Week 01

12 new words · **Spelling:** -cious and -tious

Ten minutes a day. Learn the new words, practise the spellings, then try the quiz and spelling test at the end of the week.

New words this week

humble *(adjective)*: not proud; not thinking you are better than others
"Even after winning the trophy, Maya stayed humble and thanked her teammates."
Similar: modest, meek · Opposite: proud, arrogant

lush *(adjective)*: full of thick, healthy plants
"After weeks of rain, the fields were lush and green."
Similar: verdant, green · Opposite: barren, bare

disaster *(noun)*: an event that causes great damage or suffering
"The flood was a disaster for the farmers, who lost all of their crops."
Similar: catastrophe, calamity · Opposite: success, triumph
The adjective drops the e: disastrous.

durable *(adjective)*: lasting a long time without breaking
"Walking boots need to be durable enough to survive mud, rain and sharp rocks."
Similar: sturdy, hard-wearing · Opposite: flimsy, fragile

essential *(adjective)*: absolutely necessary
"Water is essential for every living thing to survive."
Similar: vital, crucial · Opposite: unnecessary, optional

sudden *(adjective)*: happening quickly and without warning
"A sudden crash of thunder made everyone in the classroom jump."
Similar: abrupt, unexpected · Opposite: gradual, expected

radiant *(adjective)*: shining brightly; or looking very happy
"Mum looked radiant as she held my new baby brother for the first time."
Similar: glowing, beaming · Opposite: dull, gloomy

dull *(adjective)*: boring; or not bright or shiny
"The film was so dull that I fell asleep halfway through it."
Similar: boring, dreary · Opposite: interesting, bright

permanent *(adjective)*: lasting for ever or a very long time
"Don't use permanent pens on the whiteboard, because they won't wipe off."
Similar: lasting, enduring · Opposite: temporary, brief

confident *(adjective)*: feeling sure about yourself and your abilities
"After weeks of practice, Hana felt confident about playing her violin solo."
Similar: self-assured, sure of yourself · Opposite: unsure, timid

eager *(adjective)*: really wanting to do something
"The eager puppy wagged its tail and waited for us to throw the ball."
Similar: keen, enthusiastic · Opposite: reluctant, unwilling

superior *(adjective)*: better than something else
"My new goalkeeper gloves have a superior grip to my old ones."
Similar: better, finer · Opposite: inferior, worse

Spelling focus: -cious and -tious

If the root word ends in -ce, the 'shus' sound is usually spelt -cious: vice → vicious, grace → gracious, space → spacious. Words linked to a -tion word use -tious: ambition → ambitious, caution → cautious, nutrition → nutritious. Some, like precious, conscious and delicious, just need learning, and anxious is an exception.

vicious	**gracious**	**spacious**	**malicious**	**precious**
conscious	**delicious**	**ambitious**	**cautious**	**nutritious**

Your 10-minute plan

Monday	Read the new words and example sentences aloud with a grown-up. Talk about when you might use each one.
Tuesday	Cut out the flashcards. Test yourself: say the meaning before you turn the card. Put the ones you know in one pile.
Wednesday	Look, say, cover, write, check: practise the spellings on the sheet below.
Thursday	Use three of the new words in sentences of your own about your day.
Friday	Do the quiz, then ask a grown-up to give you the spelling test.

Look, say, cover, write, check

Word	Try 1	Try 2	Try 3
vicious			
gracious			
spacious			
malicious			
precious			
conscious			
delicious			
ambitious			
cautious			
nutritious			

Friday quiz

1. Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of the meaning next to the word.

Word	Letter	Meanings
1. permanent		**a)** full of thick, healthy plants
2. sudden		**b)** lasting a long time without breaking
3. dull		**c)** feeling sure about yourself and your abilities
4. disaster		**d)** not proud; not thinking you are better than others
5. durable		**e)** shining brightly; or looking very happy
6. humble		**f)** absolutely necessary
7. confident		**g)** lasting for ever or a very long time
8. radiant		**h)** happening quickly and without warning
9. lush		**i)** boring; or not bright or shiny
10. eager		**j)** better than something else
11. essential		**k)** an event that causes great damage or suffering
12. superior		**l)** really wanting to do something

2. Choose the word closest in meaning.

1. **humble**
   A spacious **B** modest **C** alert **D** resilient
2. **lush**
   A verdant **B** reliable **C** humble **D** essential
3. **disaster**
   A summit **B** catastrophe **C** dispute **D** distress
4. **durable**
   A shabby **B** severe **C** determined **D** sturdy
5. **essential**
   A meagre **B** extraordinary **C** vital **D** inquisitive

3. Fill each gap with a word from the box: *humble · essential · superior · permanent · eager*

1. The _____ puppy wagged its tail and waited for us to throw the ball.
2. Even after winning the trophy, Maya stayed _____ and thanked her teammates.
3. Don't use _____ pens on the whiteboard, because they won't wipe off.

4. My new goalkeeper gloves have a _____ grip to my old ones.

5. Water is _____ for every living thing to survive.

Flashcards

Cut along the dashed lines, then fold each card down the dotted line so the word is on one side and the meaning on the other.

humble	not proud; not thinking you are better than others	**lush**	full of thick, healthy plants
disaster	an event that causes great damage or suffering	**durable**	lasting a long time without breaking
essential	absolutely necessary	**sudden**	happening quickly and without warning
radiant	shining brightly; or looking very happy	**dull**	boring; or not bright or shiny

permanent	lasting for ever or a very long time	**confident**	feeling sure about yourself and your abilities
eager	really wanting to do something	**superior**	better than something else

FOR GROWN-UPS

Spelling test script

Read each word, then the sentence, then the word again. Your child writes the word only. Then read the dictation sentences slowly, twice each, for your child to write in full.

1. **vicious**
2. **gracious**
3. **spacious**
4. **malicious**
5. **precious**
6. **conscious**
7. **delicious**
8. **ambitious**
9. **cautious**
10. **nutritious**

Dictation:

1. The spacious kitchen smelt of delicious bread.
2. Be cautious near that vicious dog.
3. Ella is ambitious and wants to be a vet.

Quiz answers

1. 1 g · 2 h · 3 i · 4 k · 5 b · 6 d · 7 c · 8 e · 9 a · 10 l · 11 f · 12 j

2. 1 B (modest) · 2 A (verdant) · 3 B (catastrophe) · 4 D (sturdy) · 5 C (vital)

3. 1 eager · 2 humble · 3 permanent · 4 superior · 5 essential

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