

8/17/25

# Elegant English

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Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

## Overview:

The words in this game are not obscure, but they are not commonly used in everyday conversation. For example, most of us would say, “The star of that movie had black hair and very pale, white skin.” But perhaps a more elegant word choice would be to say that the movie star had *alabaster* skin.

In this game, we provide a list of “elegant” words. You should first try to come up with the correct definitions on your own. If you can’t, we have provided three definitions from which you must choose the correct one.

We will be posting this game format regularly until we complete the alphabet. This week, we are looking at elegant words that begin with the letter A.

## Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first word and ask for its definition. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year’s blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may “buzz” in and answer.
4. If no one comes up with the correct definition, read the three possible answers.
5. As before, the first player/team to signal may give an answer. If the answer is incorrect, the others may “buzz” in.
6. Score 10 points for each correct answer. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** In this game we provide a list of words that are not obscure, but not very commonly used. You should first try to come up with the correct definitions on your own. If you can't, we have provided three definitions from which you must choose the correct one.

## QUESTIONS

1. **Abattoir (ab•ah•TWAH)**  
 A: A very ornate bathroom  
 B: A slaughterhouse  
 C: A group of three monks
2. **Acolyte (ACK•oh•light)**  
 A: A person who follows another; an aide to a priest in some religious ceremonies  
 B: A lighting fixture in a soundproof room  
 C: A college fraternity pledge
3. **Anemone: (ah•NEM•oh•knee)**  
 A: A long-time rival  
 B: A unit of currency in Vietnam  
 C: A colorful flower; a marine creature that looks like a flower
4. **Austere: (os•TEAR)**  
 A: Plain and without decoration or comforts; severe or stern in disposition or appearance  
 B: A freestanding shelf; a decorative box placed over a radiator  
 C: Traditions unique to Australia and New Zealand
5. **Avarice: (AV•ah•riss)**  
 A: A man-made shelter for birds  
 B: Organic rice grown hydroponically (without soil)  
 C: Extreme greed for wealth
6. **Atelier: (ah•TELL•yay)**  
 A: A French dish made with escargot (snails)  
 B: An artist's studio or workshop  
 C: The central portion of a building, often with an open roof
7. **Ameliorate: (ah•MEAL•lee•or•ate)**  
 A: To feed a hungry animal

- B: To become worse  
C: To make better; to improve or enhance
8. **Ambivalence: (am•BIV•ah•lence)**  
A: A short curtain at the top of a window  
B: Simultaneous, conflicted feelings towards a thing, person, event  
C: To walk while carrying luggage
9. **Adroit: (ah•DROYT)**  
A: A small robot  
B: A follower of an ancient Celtic religion  
C: Quick or skillful; adept
10. **Aesthete: (ass•THEET)**  
A: A person who appreciates art or beauty  
C: An expert in the sciences  
A: A person who lives very simply without money or any luxuries
11. **Aphorism: (AFF•or•izm)**  
A: A mathematical statement  
B: A system of behaviors to promote peace and civility  
C: A short saying that expresses a general truth
12. **Aggrandize: (ah•GRAND•eyes)**  
A: To insult a person or his/her family  
B: To increase the greatness of a person or entity  
C: To talk continuously without allowing interruption

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## ANSWERS

1. B: A slaughterhouse
2. A: A person who follows another; an aide to a priest in some religious ceremonies
3. C: A colorful flower; a marine creature that looks like a flower
4. A: Plain and without decoration or comforts; severe or stern in disposition or appearance
5. C: Extreme greed for wealth
6. B: An artist's studio or workshop
7. C: To make better; to improve or enhance
8. B: Simultaneous, conflicted feelings towards a thing, person, event
9. C: Quick or skillful; adept
10. A: Person who appreciates art or beauty
11. C: A short saying that expresses a general truth
12. B: To increase the greatness of a person or entity