

11/9/25

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 **N**.

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.

11/9/25

Elegant English

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. Nova: (NO•vah)
A: A new invention or innovation.
B: American slang for "I'm not going," from the Spanish for *no go*.
C: A collapsing or dying star.
2. Nadir: (NAY•der or NAY•deer)
A: An Arabic mayor or governor.
B: The lowest point; the worst moment.
C: A Middle Eastern beverage made from yogurt.
3. Nevus: (KNEE•vis)
A: A freckle, mole, or birthmark.
B: An ornate entrance to a church.
C: The top portion of a mountain that is above the tree line.
4. Nulliparous: (null•LIP•ar•is)
A: Medical term for a woman who has never given birth.
B: Description of a man who has never married.
C: A mathematical operation in which the answer is always zero.
5. Nihilism: (KNEE•ill•izm)
A: To completely eradicate something; to destroy to the point of non-existence.
B: Extreme skepticism; a belief that all political and religious organizations are bad.
C: A dietary system that relies entirely on fruits and nuts.
6. Nares: (NEHR•ease)
A: The nostrils.
B: The proper name for the Adam's apple.
C: The narrow tubes of the tear ducts.

7. Noisette: (nwa•ZET)
A: A small bouquet of tiny flowers.
B: A small round piece of lean meat, especially lamb.
C: A small, round loaf of fragrant bread.
8. Nostrum: (NAW•strum)
A: A food or beverage that can induce vomiting.
B: An 18th-century stringed instrument commonly used in dance tunes.
C: A quack remedy from the age of patent medicines.
9. Necographer: (Neck•COG•gruff•fur)
A: A crime scene photographer.
B: An obituary writer.
C: A tattoo artist.
10. Numismatics: (new•miss•MAT•ticks)
A: The study of arithmetic and arithmetic systems.
B: The study or collection of currency, coins, paper money, etc.
C: People who collect antique doorknobs.
11. Natation: (nay•TAY•shin)
A: Swimming.
B: Pregnancy.
C: Governing.
12. Numbat: (NUM•bat)
A: A wooden club that is used in championship cricket.
B: A person who is easily hypnotized.
C: A small, colorful Australian marsupial whose diet consists almost exclusively of termites.

11/9/25

Elegant English

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|---|
| 1. | Nova | C: A collapsing or dying star. |
| 2. | Nadir | B: The lowest point; the worst moment. |
| 3. | Nevus | A: A freckle, mole, or birthmark. |
| 4. | Nulliparous | A: Medical term for a woman who has never given birth. |
| 5. | Nihilism | B: Extreme skepticism; a belief that all political and religious organizations are bad. |
| 6. | Nares | A: The nostrils. |
| 7. | Noisette | B: A small round piece of lean meat, especially lamb. |
| 8. | Nostrum | C: A quack remedy from the age of patent medicines. |
| 9. | Necographer | B: An obituary writer. |
| 10. | Numismatics | B: The study or collection of currency, coins, paper money, etc. |
| 11. | Natation | A: Swimming. |
| 12. | Numbat | C: A small, colorful Australian marsupial whose diet consists almost exclusively of termites. |