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# 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 **U**.

## 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.

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1. Ubiquitous (you•BICK•wit•iss)  
 A: To give up easily and often.  
 B: Omnipresent, i.e. present everywhere at once.  
 C: A bird that has a very large bill or beak.
2. Umbrage (UM•bridge)  
 A: A feeling of anger or being offended.  
 B: A container or set of hooks that hold raincoats and umbrellas.  
 C: A brownish-red color.
3. Unambiguous (un•am•BIG•gyoo•us)  
 A: Lazy; having no goals.  
 B: Drab or boring décor or surroundings.  
 C: Having a single meaning; not open to interpretation.
4. Unctuous (UNK•chew•iss)  
 A: Excessively flattering or ingratiating.  
 B: Having many holes, such as Swiss cheese or a colander.  
 C: Non-functional; purely decorative.
5. Undaunted (un•DAWN•ted)  
 A: Non-religious; a person who was never baptized.  
 B: Extremely serious; a person who rarely smiles or laughs.  
 C: Resolutely courageous even when facing difficulty or danger.
6. Unassailable (un•ah•SAIL•ah•bull)  
 A: A disabled boat, usually one that is already at sea.  
 B: A very expensive item.  
 C: Impossible to attack, question, or defeat.
7. Undulate (UN•jew•late)  
 A: To bow or curtsy.  
 B: Move in a smooth wavy pattern.  
 C: To milk a cow.

8. Unfettered (un•FEH•turd)  
A: A loose, unwoven fabric.  
B: Not bound or restrained by shackles or chains.  
C: A horse that is unshod.
9. Unkempt (un•KEMPT)  
A: Uncoordinated; not graceful.  
B: Very shy and retiring.  
C: An untidy or disheveled appearance.
10. Upbraid (up•BRAID)  
A: To find fault or scold someone.  
B: A very high hairdo popular with women in the 1890s and again in the 1980s.  
C: To kiss up to someone for your own advantage.
11. Urbane (ur•BANE)  
A: A person who never leaves the city.  
B: Very refined or courteous.  
C: Calm and peaceful.
12. Urchin (UR•chin)  
A: A flower with sharp, spike-like thorns.  
B: An old-fashioned word for an expert in archery.  
C: A poor and often mischievous child.
13. Usurp (you•SURP)  
A: To seize and take control without authority.  
B: Got the highest score on a test or exam paper.  
C: To startle or frighten someone.
14. Usury (YOU•zhur•ree)  
A: Collective term for costume jewelry.  
B: Lending money at an exorbitant rate of interest.  
C: A glue used to hold the edges of a wound together, often used in place of sutures.

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## ANSWERS

1. Ubiquitous                      B: Omnipresent, i.e. present everywhere at once.
2. Umbrage                         A: A feeling of anger or being offended.
3. Unambiguous                 C: Having a single meaning; not open to interpretation.
4. Unctuous                        A: Excessively flattering or ingratiating.
5. Undaunted                      C: Resolutely courageous even in the face of difficulty or danger.
6. Unassailable                 C: Impossible to attack, question, or defeat.
7. Undulate                        B: Move in a smooth wavy pattern.
8. Unfettered                     B: Not bound or restrained by shackles or chains.
9. Unkempt                        C: An untidy or disheveled appearance.
10. Upbraid                        A: To find fault or scold someone.
11. Urbane                         B: Very refined or courteous.
12. Urchin                         C: A poor and often mischievous child
13. Usurp                         A: To seize and take control without authority
14. Usury                         B: Lending money at an exorbitant rate of interest