

9/14/25

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 E.

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. Effervesce: (eff•er•VESS)
A: Extremely efficient and effective
B: To shine very brightly
C: To bubble over
2. Eclectic: (eck•LECK•tic)
A: To darken or obscure the beauty of something
B: Broad and diverse, as in a range of ideas or things
C: A conversation or event that is expectedly cut short
3. Estuary: (ESS•chew•airy)
A: A birth announcement
B: Where a river connects to the sea
C: To make a word plural
4. Egregious: (ee•GREE•jes)
A: To openly defy one's religious upbringing
B: Very talkative
C: Outrageously bad
5. Ephemeral: (eff•FEM•er•ul)
A: Lasting a very short time
B: An exaggerated sense of sadness
C: Especially delicate and pretty
6. Emollient: (ee•MOLL•yent)
A: A temporary repair to a dilapidated structure
B: A substance that softens and soothes the skin
C: An ingredient that thickens a sauce
7. Epiphany: (ee•PIFF•en•knee)
A: An energetic burst of house cleaning
B: The last day of the month
C: A sudden, intuitive understanding or realization

8. Ebullient: (ee•BOOL•yent)
A: To lie repeatedly
B: A grainy substance added to paint to create a textured surface
C: Joyously unrestrained; happy
9. Élan: (ee•LAHN)
A: Energy; enthusiasm
B: An African antelope
C: An urban landscape
10. Elucidate: (ee•LOOSE•id•ate)
A: To create a detailed schedule
B: To ignore or avoid
C: To explain further; clarify
11. Ennui: (on•WE)
A: A French potato soup
B: A feeling of listlessness or boredom
C: Sarcastic; cynical
12. Eviscerate: (ee•VIS•sir•ate)
A: To remove all liquid from a fruit or vegetable
B: To shred paper
C: To gut or disembowel a person or animal
13. Empirical: (em•PEER•ick•ul)
A: To understand the feelings of another person; sympathetic
B: Term for knowledge derived from experiment and observation rather than theory
C: A high-waisted dress
14. Encomium: (en•KO•me•um)
A: High praise in a speech or written material
B: An unbreakable secret code
C: A metallic element used in medical imaging technology
15. Equanimity: (eck•wa•NIM•ity)
A: Calmness, especially in a stressful situation
B: Tolerant; charitable
C: To possess a good sense of fairness or justice

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ANSWERS

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|-----|-------------|--|
| 1. | Effervesce: | C: To bubble over |
| 2. | Eclectic: | B: Broad and diverse, as in range of ideas or things |
| 3. | Estuary: | B: Where a river connects to the sea |
| 4. | Egregious: | C: Outrageously bad |
| 5. | Ephemeral: | A: Lasting a very short time |
| 6. | Emollient: | B: A substance that softens and soothes the skin |
| 7. | Epiphany: | C: A sudden, intuitive understanding or realization |
| 8. | Ebullient: | C: Joyously unrestrained; happy |
| 9. | Élan: | A: Energy; enthusiasm |
| 10. | Elucidate: | C: To explain further; clarify |
| 11. | Ennui: | B: A feeling of listlessness or boredom |
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| 13. | Empirical: | B: Term for knowledge derived from experiment and observation rather than theory |
| 14. | Encomium: | A: High praise in a speech or written material |
| 15. | Equanimity: | A: Calmness, especially in a stressful situation |