

LIST OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ENGLISH WORDS TO WRITE AND PRONOUNCE

WORD	TRANSCRIPTION	MEANING	EXAMPLE
Aqueous	'eɪ.kwi.əs	In Chemistry, it means made with or containing water.	The chemists have been trying to mix aqueous chemicals in their experiments.
Aitch	eɪtʃ	This is the letter "h" when written as a word.	Some students cannot write the letter aitch correctly in their dictations.
Anachronism	ə'næk.rə.nɪ.zəm	Something that belongs to the past or a period in history.	The movie received multiple awards for setting the plot in an era filled with anachronisms .
Anesthetist	ə'ni:s.θə.tɪst	A person who was trained to give anesthesia to patients; an anesthesiologist.	I was worried that the new anesthetist would fail to inject the anesthesia into my dad.
Arcane	ɑ:'keɪn	someone or something mysterious that only a few people know	The nun who came out of the convent seems arcane .
Beguile	bɪ'gaɪl	to attract or persuade someone to deceive them	Scammers beguile innocent people.
Bramble	'bræm.bəl	wild bush with thorns	Be careful in the forest; there are brambles out there.
Byzantine	'bɪz.ən.ti:n	complicated and difficult to understand	Many people react to the new byzantine government mandate.
Charcuterie	ʃɑ:'ku:təri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ cold meat that is preserved or cooked ■ a store that sells preserved or cooked cold meat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ My friend likes to order a charcuterie. ■ The new charcuterie near our house has a lot of customers.
Chauvinism	'ʃəʊ.vɪ.nɪ.zəm	a strong belief that your country or race is the best	Chauvinism does not have a positive result to international relations.

Chiaroscuro	kiˌɑːrəˈskʊə.rəʊ	the use of areas of light and darkness in a painting	Leonardo Da Vinci is one of the famous painters who used chiaroscuro in his artworks.
Consanguineous	kɒn.sæŋˈɡwɪn.i.əs	people connected by blood relations	Consanguineous marriages are acceptable in some cultures.
Curmudgeon	kəˈmʌdʒ.ən	an old person who is always in a bad mood	The young lady took care of her old curmudgeon for more than a decade.
Debauch	dɪˈbɔːtʃ	to destroy something that is no longer valuable for use or no longer considered good	My dad debauched our tree house because it was already old.
Demagogue	ˈdem.ə.ɡɒɡ	a person, particularly a politician, who wins the support of people by emotions rather than words	The rich demagogue did not win in the elections for the second time around.
Diaphanous	daɪˈæf.ən.əs	a substance, such as a cloth, that is so thin that you can see through it	She wore a diaphanous robe during the pageant.
Diatribes	ˈdaɪ.ə.trɪɪb	an angry speech that criticizes someone or something	The radio announcer was killed because he made a diatribe during his program.
Emollient	ɪˈmɒl.i.ənt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ a cream that treats dry or sore skin to make it less painful ■ helps in treating dry, sore skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Please buy me an emollient at the pharmacy. ■ The emollient cream that I put in my dry skin was effective.
Equanimity	ˌek.wəˈnɪm.ə.ti	the state of being in a calm mental state despite being in a difficult situation	My mom is still struggling for equanimity after my dad's passing.
Fatuous	ˈfætʃ.u.əs	something is done without careful thinking	Make sure you're not going to do such a fatuous thing.
Faux pas	fəʊˈpɑː	behavior that is not polite and causes embarrassment esp. in public	The serious faux pas that he made inside the mall caused great depression in the young woman.
Foliage	ˈfəʊ.li.ɪdʒ	the leaves of a plant or tree	I like seeing the foliage of my mom's flowers in the garden.

Gaffe	gæf	an impolite social mistake that causes embarrassment; faux pas	The woman was tormented when she heard about the gaffe that the other woman did to her.
Garrulous	'gær.əl.əs	the habit of talking too much esp. about unimportant things	A garrulous woman sometimes loses friends.
Grandiloquent	græn'dɪl.ək.wənt	a style or way of using a language that is complicated to get the attention of people esp. to make something important	My father didn't like the grandiloquent speech of the mayor so he went out of the gymnasium.
Hegemony	hɪ'gem.ə.ni	in politics, it is the position that holds the strongest power and is able to control others	Hegemony is common in some Korean Drama plots.
Heresy	'her.ə.si	an opinion or belief that opposes the official belief or opinion esp. in church or religion	Many members of the cult did not want heresy within their community.
Iconoclast	aɪ'kɒn.ək.læst	a person who strongly opposes the general beliefs and traditions	Sometimes, I want to be an iconoclast .
Ignominious	ˌɪɡ.nə'mɪn.i.əs	a behavior or event that is embarrassing because of a failure	The ignominious behavior of the CEO's son caused a decline in the company's stocks.
Impedimenta	ɪmˌped.ɪ'men.tə	objects or things that are hard or difficult to carry to an event or activity	My colleagues were worried that their impedimenta would be left at the office because there is no available truck.
Inchoate	ɪn'keɪ.ɪt	not completely formed or developed	My friend had a miscarriage because of an inchoate fetus inside her womb.
Indefatigable	ˌɪn.dɪ'fæt.ɪ.gə.bəl	can't accept defeat; always energetic and does not feel tired	Working too much cannot guarantee an indefatigable feeling.
Invective	ɪn'vek.tɪv	rude or unkind criticism	Our president is an invective but he stands strong.
labyrinthine	ˌlæb.ə'rɪn.θaɪn	describing something that has a lot of parts	The human body is labyrinthine .

		and is confusing	
Lackadaisical	,læk.ə'deɪ.zɪ.kəl	lacking enthusiasm and effort	The trainees look lackadaisical on their 10th day of training.
Licentious	laɪ'sen.ʃəs	sexual behaviour of a person that is socially unacceptable	There is a law for licentious acts in my country.
Maelstrom	'meɪl.strɒm	a situation where there is violence, argument, and destruction	People in some parts of the world were shocked because of the sudden maelstrom in Israel.
Martinet	,mɑː.tɪ'net	someone who insists on obeying the rules and orders even if those are unnecessary	One of the reasons why some employees resign is because of the martinet in the administration.
Minuscule	'mɪn.ə.skjuːl	extremely small	I was very impressed with the minuscule miniatures in the exhibit.
Misogynist	mɪ'sɒdʒ.ən.ɪst	a man who hates women and believes that they are better than women	He is a misogynist who does not deserve an appreciation.
Noisome	'nɔɪ.səm	very unpleasant and offensive	Your noisome words affected my sister's mental health.
Nonplussed	,nɒn'plʌst	shocked, surprised, and doesn't know how to react	Her fiancé proposed to her and she was nonplussed .
Obdurate	'ɒb.dʒə.rət	describing a person who does not change their mind no matter what people say or advise	She knew she wouldn't win the pageant but she was so obdurate .
Pejorative	pɪ'dʒɔːr.ə.tɪv	suggesting that something is not good or important	Don't give me pejorative suggestions; I need a more concrete one.
Peremptory	pə'remp.tər.i	expecting immediate obedience, or obeying without explanation	The little boy's mom was peremptory to him at the wedding.
Phlegmatic	fleg'mæt.ɪk	does not easily feel excited about something; having less emotions	A phlegmatic friend is boring to be with.

Pillory	'pɪl.ər.i	severely criticize someone in public	It is not good to see a homeless man being pilloried in the streets.
Prevaricate	pri'væ.rɪ.keɪt	avoiding telling the truth or saying what is in your mind	I know you are prevaricating about the incident, but take note this is not tolerable.
Puerile	'pjʊə.raɪl	behaving in a silly way, not like an adult	BitNa's role in the movie is to be puerile at all times.
Puissant	'pjʊ:ɪ.sənt	very strong, powerful, and effective	A good government needs a puissant leader.
Pulchritudinous	,pʌl.krɪ'tʃu:di.nəs	beautiful	I think Angelina Jolie is pulchritudinous ; she's drop-dead gorgeous.
Quiche	ki:f	an open pastry case, filled with a mixture of eggs, cream, and other savory foods	The strawberry quiche in my favorite cake shop is affordable.
Quisling	'kwɪz.lɪŋ	a person who helps an enemy that has taken control of his country	Some quislings were considered traitors by the government.
Quixotic	kwɪk'sptɪk	having admirable intentions or ideas but are not practical	The plaintiff thought that his lawyer was quite quixotic.
Rendezvous	'rɒn.deɪ.vu:	a place where people often meet and gather by arrangement; an arrangement to meet	I need a secret rendezvous to unwind and relax.
Restaurateur	,res.tər.ə'tɜ:r	a person who owns and manages a restaurant	My fiance is a famous restaurateur in the country.
Sanguine	'sæŋ.gwɪn	positive and hoping for good things for someone's character	Her grandmother always had sanguine thoughts about her condition.
Schadenfreude	'ʃɑ:dən'frɔɪ.də	a feeling of pleasure for someone's misfortune	This schadenfreude in me is inevitable.
Surfeit	'sɜ:ft	an amount that is too large, or is more than is needed	The charity for children received a surfeit of money from the donors.
Surreptitious	,sʌr.əp'tɪʃ.əs	done secretly without anyone knowing	The thief has surreptitious techniques in stealing the diamonds from the store.

Sybarite	'sɪb.ər.aɪt	a person who loves luxury or expensive things and pleasure	Being sybarite does not determine someone's success in life.
Truculent	'trʌk.jə.lənt	unpleasant and likes to argue a lot	Our neighbor's son is truculent; it's annoying.
Ubiquitous	ju:'bɪk.wɪ.təs	something that is seen everywhere	We went to a place where bags of trash are ubiquitous .
Vicissitudes	vɪ'sɪs.ɪ.tʃuːdɪz	changes that happen at different times in someone's life and usually result to something worse	The death of a family member and the break-up are just vicissitudes of a person's life.
Zephyr	'zef.ər	a light wind	I could feel the zephyr that entered my small window last night.

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