

YEAR 5 &amp; YEAR 6

# The Y5/Y6 Vocabulary List

A core 500-word list for primary-age students preparing for the 11+ — drawn from the words most commonly tested across GL, CEM and independent papers.

## How to Work Through It

Vocabulary questions make up a meaningful chunk of every 11+ test. Cover this list steadily over Year 5 and Year 6 — about 10 words a week — and your child will recognise most of what comes up on the day. Pair it with our *Vocabulary Cheat Sheet* for the harder synonyms.

### ONE SIMPLE ROUTINE

Monday: introduce 10 new words and their meanings. Wednesday: a quick verbal test. Friday: use each in a sentence. Repeat with the next 10 the following week, and re-test old sets monthly.

#### A

abandon	adhere	ample	article
abode	admission	antiquity	assemble
absence	adopt	anxious	assiduous
absurd	advance	appeal	assistance
abundance	affable	appearance	asunder
abundant	affectionate	apprehensive	attached
accuse	aid	approve	attempt
accustom	alert	arduous	available
acquainted	ally	argument	avoid
acquire	altitude	arouse	avowed
address	ambition	artful	awkward

#### B

banish	believe	betray	bruise
bargain	belligerent	bewildered	brusque
barren	bemused	brief	burden
beautiful	benefit	Britain	business
beck	besieged	broad	

#### C

calamity	caulking	cemetery	choreographer
candidate	caution	chaos	clemency
category	cease	charred	coarse

coax	comprehend	consideration	convey
college	comrade	consist	convict
combination	conceal	conspire	convince
commence	conceited	constant	correct
commit	concentrated	consume	covert
committee	conclude	contemporary	covet
communicate	conclusion	contempt	coy
community	condemn	content	credit
companion	conferred	contest	cultivate
company	confine	contract	cunning
compel	conscience	contrast	curb
competition	conscious	contribute	curious
complex	consent	conventional	curt
composition	conserve	convert	custom

## D

debate	derelict	dilapidated	dispute
debrief	description	diluted	distasteful
deceit	despair	din	distinct
deceive	desperately	disappear	distinguished
declare	despise	disappointed	distress
decline	destitute	disarray	divine
definite	determine	disastrous	divinity
deliberate	develop	disclose	domestic
demolished	device	discontent	dose
deny	devote	dishevelled	drought
deposit	dictionary	dismal	dumb
depot	digest	disperse	dwelling

## E

earnest	endeavour	especially	expel
economical	endure	estimate	expense
elect	enterprise	evaluation	explanation
elude	entire	evident	extended
embarrass	environment	exaggerate	exterior
embrace	equip	excellent	extinction
emerge	equipment	excitement	extract
empire	erect	exclaim	extremely
employ	errand	existence	

## F

famine	fertile	flourish	frequent
fatal	flamboyant	foe	frivolous
fatigue	flawless	forbid	fund
favourite	flee	foundation	
feeble	fleet	fragment	
feign	flora	fragrant	

## G

garment  
government  
grate

gratitude  
grave  
gregarious

grieve  
grotesque  
guarantee

guard

## H

habitable  
habitat  
halt

handkerchief  
hasty  
helix

heroic  
hoax  
holiday

hollow  
humble  
hygienic

## I

idiosyncrasy  
idle  
idol  
ignorant  
imitate  
immediate  
immerse  
impudent  
inaudible

inaugural  
inaugurate  
incision  
inconspicuous  
individual  
inedible  
inferior  
influence  
inhabit

inhabitants  
innocuous  
insane  
insert  
insolent  
inspire  
intangible  
intense  
intention

interested  
interfere  
interior  
interpret  
interrogate  
interrupt  
invalid  
isolation

## J

justice

## L

labour  
lament  
language  
latter  
lavish

lean  
leisure  
lenient  
liable  
liberal

liberty  
library  
lightning  
limb  
linger

lodge  
lofty  
loneliness  
loyal

## M

majestic  
malady  
margin  
mariner  
matte

maximum  
meagre  
meant  
merchant  
mercy

mere  
meticulous  
minimum  
moderate  
modest

moral  
mortal  
mysterious

## N

nauseous  
neat

necessary  
nimble

noted  
nuisance

nurseryman

## O

oath  
object  
objection  
oblige  
obscure

obstinate  
occupy  
occur  
odour  
offend

omen  
opportunity  
oppose  
oppress  
option

ordeal  
origin  
orthodontist  
ostentatious

## P

painstaking	perplexed	poultry	promote
palaeontologist	persuade	precarious	prompt
parallel	physical	prejudice	pronunciation
Parliament	physiotherapy	present	proportion
passive	pigment	privilege	prosperous
pasture	pioneer	probably	provoke
peak	placid	proclaim	public
peculiar	pledge	procure	punctual
perceive	plume	profession	puncture
peril	plunder	profit	purpose
perilous	plunge	programme	
perish	polarity	prohibit	
permit	pompous	prominent	

## Q

quaint	quell	queue	quite
queer	quench	quiet	quiver

## R

raiment	release	resort	rhyme
ramble	repent	restaurant	ridiculous
rank	reprimand	restore	rigid
rare	reserve	restrain	roam
really	reside	retain	robust
receive	residence	retreat	rogue
recite	resign	reveal	rowdy
refuse	resolve	revive	rural

## S

sacred	shoulder	stomach	successful
sacrifice	shrine	stoop	succumb
sane	shrink	stout	sufficient
sanitary	signature	stress	suggest
satin	sincere	stretched	summit
scanty	sleek	stubborn	superfluous
score	slope	sturdy	superior
scripture	sly	subdued	supposed
secure	sober	submissive	surprise
seize	soldier	submit	suspect
seldom	sow	subterfuge	suspend
separate	special	subterranean	symbol
sermon	stern	subtropical	system

## T

temperate	tomorrow	trifle	tyrant
tempestuous	torment	trivial	
temptation	traitor	turbulent	
thrust	tranquil	twilight	

unfathomable  
uniform

union  
unite

unnecessary  
unorthodox

unsurpassed

## V

vacant  
vanished  
vapour

vast  
vehicle  
veil

venerable  
ventilation  
vessel

vicarious  
virtuous  
volatile

## W

wasteful  
weary  
weird

wholesome  
wholly  
wither

worthy  
wound  
wretched

## Y

yield

### Want help putting this into practice?

Book a free diagnostic session at our Slough or High Wycombe centre — or online.

[thinksmartacademy.co.uk](https://thinksmartacademy.co.uk) →