

9/28/25

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 **G**.

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. Gambol: (GAM•bull)
A: A type of infrared ray of light
B: A very messy or untidy room or house
C: To skip or jump merrily
2. Garrulous: (GAR•ah•liss)
A: An abundance of troops gathered before a battle
B: Excessively talkative, especially about trivial matters
C: Unable or unwilling to speak clearly
3. Gannet: (GAN•nit)
A: A large, white seabird
B: A yellow to yellow-green gemstone
C: A 17th century military musket
4. Grenadine: (GREN•ah•deen)
A: A foot soldier
B: A sweet syrup made from the juice of the pomegranate
C: A person from northern Switzerland
5. Gratuitous: (gra•TOO•it•tiss)
A: To leave an overly generous tip
B: To shave small pieces off a large block of ice or cheese
C: Unnecessary and unwarranted
6. Grandiloquent: (grand•ILL•oh•quent)
A: Using lofty language
B: The oldest member of a Freemason lodge
C: To talk continuously; to filibuster
7. Guileless: (GILE•less)
A: Stupid
B: Without a modicum of courtesy or kindness
C: Free of deceit; honest and direct
8. Gossamer: (GOSS•ah•mer)
A: A person who engages in gossip

- B: Unusually light and delicate
- C: A pillow or blanket made of goose down
- 9. Gloaming: (GLOW•ming)
 - A: A particularly bright night, with a full moon and many visible stars
 - B: A muddy, swampy terrain
 - C: Twilight
- 10. Germane: (ger•MAIN)
 - A: A bacteria that causes disease
 - B: A large flower that usually blooms in late autumn
 - C: Relevant and appropriate
- 11. Gesso: (JESS•oh)
 - A: Plaster of Paris used in painting
 - B: A thickening agent used in stews and puddings
 - C: A discotheque dance from the 1960s
- 12. Gesticulate: (ges•TICK•cue•late)
 - A: To guess at an answer
 - B: To use vocabulary incorrectly or inappropriately
 - C: To make movements with the hands or arms while speaking
- 13. Ganache: (gun•AHSH)
 - A: Very stylish
 - B: Tastelessly showy
 - C: A whipped frosting used on caked and pastries
- 14. Garrote (ga•ROT)
 - A: A wire, cord, or apparatus used to strangle
 - B: A medium-paced French dance, popular in the 18th century
 - C: A medium-sized songbird, often kept as a pet

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ANSWERS

- | | |
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| 1. Gambol | C: To skip or jump merrily |
| 2. Garrulous | B: Excessively talkative, especially about trivial matters |
| 3. Gannet | A: A large, white seabird |
| 4. Grenadine | B: A sweet syrup made from the juice of the pomegranate |
| 5. Gratuitous | C: Unnecessary and unwarranted |
| 6. Grandiloquent | A: Using lofty language |
| 7. Guileless | C: Free of deceit; honest and direct |
| 8. Gossamer | B: Unusually light and delicate |
| 9. Gloaming | C: Twilight |
| 10. Germane | C: Relevant and appropriate |
| 11. Gesso | A: Plaster of Paris used in painting |
| 12. Gesticulate | C: To make movements with the hands or arms while speaking |
| 13. Ganache | C: A whipped frosting used on caked and pastries |
| 14. Garrote | A: A wire, cord, or apparatus used to strangle |