

10/19/25

# 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 **J or K**.

## 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. Jeune: (Ja•JUNE)  
A: Free from worries or responsibility  
B: Very thin and wispy  
C: Very simple or childish; uninteresting
2. Jabberwocky  
A: A *Star Wars* character  
B: Nonsense; gibberish  
C: Disoriented, especially after a boxing match
3. Jalousie: (JAL•ah•see)  
A: An outside shutter with angled slats  
B: An especially hot chili pepper  
C: A type of knot commonly used for hanging
4. Jardinière: (jar•din•AIR)  
A: The person in a royal residence who looks after the bathrooms  
B: A flower worn on the lapel  
C: Container for displaying flowers
5. Jargonaut:  
A: A person who uses excessive jargon  
B: A person who collects unusual jars  
C: A mythical person who travels the seas in a glass boat
6. Jitney:  
A: A beetle-like insect; or a fast dance from the 1930s named after the jitney bug.  
B: A very nervous person  
C: A low-cost, usually small, passenger vehicle
7. Juxtapose:  
A: A model's stance, especially when modelling shoes  
B: Place side by side  
C: To disagree with a judge

8. Jetsam:  
A: Materials used to build a dock or pier  
B: Liquid fuel used by rockets and large airplanes  
C: Part of a ship's cargo thrown overboard to lighten the load
9. Knell:  
A: The sound of a bell rung slowly to announce a death  
B: A low rising grassy hill, usually found in an urban green space  
C: A pickled cabbage dish popular in Poland
10. Kinkajou:  
A: Popular colorful shoes for the pre-school set  
B: A South American racoon-like mammal  
C: A unit of energy as measured in a nuclear reactor
11. Kraken:  
A: A South American evergreen tree  
B: A slang term for zero, zip, nothing  
C: A legendary sea monster
12. Kismet: (KIZ•met)  
A: A perfect solution to a problem  
B: A Middle Eastern dish containing grape leaves, olives, and rice  
C: Fate; destiny
13. Kuru: (koo•roo)  
A: A brain disease transmitted by cannibalism  
B: A large, fierce, Indonesian reptile  
C: A small African drum
14. Ketch:  
A: A thin, tomato-based steak sauce  
B: A small two-masted sailing vessel  
C: A type of fastener used on delicate fabric, especially wedding gowns.
15. Kith:  
A: A lisp or speech impediment  
B: A traveler's personal belongings  
C: A person's friends, acquaintances, and relations

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## ANSWERS

- |     |             |  |
|-----|-------------|--|
| 1.  | Jejune      | C: Very simple or childish; uninteresting                      |
| 2.  | Jabberwocky | B: Nonsense; gibberish   |
| 3.  | Jalousie    | A: An outside shutter with angled slats                        |
| 4.  | Jardinière  | C: Container for displaying flowers                            |
| 5.  | Jargonaut   | A: A person who uses excessive jargon                          |
| 6.  | Jitney      | C: A low-cost, usually small, passenger vehicle                |
| 7.  | Juxtapose   | B: Place side by side  |
| 8.  | Jetsam      | C: Part of a ship's cargo thrown overboard to lighten the load |
| 9.  | Knell       | A: The sound of a bell rung slowly to announce a death         |
| 10. | Kinkajou    | B: A South American racoon-like mammal                         |
| 11. | Kraken      | C: A legendary sea monster                                     |
| 12. | Kismet      | C: Fate; destiny   |
| 13. | Kuru        | A: A brain disease transmitted by cannibalism                  |
| 14. | Ketch       | B: A small two-masted sailing vessel                           |
| 15. | Kith        | C: A person's friends, acquaintances, and relations            |