FREE ENGLISH RESOURCE

11+ vocabulary with meanings

A cross-year starter path: 48 carefully chosen words, child-friendly definitions, examples and a self-check.

01
Find the meaning

02
Choose precisely

03
Read between the lines

peculiar

Strange or unusual.
What feels peculiar in a story?

meticulous

Very careful about every detail.
How would a meticulous detective work?

How to use it
Read eight words at a time. Ask your child to explain a word in their own words before reading the example. Then try the meaning check at the back. There is no single official 11+ vocabulary list; this is a useful selection, not an exam prediction.

Keep practising after the paper.
Scan for the free PDF, interactive Year 4-6 word tools and more English practice.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

STAGE 1 · START HERE

Find the meaning

Words 1-8 in this stage · source: Pip's Year 4 word tool

CONJUNCTION · YEAR 4 SOURCE

although

in spite of the fact that; even though.

"Although it was raining, we still played outside."

VERB · YEAR 4 SOURCE

consider

to think carefully about something.

"Please consider both teams before you choose."

VERB · YEAR 4 SOURCE

decide

to make up your mind about something.

"You can decide which book to read first."

NOUN · YEAR 4 SOURCE

experience

something that happens to you, or skill from doing it.

"The school trip was an exciting experience."

VERB · YEAR 4 SOURCE

imagine

to picture something in your mind.

"Imagine you could fly all the way to the Moon."

NOUN · YEAR 4 SOURCE

interest

a wish to know more about something.

"She has a real interest in space."

NOUN · YEAR 4 SOURCE

knowledge

the things that you know.

"Her knowledge of dinosaurs is amazing."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 4 SOURCE

natural

made by nature, not by people.

"A river is a natural feature of the land."

Try it: Choose two words and make your own sentence for each. Does the word still make sense when you replace it with its definition?

STAGE 1 · START HERE

Find the meaning

Words 9-16 in this stage · source: Pip's Year 4 word tool

VERB · YEAR 4 SOURCE

notice

to see or become aware of; or a sign.

"Did you notice the new poster on the wall?"

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 4 SOURCE

particular

this one special one; exact.

"I want this particular sticker, not that one."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 4 SOURCE

peculiar

strange or unusual.

"The milk had a peculiar smell."

ADVERB · YEAR 4 SOURCE

perhaps

maybe; possibly.

"Perhaps it will snow tomorrow."

NOUN · YEAR 4 SOURCE

purpose

the reason for doing something.

"The purpose of the lid is to keep it warm."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 4 SOURCE

recent

happening a short time ago.

"In recent weeks the days got longer."

ADVERB · YEAR 4 SOURCE

therefore

for that reason; and so.

"It rained, therefore we stayed inside."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 4 SOURCE

various

several different ones.

"The shop sold various kinds of sweets."

Try it: Choose two words and make your own sentence for each. Does the word still make sense when you replace it with its definition?

STAGE 2 · BUILD CONFIDENCE

Choose precisely

Words 1-8 in this stage · source: Pip's Year 5 word tool

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 5 SOURCE

ancient

very old, from a long time ago.

"We visited the ruins of an ancient castle."

VERB · YEAR 5 SOURCE

appreciate

to be grateful for something, or to value it.

"I really appreciate all your help with my homework."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 5 SOURCE

awkward

clumsy, or making you feel uncomfortable.

"There was an awkward silence after his joke fell flat."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 5 SOURCE

conscious

awake and aware of what is happening.

"She stayed conscious after the bump on her head."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 5 SOURCE

determined

having made a firm decision and not giving up.

"She was determined to finish the race no matter what."

VERB · YEAR 5 SOURCE

exaggerate

to make something sound bigger or more than it really is.

"Don't exaggerate; it wasn't that scary."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 5 SOURCE

familiar

well known to you, or easy to recognise.

"Her face looked familiar, but I couldn't remember her name."

NOUN · YEAR 5 SOURCE

identity

who a person is; what makes them themselves.

"The spy kept his real identity a secret."

Try it: Choose two words and make your own sentence for each. Does the word still make sense when you replace it with its definition?

STAGE 2 · BUILD CONFIDENCE

Choose precisely

Words 9-16 in this stage · source: Pip's Year 5 word tool

NOUN · YEAR 5 SOURCE

individual

a single person, separate from a group.

"Each individual was given their own worksheet."

NOUN · YEAR 5 SOURCE

leisure

free time when you can relax and do what you enjoy.

"She reads books in her leisure time."

NOUN · YEAR 5 SOURCE

opportunity

a chance to do something good.

"The trip was a great opportunity to learn about history."

VERB · YEAR 5 SOURCE

persuade

to make someone agree by giving good reasons.

"I tried to persuade my mum to let me stay up late."

NOUN · YEAR 5 SOURCE

prejudice

an unfair opinion about someone before you know them.

"We should treat everyone fairly and without prejudice."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 5 SOURCE

relevant

connected to the subject and important to it.

"Please keep your answer relevant to the question."

ADVERB · YEAR 5 SOURCE

sincerely

in an honest and truthful way.

"We sign letters with 'Yours sincerely'."

NOUN · YEAR 5 SOURCE

variety

a number of different sorts of something.

"The shop sold a variety of sweets."

Try it: Choose two words and make your own sentence for each. Does the word still make sense when you replace it with its definition?

STAGE 3 · STRETCH

Read between the lines

Words 1-8 in this stage · source: Pip's Year 6 word tool

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

abundant

present in large amounts; more than enough.

"Apples were abundant in the orchard this autumn."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

benevolent

kind and wanting to help others.

"The benevolent stranger paid for the family's meal."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

conspicuous

very easy to notice; standing out.

"Her bright red coat made her conspicuous in the crowd."

NOUN · YEAR 6 SOURCE

controversy

a big argument or disagreement between many people.

"The new rule caused a lot of controversy at school."

NOUN · YEAR 6 SOURCE

curiosity

the wish to learn or find out about things.

"Her curiosity made her open the mysterious box."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

desperate

needing or wanting something very badly.

"He was desperate for a drink after the long run."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

diligent

working hard and being careful.

"A diligent student checks their work before handing it in."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

eloquent

able to speak or write clearly and well.

"The head girl gave an eloquent speech at assembly."

Try it: Choose two words and make your own sentence for each. Does the word still make sense when you replace it with its definition?

STAGE 3 · STRETCH

Read between the lines

Words 9-16 in this stage · source: Pip's Year 6 word tool

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

formidable

powerful and a little frightening; hard to beat.

"The chess champion was a formidable opponent."

NOUN · YEAR 6 SOURCE

hindrance

something that gets in the way or makes things harder.

"The heavy bag was a hindrance on the long walk."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

meticulous

very careful and exact about small details.

"He kept meticulous notes in his science book."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

reluctant

unwilling; not wanting to do something.

"She was reluctant to leave the warm house in the rain."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

resilient

able to recover quickly after something difficult.

"Children are often resilient and bounce back fast."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

sufficient

enough for what is needed.

"We had sufficient food for everyone at the party."

ADJECTIVE · YEAR 6 SOURCE

tenacious

holding on firmly and refusing to give up.

"Her tenacious effort finally paid off."

ADVERB · YEAR 6 SOURCE

especially

more than usual; in particular.

"I love fruit, especially strawberries."

Try it: Choose two words and make your own sentence for each. Does the word still make sense when you replace it with its definition?

YOUR TURN

Meaning check

Choose each answer once from the word bank. Write it on the line.

Word bank: abundant · conspicuous · meticulous · peculiar · persuade · relevant · reluctant · resilient

1. Plentiful; more than enough

_____

2. Careful about small details

_____

3. Unwilling or hesitant

_____

4. Keeps trying after setbacks

_____

5. Connected to the question

_____

6. Unusual or strange

_____

7. Easy to see or notice

_____

8. To convince with reasons

_____

For parents: Ask, “Which words in the clue helped you choose?” If your child guesses, return to the example sentence on the earlier pages.

CHECK TOGETHER

Answers and next steps

Discuss the clue, not just whether the spelling matches.

1. abundant
Plentiful; more than enough

2. meticulous
Careful about small details

3. reluctant
Unwilling or hesitant

4. resilient
Keeps trying after setbacks

5. relevant
Connected to the question

6. peculiar
Unusual or strange

7. conspicuous
Easy to see or notice

8. persuade
To convince with reasons

Missed a word? Re-read its example. Say a new sentence aloud, then write one of your own. Use the Year 4, 5 and 6 tools on Pip to revisit it later.

This is a starter selection, not the whole word bank. Pip's separate year-by-year vocabulary lists include more spellings, definitions and examples. Links are on the companion page shown below.

More free word practice
pip11plus.com/11-plus-vocabulary-list-with-meanings

THE PAPER IS THE START

Make new words stick in practice.

A printed list gives you a starting point. Pip gives children fresh English questions and feedback, alongside Maths, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

Meet Pip · 11+ Practice

Download the free app for repeatable practice. Pip Pro adds interactive Pip Teaches lessons and timed mock papers.

- Try a question and see useful feedback.
- Return to a skill when it needs practice.
- Keep reading and spelling with Pip's free online vocabulary tools.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Get this guide and more free 11+ printables.
pip11plus.com/11-plus-vocabulary-list-with-meanings

Prefer a book? See Pip's 11+ Vocabulary Builder at pip11plus.com/books/11-plus-vocabulary-builder. A fuller write-in workbook for synonyms, antonyms and words in context.