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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.

This week, we’ve reached the end of the alphabet, so we are looking at elegant words that begin with the letters **W, X, Y, and Z**.

## 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. Wheedle (WHEE•dull)  
A: A type of hand-weaving using a lap loom.  
B: A common insect that is destructive to corn and wheat crops.  
C: To influence someone by gentle urging or flattery.
2. Whelp (WELP)  
A: To repair the wooden wheels of a horse-drawn wagon or carriage.  
B: Canine offspring, including dogs and wolves.  
C: To apply sutures after a surgery.
3. Winsome (WIN•sum)  
A: Thin and fair-skinned.  
B: Charming in a childlike or naïve way.  
C: A lucky person.
4. Wized (WIZ•end)  
A: Lean and wrinkled, as from age or illness.  
B: To fall under the spell of a necromancer or wizard.  
C: Made wise by experience.
5. Wraith (RAYTH)  
A: Extreme anger.  
B: A ghostly figure, usually seen shortly before death.  
C: A very large woolen scarf or poncho.
6. Wainscot (WAYNES•cot)  
A: A length of fabric, often silk, that is wrapped around a man's waist.  
B: An edible bean, used especially to make baked beans.  
C: To line a room or wall with wooden paneling.

7. Wainwright (WAYNE•right)  
A: A wagon builder.  
B: A barrel maker.  
C: A plowmaker.
8. Whelk (WELK)  
A: A type of carnivorous sea snail.  
B: A German musical instrument related to the accordion.  
C: A young reindeer.
9. Xenophobia (zee•no•FOE•bee•ah)  
A: Fear of the outside.  
B: Fear of communicable diseases.  
C: Fear or dislike of people from other countries.
10. Zephyr (ZEFF•er)  
A: An interpreter of myth and culture in ancient times.  
B: A soft, gentle breeze.  
C: An oversized pillow that functions as a piece of furniture.
11. Zeppole (ZEP•po•lee)  
A: The pole that firefighters slide down in a firehouse.  
B: The lightweight skeleton that holds a zeppelin or blimp together.  
C: An Italian deep-fried dough pastry.
12. Zircon  
A: A fragrant flower that blooms in late summer.  
B: A gem typically brown in nature, but clear or blue when made into jewelry.  
C: A type of rabbit.
13. Zygote (ZY•goat)  
A: A type of music brought from Africa to New Orleans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
B: An Italian dessert made with custard, cream, and fruit.  
C: A fertilized egg.

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## ANSWERS

1. Wheedle C: To influence someone by gentle urging or flattery.
2. Whelp B: Canine offspring, including dogs and wolves.
3. Winsome B: Charming in a childlike or naïve way.
4. Wizeded A: Lean and wrinkled as from age or illness.
5. Wraith B: A ghostly figure, usually seen shortly before death.
6. Wainscot C: To line a room or wall with wooden paneling.
7. Wainwright A: A wagon builder.
8. Whelk A: A type of carnivorous sea snail.
9. Xenophobia C: Fear or dislike of people from other countries.
10. Zephyr B: A soft, gentle breeze.
11. Zeppole C: An Italian deep-fried dough pastry.
12. Zircon B: A gem typically brown in nature, but clear or blue when made into jewelry.
13. Zygote C: A fertilized egg.