

Journalism Style

Spelling Continued

In the Chapter 16 *Journalism Style*, you learned about the difference between the receptive and generative vocabulary and why some people have trouble with spelling. You were also asked to work in groups and take turns pronouncing and spelling often misspelled words. Those words all appear in context sentences below.

1. accommodate: The gym can accommodate 1,000 students.
beginning: She is beginning to get mad.
limousine: Not trusting his driving, her parents rented a limousine.
2. a lot of: He complained, "I have a lot of homework."
surprised: He was surprised to find it in his backpack.
thoroughly: I am thoroughly disgusted.
3. probably: I'll probably be up until midnight.
business: She wants to go into business.
possess: She did not possess much humility.
4. calendar: I'll put the date on my calendar.
definitely: He definitely wants to dance.
exaggerate: I have told you a thousand times not to exaggerate.
5. decathlon: She is competing in Academic Decathlon.
disappoint: I'm sorry to disappoint you.
absence: The governor could not explain his three-day absence.
6. sophomore: He is a member of the sophomore class.
descriptive: Feature writing requires descriptive language.
dumbbell: He dropped a dumbbell on his foot.
7. perform: The band will perform at half-time.
occasion: Prom is a special occasion.
ubiquitous: Earbuds are nearly ubiquitous among bus riders.
8. committee: The prom committee has chosen the theme.
truly: Her makeup was truly wretched.
rhythm: They stamped an intricate rhythm with their feet.
9. boutonniere: She bought him a boutonniere.
recommend: Can you recommend a good hairstylist?
rhyme: Rap music employs frequent rhyme.
10. corsage: He bought her a corsage.
embarrass: I did not mean to embarrass you.
souvenir: Those who attend prom will take home a souvenir vase.
11. opponent: He pinned his opponent to the mat.
necessary: Is this trip necessary?
temperature: The temperature dropped to near-freezing.
12. receive: She will receive her diploma.
occurred: It occurred to him to bring an umbrella.
sabotage: The rebels attempted to sabotage the election.
13. separate: They will take separate buses.
noticeable: The stain was barely noticeable.
vignette: His speech was more a series of vignettes than a lecture.
14. admissible: His cellphone was admissible as evidence.
appropriate: Her remarks were both appropriate and polite.
weird: Macbeth meets weird sisters.
15. privilege: A driver's license is a privilege.
committed: She is committed to CrossFit.
siege: The Greeks laid siege to Troy.
16. finally: He finally got a good night's sleep.
guarantee: Get the guarantee in writing.
diploma: Graduates will receive their official diplomas after the ceremony.

Additional Practice

Honing your spelling skills will make you a better journalist. Keeping a "demon list" of terms that give you trouble may help you improve your spelling. Some of the terms listed below may already be on that list.

Try It!

Working in a group, take turns reading each set of often misspelled words and their context sentences while the others write them. Read the words and

sentences in a natural voice, not emphasizing the spelling. Alternate readers so that everyone has an opportunity to spell each set of words.

At the end of each set, check your words against the list. Add any words you misspelled to your list of spelling demons. Study this list at least as often as you check your phone. Keep adding words when you find you need to look them up or when a spell-checker or a copy editor catches you misspelling them. As you master the spelling, draw a thin line through the words you are now confident you can spell correctly. Your weakness can become your strength.

17. doughnut: A doughnut and an energy drink do not make a good breakfast.

Note: The AP Stylebook prefers this spelling over *donut*.

adviser: My journalism adviser deserves more chocolate.

Note: The AP Stylebook prefers *adviser*, while Webster's New World Dictionary prefers *advisor*. When the two disagree, AP style trumps Webster's, even though Webster's New World is the AP's preferred dictionary.

conferences: The counselors are holding senior conferences.

18. February: They held their first meeting in February.

captain: She is the captain of the water polo team.

acquire: The computer lab will use its grant to acquire 10 Apple iPads.

19. until: She will not leave until June.

Note: AP style also allows for *till* but not *'til*.

writing: Research is fun, but writing is hard work.

decided: He decided to go home early.

20. cannot: She cannot find her math book.

Note: This can also be spelled as two words—*can not*—but the single word spelling is more common.

anyway: He was late leaving home, but he made the bus anyway.

Note: This can be spelled as two words when used to mean “by any method.”

college: She is applying for college.

21. tragedy: Her death was a tragedy for the whole community.

judgment: In my judgment, he was out of bounds.

Note: Webster's New World lists *judgement* as an alternate spelling, but AP style prefers *judgment*.

acknowledgment: He acknowledged my acknowledgment.

Note: Webster's New World lists *acknowledgement* as an alternate spelling, but AP style prefers *acknowledgment*.

22. hors d'oeuvres: Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

misspell: Please do not misspell CrossFit.

cemetery: He whistles when he goes by a cemetery.

23. colonel: She retired as a colonel from the Marine Corps.

forty: Do you think you will live to be forty?

Note: Although this is the correct spelling, AP style prefers the use of numerals for any number 10 and higher, except at the start of a sentence.

lieutenant: He received his commission as a lieutenant.

24. harass(ment): He was suspended from the team for sexual harassment.

tomatoes: She wanted double tomatoes, no meat on her hamburger.

Wednesday: The deadline is Wednesday.

25. twelfth: He is ranked twelfth in his class.

Note: Although this is the correct spelling, AP style prefers the use of numerals (for example, 12th).

supersede: The new grade supersedes the earlier one.

vengeance: The team took vengeance on its arch rivals.

26. sergeant: She runs her class like a drill sergeant.

Renaissance: During the Renaissance, painters perfected the use of perspective.

Note: The term *Renaissance* is capitalized when referring to the time period from the 14th to 16th centuries. It is lowercase if it means *rebirth*.

rendezvous: They arranged a rendezvous after the dance.

27. buses: The buses will be waiting at the north gate.

Note: AP style prefers *buses*, but Webster's New World allows for either *buses* or *busses*.

won't: She won't let you in if you are late.

Note: *Wont* is also a word, but has a different meaning.

potatoes: Potatoes are an extremely nutrient-dense food.