

8/24/25

Elegant English

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 B.

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. Brackish: (BRACK•ish)
A: A wall filled with shelving
B: Dark and ominous
C: Slightly salty; unappealing
2. Bifurcate: (BY•fur•kate)
A: To divide into two parts
B: To neutralize an acid
C: To remove the pelt from an animal
3. Blithe: (BLYTHE)
A: Stupid and unaware
B: Nearly transparent, or gossamer-thin
C: Happy; lighthearted; carefree
4. Bivouac: (BIV•oo•ack)
A: A group of two or more off-duty sailors
B: A temporary military encampment under little or no shelter
C: Time off during military deployment
5. Bellwether: (BELL•weather)
A: A warning siren in a lighthouse
B: An indicator of future trends; a trendsetter
C: A person who is skilled at keeping the peace
6. Boorish: (BORE•ish)
A: A poorly decorated home or office
B: Ill-mannered and coarse in behavior
C: Stubborn; inflexible
7. Bellicose: (BELL•ick•ose)
A: Prominent veins in the abdomen and upper legs
B: Eager to fight; aggressive
C: A lace fabric, or thin metal filigree

8. Bluestocking: (BLU•stocking)
A: An educated or literary woman; an early feminist
B: A woman in the British Navy
C: A young, privileged boy in 18th-century America
9. Bloviate: (BLO•vee•ate)
A: To drive in circles, without reaching a destination
B: To talk at length in a pompous or arrogant way
C: To gain weight rapidly
10. Brio: (BREE•oh)
A: An open sandwich of bread and cheese
B: Sustained feelings of sadness or melancholy
C: Exuberant enjoyment of life; vivacity
11. Bowdlerize: (BOWD•lur•eyes)
A: To cut hair in the shape of a bowl
B: To remove passages from a book that are considered improper or offensive
C: To selfishly keep something for yourself without sharing it
12. Bibulous: (BIB•you•lis)
A: Addicted to alcohol
B: Having atrocious table manners
C: Excessively fond of reading the bible
13. Burnish: (BURN•ish)
A: To use a flame to create a crust on whipped cream
B: A demonym (or name for) a person from Northern Scotland
C: To polish by rubbing
14. Banal: (Bah•NAL or BAY•nul)
A: Trite; boring; stale
B: Thoroughly soaked; squeaky clean
C: The beginning sequence of a movie
15. Blandishment: (BLAN•dish•ment)
A: Flattery intended to persuade
B: Decorative accessories
C: A punishment, specifically one that is not too onerous

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ANSWERS

1. C: Slightly salty; unappealing
2. A: To divide into two parts
3. C: Happy; lighthearted; carefree
4. B: A temporary military encampment under little or no shelter
5. B: An indicator of future trends; a trendsetter
6. B: Ill-mannered and coarse in behavior
7. B: Eager to fight; aggressive
8. A: An educated or literary woman; an early feminist
9. B: To talk at length in a pompous or arrogant way
10. C: Exuberant enjoyment of life; vivacity
11. B: To remove passages from a book that are considered improper or offensive
12. A: Addicted to alcohol
13. C: To polish by rubbing
14. A: Trite; boring; stale
15. A: Flattery intended to persuade