>	haughty and contemptuous or brutal in behavior or language.
12.	aura	<i>noun</i>	a distinctive appearance or impression.
13.	propitious	<i>adjective</i>	encouraging : favorable.
14.	ellipsis	<i>noun</i>	omission of one or more words that are obviously understood but must be supplied to make a construction grammatically complete.
15.	thyroid	<i>noun</i>	a large endocrine gland in the base of the neck that influences growth and development.

Three Bee Study Words with Definitions for Eighth Grade

16.	elongated	<i>verb</i>	increased the length of : stretched out.
17.	lasso** OR lasso	<i>noun</i>	a rope with a running noose that is used especially for catching horses and cattle.
18.	incandescent	<i>adjective</i>	strikingly bright, radiant, or clear.
19.	bureaucrats	<i>plural noun</i>	government officials confirmed in a narrow rigid formal routine or established with great authority in one department.
20.	refuge	<i>noun</i>	shelter or protection from danger or distress.
21.	shoal	<i>noun</i>	a sandbar that causes the water to be less deep.
22.	perpendicularity	<i>noun</i>	the quality or state of being or set at right angles to a given line or plane.
23.	antechamber	<i>noun</i>	a room leading into a chief apartment and serving as a waiting room.
24.	jeopardy	<i>noun</i>	exposure to or imminence of death, loss, or injury : danger.
25.	sauna	<i>noun</i>	a Finnish bath in steam from water thrown on heated stones.
26.	conciliatory	<i>adjective</i>	tending to win over from a state of hostility or distrust.
27.	forsook	<i>verb</i>	departed or withdrew from : deserted, abandoned.
28.	boba	<i>noun</i>	a sweet drink of Taiwanese origin that consists of tea mixed typically with milk or fruit syrup and small balls of tapioca.
29.	animatronics	<i>plural noun</i>	puppets or similar figures that are made lifelike by means of electromechanical devices.
30.	frijoles	<i>plural noun</i>	any of certain dark red kidney-shaped beans.
31.	minimus	<i>noun</i>	the little finger or toe.
32.	senescent	<i>adjective</i>	growing old.
33.	secreted	<i>verb</i>	produced and emitted from a gland a product that performs a specific function in an organism.

**preferred spelling

Three Bee Study Words with Definitions for Eighth Grade

34.	aspirin	<i>noun</i>	a white crystalline compound of salicylic acid used in tablet form to decrease fever and as a pain-killer.
35.	aptitude	<i>noun</i>	a natural or acquired capacity or ability.
36.	Chicana	<i>noun</i>	an American woman or girl of Mexican descent.
37.	bilge	<i>noun</i>	water that collects by seepage or leakage in the bottom of a ship.
38.	simultaneously	<i>adverb</i>	at the same time.
39.	Copenhagen	<i>geographical entry</i>	the capital city and a port of Denmark.
40.	Bunsen burner	<i>noun</i>	a device used especially in the laboratory that has a straight barrel with holes near the bottom to let in air that mixes with the gas to produce a hot flame.
41.	defoliant	<i>noun</i>	a chemical spray or dust applied to crop plants to cause the leaves to drop off prematurely.
42.	aerosol	<i>noun</i>	a substance and a propellant (as compressed gas) in a container with a valve through which the substance is dispensed as a suspension of fine solid or liquid particles.
43.	Ramadan** OR Ramadhan	<i>noun</i>	the 9th month of the Islamic year observed as a sacred month on each day of which strict fasting is practiced from dawn to sunset.
44.	photosynthesis	<i>noun</i>	the formation of carbohydrates from carbon dioxide and a source of hydrogen in chlorophyll-containing cells, such as those in green plants, when exposed to light.
45.	malignant	<i>adjective</i>	tending to produce death or deterioration — used in medicine.
46.	matterhorn	<i>noun</i>	a high steep-sided sharp-pointed peak or mountain.
47.	divot	<i>noun</i>	a piece of turf dug from a golf fairway in making a stroke.
48.	pixels	<i>plural noun</i>	the numerous small discrete elements that together constitute an image (as on a television screen).
49.	antonyms	<i>plural noun</i>	words of opposite meaning.
50.	Trinidadian	<i>adjective</i>	of, relating to, or characteristic of an island of the southeastern West Indies and located off the coast of northeastern Venezuela.

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Three Bee Study Words with Definitions for Eighth Grade

51.	mangels	<i>plural noun</i>	large coarse yellow to reddish orange beets grown as food for cattle.
52.	nopales	<i>plural noun</i>	young tender stem segments of the prickly pear cactus that are used as food.
53.	Gilgamesh	<i>noun</i>	a legendary Sumerian king and hero of a particular long narrative poem.
54.	conjunto	<i>noun</i>	a kind of Mexican-American music that has been influenced by the music of German immigrants to Texas and that features the accordion in addition to Mexican elements.
55.	Sumerian	<i>adjective</i>	of, relating to, or characteristic of the southern division of ancient Babylonia.
56.	pinyin	<i>noun</i>	a system for romanizing Chinese ideograms in which tones are indicated by diacritics.
57.	Taoism** OR Daoism	<i>noun</i>	a religion and philosophy of China traditionally founded by Laozi in the sixth century B.C.E.
58.	lymphoma	<i>noun</i>	an often malignant tumor of the tissue structures in a part of the body's circulatory system.
59.	scandium	<i>noun</i>	a white metallic element found especially in various minerals in certain northern European countries.
60.	dendrochronology	<i>noun</i>	the science of dating events and variations in environment in former periods by study of the rings of growth in trees and aged wood.
61.	palomino** OR palamino	<i>noun</i>	a slender-legged horse that is light tan or cream in color with white markings on the face and legs.
62.	retinitis pigmentosa	<i>noun</i>	any of several hereditary progressive degenerative diseases of the eye marked by constriction of the visual field and eventual blindness.
63.	fens	<i>plural noun</i>	low peaty lands covered wholly or partly with water unless artificially drained.
64.	haw	<i>noun</i>	the fruit of any of several shrubs or trees of the genus Viburnum.
65.	peplos** OR peplus	<i>noun</i>	a garment worn by women of ancient Greece consisting of a rectangular cloth clasped usually with a brooch at the shoulder.
66.	moira	<i>noun</i>	individual destiny : fate.
67.	Erlenmeyer flask	<i>noun</i>	a flat-bottomed conical vessel, usually blown-glass, used for technical purposes in a laboratory whose shape allows the contents to be shaken laterally without danger of spilling.

**preferred spelling

Three Bee Study Words with Definitions for Eighth Grade

68.	Samian	<i>adjective</i>	of or relating to a particular Greek island in the Aegean Sea.
69.	luciferin	<i>noun</i>	a pigment found in luminescent organisms such as fireflies.
70.	megaron	<i>noun</i>	the great central hall of an ancient Mycenaean house usually containing a center hearth.
71.	sphagnum	<i>noun</i>	a type of atypical moss that grows only in very wet acid areas where its accumulated remains become compacted with other plant debris to form peat.
72.	pronaos	<i>noun</i>	the outer part of an ancient Greek temple forming a portico in front of the hidden inner part that housed the image of the deity.
73.	craquelure	<i>noun</i>	a breaking on the surface (as of varnish, color, or enamel) of a work of art so that clefts or fissures appear.
74.	Macao OR Macau	<i>geographical entry</i>	a peninsula in the province of Guangdong, southeastern China, in the Xi River delta west of Hong Kong.
75.	silicon	<i>noun</i>	a nonmetallic element that occurs abundantly in the earth's crust and is used chiefly in the form of alloys.
76.	Albuquerque	<i>geographical entry</i>	a city in New Mexico.
77.	Mumbai	<i>geographical entry</i>	a city and port in western India.
78.	turquoise** OR turquois	<i>noun</i>	a mineral consisting of a blue, bluish green, or greenish gray hydrous basic copper aluminum phosphate isomorphous with chalcocyanite.
79.	Assam	<i>geographical entry</i>	state of northeastern India on the edge of the Himalayas.
80.	lanthanides	<i>plural noun</i>	chemical elements in a group of rare-earth metals.
81.	antimony	<i>noun</i>	a metalloid element that is commonly metallic silvery white, crystalline, and brittle and is used especially as a constituent of alloys.
82.	amphoras	<i>plural noun</i>	ancient Greek jars or vases having large oval bodies, narrow cylindrical necks, and two handles.
83.	hypocaust	<i>noun</i>	a central heating system of an ancient Roman building consisting of an underground furnace and a series of tile flues for distribution of the heat.
84.	avens	<i>plural noun</i>	plants of a genus of perennial herbs with pinnate or lyrate leaves and flowers with long plumose persistent styles.

**preferred spelling

Three Bee Study Words with Definitions for Eighth Grade

85.	grebe	<i>noun</i>	any of various aquatic birds that are closely related to the loons and are very expert divers and able to swim long distances underwater.
86.	pipette** OR pipet	<i>noun</i>	a narrow glass tube into which liquid is drawn up by suction and in which it is retained by closing the upper end.
87.	leks	<i>plural noun</i>	sites to which birds regularly resort for purposes of courtship.
88.	pullets	<i>plural noun</i>	hens of the common fowl less than a year old.
89.	Macedonia	<i>geographical entry</i>	a region of southern Europe in the Balkan Peninsula in northeastern Greece.
90.	centrifuge	<i>noun</i>	a machine for whirling fluids rapidly to separate substances of different densities.
91.	coleus	<i>noun</i>	any of several Old World herbs of the mint family that are widely cultivated for their fragrant, often colorful foliage.
92.	Tetrazzini	<i>adjective</i>	prepared with pasta and a white sauce seasoned with sherry and served au gratin.
93.	Pleiades	<i>noun</i>	a cluster of stars in the constellation Taurus that includes six stars in the form of a very small dipper.
94.	coccidiosis	<i>noun</i>	infestation with or disease caused by a large order of typically parasitic protozoans.
95.	rooibos tea	<i>noun</i>	a beverage that is made from a southern African shrub.
96.	Versailles	<i>geographical entry</i>	a small administrative district in northern France.
97.	meitnerium	<i>noun</i>	a short-lived radioactive element that is produced artificially.
98.	Okefenokee	<i>geographical entry</i>	swamp over 600 square miles long in southeastern Georgia and northeastern Florida.
99.	Popocatepetl	<i>geographical entry</i>	volcano 17,887 feet high in Puebla, southeast central Mexico.
100.	Shaanxi	<i>geographical entry</i>	province of north central China bordering on the Huang (Yellow) River; capital Xi'an.

**preferred spelling