

# Middle School List

## INTERMEDIATE WORDS

**Aardwolf** is a hyena-like animal of southern and eastern Africa.

**Aberration** is departing from the usual course.

**Abridgment** is a shortened form of a book.

**Abscission** is sudden termination.

**Acerbate** is to make sour or bitter.

**Aficionado** is a devotee of something.

**Algorithm** is a set of rules for solving a problem.

**Alignment** is arrangement in a straight line.

**Allocution** is a formal speech.

**Ancillary** is a subordinate or subsidiary.

**Apocalypse** is widespread destruction or disaster.

**Applique** is ornamentation applied to a material.

**Archetype** (arkitype) is the original model.

**Avenge** is to exact satisfaction for.

**Babushka** is a woman's scarf.

**Baccalaureate** is a religious service held before commencement day.

**Balalaika** is a Russian musical instrument.

**Baroque** pertains to architecture and art from 17th century Italy.

**Barracuda** is a long, predaceous fish.

**Bayou** is a marshy arm of a river, usually sluggish or stagnant.

**Beleaguer** is to surround with troubles.

**Belligerence** is a hostile attitude.

**Beret** is a soft, visor-less cap.

**Bivouac** is a military encampment.

**Blithe** is joyous, glad or cheerful.

**Boatswain** is a warrant officer on a warship.

**Bourgeois** is to be a member of the middle class.

**Boutique** is a small shop within a larger store.

**Boutonniere** is a flower worn by a man in his lapel.

**Boysenberry** is a blackberry-like fruit.

**Buoy** is a float used to mark a water channel.

**Cabaret** is a restaurant providing food, drink and music.

**Calisthenics** are gymnastic exercises.

**Callous** is hard or indifferent.

**Camouflage** is hiding oneself from one's enemy.

**Cannoneer** is an artilleryman.

**Cantankerous** is disagreeable to deal with.

**Cardiopulmonary** pertaining to the heart and lungs.

**Carnivorous** means flesh-eating.

**Catastrophe** is a sudden and widespread disaster.

**Celerity** is swiftness, speed.

**Censer** is a container in which incense is burned.

**Chaparral** is a dense growth of shrubs or trees (southwest).

**Commemorate** is to serve as a reminder of.

**Committal** is an act or instance of committing.

**Connoisseur** is a person competent to pass critical judgment.

**Convalescence** is the gradual recovery to health after illness.

**Cornucopia** is the horn of plenty in mythology.

**Corruptible** is that which can be corrupted.

**Crevasse** is a fissure in ice or the earth.

**Croissant** is a rich, buttery crescent-shaped roll.

**Curmudgeon** is a bad-tempered, cantankerous person.

**Dachshund** is a long, German dog.

**Decaffeinate** is to extract caffeine from.

**Denouement** is the final resolution of the intricacies of a plot.

**Diaphragm** is a part of the human body.

**Dichotomy** is division into two parts.

**Dietitian** is a person who is an expert on nutrition.

**Diphthong** is an unsegmented gliding speech sound

**Eclair** is a finger-shaped creampuff.

**Eczema** is an inflammatory condition of the skin.

**Effervescent** is bubbling, vivacious or gay.

**Eloquence** is using language with fluency and aptness.

**Encumbrance** is something burdensome.

**Exquisite** is of special beauty or charm.

**Extemporaneous** is done without special preparation.

**Facsimile** is an exact copy.

**Fallacious** means logically unsound.

**Fascinate** is to attract and hold attentively.

**Flocculent** is like a clump of wool.

**Foliage** is the leaves of a plant.

**Forage** is food for cattle or horses.

**Forsythia** is a shrub of the olive family.

**Fraught** means full of or accompanied by.

**Fuchsia** is a bright, purplish-red color.

**Gauche** means lacking in social grace.

**Genre** is a class of artistic endeavor having a particular form.

**Germane** means relevant.

**Gerrymander** is dividing election districts to suit one group or party.

**Glockenspiel** is a musical instrument.

**Gnash** is to grind or strike the teeth together.

**Granary** is a storehouse for grain.

**Guillotine** a device for execution.

**Hallelujah** means praise ye the Lord.

**Harebrained** means giddy or reckless.

**Harpichord** is a keyboard instrument, precursor of the piano.

**Hemorrhage** is a profuse discharge of blood.

**Heterogeneous** is different in kind, unlike.

**Hoard** is a supply that is carefully guarded or hidden.

**Holocaust** is a great or complete destruction.

**Homogenize** is to form by blending unlike elements.

**Homonym** is a word the same in spelling and sound, but different in meaning.

**Horde** is a large group, a multitude.

**Humoresque** is a musical composition of humorous character.

**Hydraulic** is employing water or other liquids in motion.

**Hydrolysis** is chemical decomposition by reacting with water.

**Hypothesis** is a proposition set forth to explain some occurrence.

**Hysterical** is of or pertaining to hysteria.

**Idyll** is a composition, usually describing pastoral scenes or any appealing incident, or the like.

**Iguana** is a large lizard native to Central and South America.

**Imperceptible** is very slight, gradual or subtle.

**Impetuous** is characterized by sudden or rash action.

**Impossible** means not possible or unable to be done.

**Impromptu** means done without previous preparation.

**Incidence** means the rate of change or occurrence.

**Indicator** is a person or thing that indicates.

**Infallible** is absolutely trustworthy or sure.

**Insurgence** is an act of rebellion.

**Interfere** is to meddle in the affairs of others.

**Iridescent** is displaying a play of bright colors, like a rainbow.

**Isthmus** is a narrow strip of land with water on both sides, connecting two larger strips of land.

**Jackal** is a wild dog of Asia and Africa.

**Jacuzzi** is a trade name for a whirlpool bath and related products.

**Joist** is a beam used to support ceilings or floors or the like.

**Juxtaposition** is the act of placing close together.

**Kaiser** is a German or Austrian emperor.

**Kaleidoscope** is a continually shifting pattern or scene.

**Labyrinth** is an intricate combination of paths in which it is difficult to find the exit.

**Laconic** is using few words, being concise.

**Laggard** is a lingerer; loiterer.

**Laryngitis** is the inflammation of the larynx.

**Larynx** is the structure in which the vocal cords are located.

**Lavender** is a pale bluish purple.

**Legionnaire** is a member of any legion.

**Leprechaun** is a dwarf or sprite in Ireland.

**Liege** is a Feudal lord entitled to allegiance or service.

**Luau** is a feast of Hawaiian food.

**Magnanimous** is generous in forgiving insult or injury.

**Magnify** is to increase the apparent size of, as does a lens.

**Malfeasance** is wrongdoing by a public official.

**Maneuver** is a planned movement of troops or warships, etc.

**Marquee** is a projection above a theater entrance, usually containing the name of the feature at the theater.

**Masquerade** is a party of people wearing masks and other disguises.

**Melee** is a confused, hand-to-hand fight among several people.

**Memento** is a keepsake or souvenir.

**Mercenary** is working or acting merely for money or reward.

**Mesquite** is a spiny tree found in western North America.

**Mettle** is courage or fortitude.

**Minuscule** means very small.

**Mirage** is something illusory, without substance or reality.

**Momentous** is of great or far-reaching importance.

**Monastery** is a house occupied by usually monks.

**Monocle** is an eyeglass for one eye.

**Morgue** is a place in which bodies are kept.

**Morphine** is a narcotic used as a pain-killer or sedative.

**Motif** is a recurring subject, theme or idea.

**Mousse** is a sweetened dessert with whipped cream as a base.

**Mozzarella** is a mild, white, semi-soft Italian cheese.

**Muenster** is a white cheese made from whole milk.

**Municipal** is of or pertaining to a town or city or its government.

**Mysterious** is full of or involving mystery.

**Mystique** is an aura of mystery or mystical power surrounding a particular occupation or pursuit.

**Nickelodeon** is an early motion-picture theater.

**Nomenclature** are names or terms comprising a set or system.

**Nonchalant** is coolly unconcerned, unexcited.

**Nonpareil** is having no equal.

**Noxious** is harmful or injurious to health.

**Nuisance** is an obnoxious or annoying person.

**Obnoxious** is highly objectionable or offensive.

**Obsolescent** means passing out of use, as a word.

**Occurrence** is the action, fact or instance of happening.

**Ocelot** is a spotted, leopard-like cat, ranging from Texas to South America.

**Ophthalmology** is the branch of medicine dealing with anatomy, functions and diseases of the eye.

**Ordnance** is cannon or artillery.

**Oscillate** is to swing or move to and fro, as a pendulum.

**Overwrought** is extremely excited or agitated.

**Oxygen** is the element constituting about one-fifth of the atmosphere.

**Pacifist** is a person who is opposed to war or to violence of any kind.

**Palette** is a board with a thumb hole, used by painters to mix colors.

**Palomino** is a horse with a golden coat, and a white mane and tail.

**Pantomime** is the art of conveying things through gestures, without speech.

**Papacy** is the office, dignity or jurisdiction of the pope.

**Parable** is a short story designed to illustrate some truth.

**Paralysis** is a loss of movement in a body part, caused by disease or injury.

**Paraphernalia** is apparatus necessary for a particular activity.

**Parishioner** is one of the inhabitants of a parish.

**Parochial** is of or pertaining to a parish or parishes.

**Parody** is a humorous imitation of a serious piece of literature.

**Parquet** is a floor composed of strips or blocks of wood forming a pattern.

**Patriarch** is the male head of a family or tribal line.

**Patrician** is a person of noble rank; an aristocrat.

**Pavilion** is a building used for shelter, concerts, or exhibits.

**Penchant** is a strong inclination or liking for something.

**Penguin** is a flightless bird of the Southern Hemisphere.

**Penicillin** is an antibiotic of low toxicity.

**Penitentiary** is a prison maintained for serious offenders.

**Perennial:** lasting for a long time; enduring.

**Periphery** is the external boundary of any area.

**Perjury** is lying under oath.

**Perseverance** is doggedness, steadfastness.

**Persuade** is to prevail on a person to do something.

**Peruse** is to read through with care.

**Pesticide** is a chemical preparation to destroy pests.

**Petition** is a formally drawn request.

**Phalanx** is a body of troops in close array.

**Phenomenon** is a fact or occurrence observed or observable.

**Philosopher** is one who offers views on profound subjects.

**Phoenix** is a mythical bird able to rise from its own ashes.

**Picturesque** is visually charming or quaint.

**Pinnacle** is a lofty peak.

**Pinafore** is a child's apron.

**Pixie** is a fairy or sprite, especially a mischievous one.

**Placard** is a paperboard sign or notice.

**Placebo** is a pill with no medicine but used to soothe a patient.

**Pneumonia** is inflammation of the lungs with congestion.

**Poignant** is keenly distressing to the feelings.

**Poinsettia** is sometimes called the Christmas flower.

**Politicize** is to bring a political flavor to.

**Porridge** is a food made of cereal, boiled to a thick consistency in water or milk.

**Posthumous** is arising, occurring, or continuing after one's death.

**Potpourri** is any mixture of unrelated objects, subjects, etc.

**Practitioner** is a person engaged in the practice of a profession or occupation.

**Prairie** is a tract of grassland; a meadow.



**Prerogative** is an exclusive right or privilege.

**Prestigious** is having a high reputation.

**Principle** is an accepted or professed rule of action or conduct.

**Quaff** is to drink a beverage.

**Quandary** is a state of uncertainty.

**Quarantine** is a strict isolation.

**Questionnaire** is a list of questions submitted for replies.

**Queue** is a braid of hair or a line of people.

**Quiche** is a dish with cheeses and other vegetables.

**Quintessence** is the pure and concentrated essence of a substance.

**Rabble** is a disorderly crowd; mob.

**Rambunctious** is difficult to control or handle.

**Rancid** is having an unpleasant smell or taste.

**Raspberry** is the fruit of a shrub.

**Ratchet** is a tool.

**Rationale** is the fundamental reason serving to account for something.

**Reconnaissance** is the act of reconnoitering.

**Rectify** is to make or set right.

**Recurrence** is an act of something happening again.

**Reminiscence** is the process of recalling experiences.

**Requisition** is the act of requiring or demanding.

**Rescind** is to annul or repeal.

**Resurrection** is the act of rising from the dead.

**Rhapsodic** is ecstatic or extravagantly enthusiastic.

**Rhetoric** is bombast or the undue use of exaggeration or display.

**Rhubarb** is a plant of the buckwheat family.

**Rouge** is any of various red cosmetics for cheek and lips.

**Roulette** is a game of chance.

**Rubella** is a disease also called German measles.

**Sachet** is a small bag containing perfuming powder or the like.

**Sacrilegious** is pertaining to the violation of anything sacred.

**Saffron** is a crocus having showy, purple flowers.

**Salutatorian** is the person ranking second in the graduating class.

**Sanctimonious** is making a hypocritical show of religious devotion.

**Sapphire** is a gem with a blue color.

**Sarcasm** is harsh or bitter derision or irony.

**Satellite** is a body that revolves around a planet, a moon.

**Sauerkraut** is cabbage allowed to ferment until sour.

**Scandalous** is disgraceful or shocking behavior.

**Scarab** is a beetle regarded as sacred by the ancient Egyptians.

**Scenario** is the outline of a plot of a dramatic work.

**Scepter** is a rod held as an emblem of regal or imperial power.

**Schizophrenia** is a severe mental disorder.

**Schnauzer** is a German breed of medium-sized dogs.

**Sciatic** is pertaining to the back of the hip.

**Seance** is a meeting in which people try to communicate with spirits.

**Seine** is a fishing net.

**Semaphore** is an apparatus for conveying visual signals.

**Sepulcher** is a tomb, grave or burial place.

**Sequoia** is a large tree, aka redwood.

**Sergeant** is a noncommissioned officer above the rank of corporal.

**Sheathe** is to put a sword into a sheath.

**Silhouette** is a two-dimensional representation of the outline of an object.

**Simile** is a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared, as in she is like a rose.

**Simultaneous** is occurring or operating at the same time.

**Siphon** is a tube bent into legs of unequal length, for getting liquid from one container to another.

**Skeptic** is a person who questions the validity of something.

**Skew** is to turn aside or swerve.

**Slaughter** is the killing of cattle, etc., for food.

**Sleight** is skill or dexterity.

**Sleuth** is a detective.

**Slough** (sloo) is an area of soft, muddy ground.

**Sojourn** is a temporary stay.

**Solder** is an alloy fused and applied to the joint between metal objects to unite them.

**Solemn** is grave or sober or mirthless.

**Sovereign** is a monarch or a king.

**Spasm** is a sudden involuntary muscular contraction.

**Specter** is a ghost, phantom or apparition.

**Squabble** is to engage in a petty quarrel.

**Stationery** is writing paper.

**Stimulus** is something that incites to action or exertion.

**Strait** is a narrow passage of water between 2 larger bodies of water.

**Straitjacket** is a garment made of strong material and designed to bind the arms.

**Stroganoff** is a dish of meat sauteed with onions and cooked in a sauce of sour cream.

**Suave** is smoothly agreeable or polite.

**Subpoena** is the usual writ for the summoning of witnesses.

**Succinct** means expressed in few words, concise, terse.

**Sufficiency** is adequacy.

**Supersede** is to replace in power, or acceptance.

**Supposition** is something that is supposed; assumption.

**Surrey** is a light carriage for four persons.

**Surrogate** is a person appointed to act for another; a deputy.

**Surveillance** is a watch kept over a person or group.

**Symposium** is a meeting to discuss some subject.

**Tabernacle** is a place or house of worship.

**Tableau** is a picture of a scene.

**Tachometer** is a machine to measure velocity or speed.

**Tambourine** is a small drum consisting of a circular frame with skin stretched over it and several pairs of metal jingles attached.

**Tandem** is one following or behind the other.

**Tangible** is capable of being touched.

**Tantalize** means to torment with.

**Tapestry** is a fabric used for wall hangings or furniture coverings.

**Technique** is the manner in which the technical skills of a particular art or field of endeavor are used.

**Tedious** means long and tiresome.

**Telegraph** is an apparatus to send messages to a distant place.

**Telepathy** is communication between minds.

**Temblor** is a tremor; earthquake.

**Tetanus** is a disease, commonly called lockjaw.

**Thermometer** is a device for measuring temperature.

**Thesaurus** is a dictionary of synonyms and antonyms.

**Thimble** is a small cap, worn over the fingertip to protect it when pushing a needle through a cloth in sewing.

**Thistle** is a prickly plant.

**Titlist** is a titleholder, champion.

**Tonsillectomy** is the operation removing one or both tonsils.

**Toxicity** is the degree of being poisonous.

**Trachea** is the windpipe.

**Translucent** is letting pass through, but not clearly.

**Trapeze** an apparatus consisting of a horizontal bar attached to two suspending ropes.

**Trestle** is a type of frame, used in railroad spans.

**Trichotomy** means divided into three parts.

**Tyrannize** is to exercise absolute control or power.

**Unkempt** is disheveled or messy.

**Vaccinal** pertaining to vaccine or vaccination.

**Vaudeville** is a theatrical entertainment.

**Vehemence** meaning ardor or fervor.

**Veneer** is a thin layer of wood.

**Vengeance** means violent revenge or getting back.

**Vermicelli** is a form of pasta.

**Victuals** are food supplies.

**Viscount** is a nobleman just below an earl or count.

**Wheelwright** is a person whose trade is to make wheels.

**Yeoman** is a petty officer in a navy.

**Zeppelin** is a rigid airship or dirigible.

**Zoological** is of or pertaining to zoology.

**Zucchini** is a variety of summer squash.