

10/12/25

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 **I**.

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. Imbroglio: (im•BRO•lee•o)
 A: A very confused, complicated and troublesome situation
 B: A highly embroidered silk fabric
 C: Italian shoes that are usually worn indoors
2. Imbue: (im•BYOO)
 A: To eat just one type of food exclusively
 B: To forbid a food or behavior, usually for religious reasons
 C: To embed or permeate something with a feeling or quality
3. Incipient: (in•SIP•ee•ent)
 A: A person who often deceives and misleads others
 B: Just beginning or just coming into existence
 C: A characteristic or trait that a person was born with
4. Inculcate: (IN•cull•kate)
 A: A cooking technique in which spices are infused into the meat
 B: To expose something that has been hidden for many years
 C: To cause someone to have particular beliefs or values by repeating them frequently
5. Indolent: (IN•duh•lent)
 A: Peaceful; non-violent
 B: Poor; without any financial resources
 C: Without real interest or effort; lazy
6. Ineffable: (in•EFF•ah•bull)
 A: Something so amazing that there are no words to describe it
 B: Able to do a job; capable
 C: A job or responsibility that requires a great deal of work
7. Insipid: (in•SIP•id)
 A: Lacking in flavor or zest; dull; uninteresting

- B: Very pale and weak, especially in reference to a woman
C: Extremely angry; full of rage
8. Ibis: (EYE•bis)
A: An Indonesian tree which yields a very fine ink.
B: A mild pain killer
C: A large bird with long legs that wades in water to find food
9. Immure (im•MURE)
A: Not susceptible to most diseases
B: To lock up or confine someone in a prison or tomb
C: To shine and glitter, such as water or snow, when in contact with direct sunlight
10. Innocuous: (in•KNOCK•cue•us)
A: Not likely to offend; harmless
B: People or animals that have been vaccinated
C: Animals that are only active at night
11. Impluvium: (im•PLOO•vi•um)
A: A rectangular pool in the center of an ancient Roman home, that was used to gather rain water
B: An archaic word for an outhouse, from the Greek for toilet
C: A collection of feathers from a large variety of birds
12. Imprimatur: (im•prim•AHT•er)
A: The first of a series of items or actions
B: A royal title in Imperial Russia
C: A sign or mark of approval
13. Inure: (in•YER)
A: To hold a position or office for life
B: To become accustomed to something unpleasant
C: An African mammal, related to the gazelle

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ANSWERS

1. Imbroglia A: A very confused, complicated and troublesome situation
2. Imbue C: To embed or permeate something with a feeling or quality
3. Incipient B: Just beginning or just coming into existence
4. Inculcate C: To cause someone to have particular beliefs or values by repeating them frequently
5. Indolent C: Without real interest or effort; lazy
6. Ineffable A: Something so amazing that there are no words to describe it.
7. Insipid A: Lacking in flavor or zest; dull; uninteresting
8. Ibis C: A large bird with long legs that wades in water to find food
9. Immure B: To lock up or confine someone in a prison or tomb
10. Innocuous A: Without harm; benign
11. Impluvium A: A rectangular pool in the center of an ancient Roman home, that was used to gather rainwater
12. Imprimatur C: A sign or mark of approval
13. Inure B: To become accustomed to something unpleasant