



Sample Vocabulary Questions

*These multiple-choice vocabulary questions are similar to those that spellers will answer as part of the new vocabulary portion of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. These specific questions will **not** be used in any portion of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.*

1. What is the purpose of **defibrillation**?

- a) removing fibrous matter from vegetables
- b) removing bodily hair
- c) restoring the rhythm of the heart
- d) reducing a fever using medication

correct: c

2. An **heiress** is a woman who:

- a) inherits great wealth
- b) owns a hot air balloon
- c) accrues massive debts
- d) tests new hair products

correct: a

3. What does it mean to be **intestate**?

- a) be under strenuous circumstances
- b) be without a valid will
- c) be in the middle of a test in school
- d) be in possession of a large amount of money

correct: b

4. Something described as **indocile** is:

- a) markedly inane or foolish
- b) not able to be physically documented
- c) not easily instructed or controlled
- d) perseveringly active

correct: c

5. What does it mean to **winnow**?

- a) expel through an opening in the side of a building
- b) swim quickly
- c) take out undesired parts
- d) play a game of chance for money or other stakes

correct: c

6. What does it mean to **appertain**?

- a) assume the character or appearance of
- b) belong either as something appropriate or as an attribute
- c) distress severely so as to cause continued suffering
- d) be guilty of

correct: b

7. Something described as **corrigible** is:

- a) correctable
- b) rigid
- c) unmanageable
- d) filled with air

correct: a

8. What does it mean to **eradicate** something?

- a) send it out from one focal point
- b) illuminate it
- c) deeply root it
- d) destroy it completely

correct: d

9. Something described as **refulgent** is:

- a) tending to move toward one point
- b) demanding immediate action
- c) rising from an inferior state
- d) giving out a bright light

correct: d

10. **Nomenclature** has to do with:

- a) religious ceremonies
- b) names
- c) bones
- d) folk superstitions

correct: b

11. Something described as **volatile** is:

- a) illegal
- b) impressive
- c) explosive
- d) calming

correct: c

12. When would a **prognosis** be given?

- a) after a disease diagnosis
- b) during an operatic performance
- c) after a horse race
- d) during a guided meditation

correct: a

13. Which of these is an example of **onomatopoeia**?

- a) chrome
- b) novella
- c) haiku
- d) buzz

correct: d

14. Something described as **punitive** is:

- a) whiny
- b) punishing
- c) commonly accepted
- d) acting as a shrinking agent

correct: b

15. Where would a **campestral** scene take place?

- a) in the country
- b) in a city
- c) at the beach
- d) in a warehouse

correct: a