

SPELLS

This chapter presents an array of spells designed for use by characters and monsters alike. Some are used by those who would control or serve undead, others are used to oppose undead, and others are simply used by undead creatures themselves.

SPELL DESCRIPTIONS

The spells are presented in alphabetical order.

ANIMATE CRAWLING CLAW

1st-level necromancy (ritual)

Casting Time: 1 minute

Range: 10 feet

Components: V, S, M (a butcher's knife)

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Warlock, Wizard

This spell binds the life force of a murderer to its severed hand, haunting and animating it. Choose a severed hand you can see within range. The hand must have been severed from the body of a humanoid murderer within the last seven days. If the murderer is dead and its spirit already manifests as another undead creature, or if its dead spirit has long passed on to another plane, the spell fails.

The target hand becomes a crawling claw, the statistics of which can be found in the *Monster Manual*. It is under your control for 24 hours, after which the hand becomes inactive and can't be animated again. On each of your turns, you can use a bonus action to mentally command the crawling claw. You decide what action the creature will take and where it will move during its next turn, or you can issue a general command for it to follow to the best of its understanding. If you issue no commands, the claw follows its last command to the best of its ability. Once given an order, the claw continues to follow it until its task is complete.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 2nd level or higher, the crawling claw remains active for an additional 24 hours for every slot level above 1st. When cast using a spell slot of 6th level or higher, the crawling claw remains active until slain.

ANIMATE GREATER UNDEAD

6th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 10 minutes

Range: 10 feet

Components: V, S, M (one clay pot filled with grave dirt, one clay pot filled with brackish water, and one black onyx stone worth 300 gp)

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Warlock, Wizard

This spell creates an undead servant. Choose a pile of bones or a corpse of a Huge or smaller creature within range. The creature must have been a beast, giant, or plant of CR 5 or lower. Your spell imbues the target with a foul mimicry of life, raising it as an undead creature. The target becomes a skeleton if you chose bones or a zombie if you chose a corpse. The target retains the statistics that it had in life, except for the following modifications:

- The target loses any trait, such as Amphibious, that assumes a living physiology.
- The target can't cast spells, and thus loses the Spellcasting and Innate Spellcasting traits if it had them.
- The target's ability scores and traits are adjusted as per the skeleton or zombie entry of the NPC Features table on page 282 of the *Dungeon Master's Guide*.

On each of your turns, you can use a bonus action to mentally command any creature you made with this spell if the creature is within 60 feet of you (if you control multiple creatures, you can command any or all of them at the same time, issuing the same command to each one). You decide what action the creature will take and where it will move during its next turn, or you can issue a general command, such as to guard a particular chamber or corridor. If you issue no commands, the creature only defends itself against hostile creatures. Once given an order, the creature continues to follow it until its task is complete.

The creature is under your control for 24 hours, after which it stops obeying any command you've given it. To maintain control of the creature for another 24 hours, you must cast this spell on the creature again before the current 24-hour period ends. This use of the spell reasserts your control over one undead of CR 5 or lower that you have animated with this spell, rather than animating a new one.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 7th level or higher, the maximum challenge rating of creatures you can animate or reassert control over increases by 1 for each slot level above 6th.

AVASCULAR MASS

5th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 60 feet

Components: V, S

Duration: Concentration, up to 10 minutes

Classes: Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

You shoot a ray of necromantic energy from your outstretched hand, causing one creature of your choice within range to violently purge blood vessels through its skin. Constructs and undead are not affected by this spell. The target must make a Constitution saving throw, taking 8d10 necrotic damage on a failed save, or half as much damage on a successful one.

On a failed save, the target's purged blood vessels are magically animated, creating a many-layered mass of magically strong, adhesive tissue that trap those caught in them. The avascular mass instantaneously erupts in a 20-foot radius sphere centered on the target. The avascular mass is difficult terrain and lightly obscures their area.

If the avascular mass isn't anchored between two solid masses (such as walls or trees) or layered across a floor, wall, or ceiling, it collapses on itself, and the spell ends at the start of your next turn.

Each creature that starts its turn in the avascular mass or that enters them during its turn must make a Dexterity saving throw. The original target of the spell automatically fails this saving throw. On a failed save, a creature is restrained as long as it remains in the avascular mass or until it breaks free.

A creature restrained by the avascular mass can use its action to make a Strength check against your spell save DC. If it succeeds, it is no longer restrained.

Any 5-foot cube of avascular mass that takes more than 10 radiant damage on a single turn disintegrates. When the spell ends, the blood vessel mass becomes a small layer of limp, decaying tissue.

AWAKEN UNDEAD

7th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 hour

Range: 120 feet

Components: V, S, M (a humanoid fingerbone)

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Warlock

This spell grants intelligence to mindless undead such as skeletons and zombies with an Intelligence score of 6 or lower. Choose up to ten undead within range that fit this criteria. The targets must be within range for the entire casting of the spell. At the completion of the casting, the targets regain the Intelligence scores and languages that they had in life. They also regain the weapon and armor proficiencies they had in life (if any), and they gain advantage on saving throws against effects that turn undead.

BITE OF THE KING

8th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Touch

Components: V

Duration: 1 minute

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer

Your maw suddenly opens many times its normal size as it attempts to swallow your victim whole. After the attempt, it immediately returns to its normal size.

Make a melee spell attack against a creature you can reach. On a hit, the target takes 6d12 piercing damage, and it must make a Dexterity saving throw. On a failed save, the target is immediately banished to the "stomach dimension" for the duration.

The stomach dimension is a demiplane that adjusts its size to squeeze the largest creature that is currently inside of it. While in the stomach dimension, a creature is blinded and restrained, and it takes 4d6 acid damage plus 4d6 bludgeoning damage at the start of each of your turns. To escape, a creature must deal 35 damage to the walls of the stomach dimension on a single turn. The walls of the stomach dimension have an AC of 21 and are immune to acid, necrotic, poison, and psychic damage.

A creature that successfully exits is within the stomach dimension at the end of the duration appears to cut its way free from thin air, appearing next to you in the nearest unoccupied space.

Each caster of this spell has a personal stomach dimension that this spell links to. If a creature dies while in your stomach dimension, you can choose to eject its corpse and the items it had on its person, or you can let it remain as a warning for future victims of this spell.

CLUTCH OF ORCUS

3rd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 60 feet

Components: V, S

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 minute

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

One humanoid of your choice that you can see within range begins to suffer a magic-induced heart attack. The target must succeed on a Constitution saving throw or take 3d8 necrotic damage and be stunned for the duration. At the end of each of its turns, the target repeats the saving throw. It takes 3d8 necrotic damage on a failed save, and the spell ends on the target on a successful one.

COMMAND HORDE

3rd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 120 feet

Components: V, S

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 minute

Classes: Cleric, Wizard

When you cast this spell, and as an action on each of your turns for the duration, you can command up to four undead that you can see within range that are under your control. You give the same command to each target. You choose from one of the following commands when you cast this spell:

Advance. Each target can use its reaction to move up to its speed.

Apprehend. Each target can use its reaction to attempt to grapple one creature within its reach. The undead can all grapple the same target or can split their grapples between different targets.

Attack. Each target can use its reaction to make one attack against a creature they can see. The undead can all attack the same target or can split their attacks between different targets.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 4th level or higher, you can target two additional undead for each slot level above 3rd.

CONSUMPTIVE FIELD

4th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Self (15-foot radius)

Components: V

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 minute

Classes: Blackguard, Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

A consumptive death field radiates from you in an aura with a 15-foot radius. Until the spell ends, the aura moves with you, centered on you. When a hostile creature enters the aura for the first time on a turn or starts its turn there, it must make a Constitution saving throw. On a failed save, the creature takes 2d6 necrotic damage, and you regain hit points equal to half the necrotic damage dealt. Undead are unaffected by this spell.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 5th level or higher, the damage increases by 1d6 for each slot level above 4th.

ENERGY EBB

4th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 60 feet

Components: V, S

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 minute

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Wizard

You point your finger and utter a foul incantation, releasing a black needle of crackling negative energy that suppresses the life force of living creatures. When you cast this spell, and as an action on each of your turns until the spell ends, you can target one creature you can see within range. If the target isn't undead, it must succeed on a Constitution saving throw or take 4d8 necrotic damage and suffer one level of exhaustion. If the target is undead, you instead roll 4d8. The target gains half the total as temporary hit points.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 5th level or higher, the damage and temporary hit point dice increase by 1d8 for each slot level above 4th.

FIELD OF GHOULS

7th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Self (30-foot radius)

Components: V

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Warlock

You transform the ebbing life force of all nearby badly wounded creatures and use it to create ghouls. Each non-undead creature within 30 feet of you is poisoned until the end of your next turn. Targets with 30 hit points or fewer must also make a Charisma saving throw. If a target has 0 hit points, it automatically fails this saving throw. On a failed save, a target dies.

A humanoid killed by this spell rises at the start of your next turn as a ghoul that is under your command, following your verbal orders to the best of its ability. Any ghoul created by this spell melts into a pile of flesh and is destroyed after 24 hours.

GHASTLY STENCH

2nd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Self (15-foot radius)

Components: V, S

Duration: Concentration, up to 10 minutes

Classes: Blackguard, Cleric, Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

You emanate the putrid stench of a ghast. For the duration, each creature that starts its turn within 15 feet of you must succeed on a Constitution saving throw or be poisoned until the start of its next turn.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 3rd level or higher, you can increase the radius of this spell by 5 feet for each slot level above 2nd.

GHoul GAUNTLET

5th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Touch

Components: V, S

Duration: 1 minute

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Wizard

Your touch gradually transforms a living victim into a ravening, flesh-eating ghoul. The transformation process begins at the limb or extremity (usually the hand or arm) touched, and spreads outwards as the target's body slowly dies and is transformed into a ghoul's cold, undying flesh.

Make a melee spell attack against a humanoid within your reach. On a hit, the target is poisoned.

At the end of each of the poisoned target's turns, the target must make a Constitution saving throw. On a failed save, the target takes 4d6 necrotic damage. If the target succeeds on three of these saves, it is no longer poisoned, and the spell ends. The spell can also be ended early by *greater restoration*, *heal*, or *remove curse*.

If the target is reduced to 0 hit points while poisoned by this spell, it dies and rises at the start of your next turn as a ghoul that is under your command, following your verbal orders to the best of its ability. The ghoul melts into a pile of flesh and is destroyed after 24 hours.

GHoul LIGHT

1st-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Touch

Components: V, S, M (a bit of rendered fat)

Duration: 8 hours

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Wizard

A sickly green flame, equivalent in brightness to a torch, springs forth from an object that you touch. The effect looks like a regular flame, except for its green hue, but it creates no heat and doesn't use oxygen. The flame can be covered and hidden, but not smothered or quenched.

Undead within 30 feet of this light have advantage on saving throws against effects that turn undead. If an undead already had advantage on such saving throws before entering the area, it instead gains immunity to effects that turn undead while within the area.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 3rd level or higher, the effect persists until it is dispelled.

GRAVE BOLT

Necromancy cantrip

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 120 feet

Components: V, S

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

You launch a bolt of negative energy at a creature or object within range. Make a ranged spell attack against the target. On a hit, the target takes 1d10 necrotic damage. If this attack hits a tree, a plant creature, or some other form of vegetation, the target instead takes 1d12 damage.

The spell's damage increases by one die when you reach 5th level (2d10 or 2d12), 11th level (3d10 or 3d12), and 17th level (4d10 or 4d12).

KISS OF THE VAMPIRE

3rd-level enchantment

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 30 feet

Components: V, S, M (a black onyx worth at least 50 gp that has been carved with the image of a fang-mouthed face)

Duration: 1 minute

Classes: Cleric, Warlock, Wizard

You target one non-undead creature you can see within 30 feet of you. If the target can see you, it must succeed on a Wisdom saving throw or be charmed by you for the duration. The charmed target regards you as a trusted friend to be heeded and protected. Although the target isn't under your direct control, it takes your requests or actions in the most favorable way it can.

The charmed target can repeat the saving throw at the end of each of its turns. It takes 3d6 psychic damage on a failed save, and the spell ends for it on a successful one.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 4th level or higher, you can target one additional humanoid for each slot level above 3rd.

LAY WASTE

3rd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Self

Components: V, S

Duration: Concentration, up to 10 minutes

Classes: Blackguard, Cleric, Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

You create six tiny orbs of negative energy in your space. They float in the air and orbit you for the spell's duration. When you cast the spell—and as a bonus action on each of your turns thereafter—you can expend one or two of the orbs, sending them streaking toward a point or points you choose within 120 feet of you. Once an orb reaches its destination or impacts against a solid surface, the orb explodes. Each creature within 5 feet of the point where the orb explodes must make a Constitution saving throw. A creature takes 2d6 necrotic damage on a failed save, or half as much damage on a successful one.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 4th level or higher, the number of orbs created increases by two for each slot level above 3rd.

MOURNING MIST

3rd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 120 feet

Components: V, S, M (a bottle of black ichor)

Duration: 1 round

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Wizard

You hurl a globule of black mist at a point within range. Each non-undead creature in a 20-foot-radius sphere centered on that point must make a Constitution saving throw. On a failed save, a creature takes 4d10 necrotic damage, and each undead ally of your choice has advantage on attacks against the creature until the end of your next turn.

NECROTIC CYST

5th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Touch

Components: V, S

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Wizard

Make a melee spell attack against a creature within your reach. On a hit, the target develops an internal spherical sac that contains fluid or semisolid necrotic flesh, unless it is a construct or undead. The internal cyst is noticeable as a slight bulge on the target's arm, abdomen, or face (wherever you chose to touch the target), and is buried deeply enough in its flesh that it is not easily identifiable without a successful Wisdom (Medicine) check against your spell save DC.

While the target possesses a necrotic cyst, it suffers from the poisoned condition, and it can't magically regain hit points or benefit from resistance to necrotic damage. Additionally, whenever the target takes damage, it must make a Constitution saving throw. On a failed save, the target's hit point maximum is reduced by an amount equal to the damage taken. This reduction lasts until the creature finishes a long rest. The target dies if this effect reduces its hit point maximum to 0.

A *protection from evil and good* spell prevents the necrotic cyst from forming, but once a necrotic cyst is implanted, it can only be removed can be removed only by *heal* or another disease-curing spell of 6th level or higher. The target may also elect to have some well-meaning surgeon remove them surgically. The procedure is a bloody, painful process that has a chance to kill the target if done improperly. The procedure takes 1 hour, and the surgeon must make a Wisdom (Medicine) check against your spell save DC. On a success, the cyst is removed safely, and the target suffers one level of exhaustion. On a failure, the target dies.

NEGATIVE ENERGY BURST

7th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 120 feet

Components: V, M (a broken bone and a square of black silk)

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Warlock, Wizard

A wave of negative energy washes out from a point of your choice within range. Each non-undead creature in a 15-foot-radius sphere centered on that point must make a Constitution saving throw, taking 5d12 necrotic damage on a failed save, or half as much damage on a successful one. A humanoid killed by this damage rises up as a zombie at the start of your next turn. The zombie pursues whatever living creature it can see that is closest to it.

Undead in the area of the spell don't make a saving throws. Instead, each undead in the area gains half the total damage roll as temporary hit points.

PLAGUE OF UNDEAD

9th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 60 feet

Components: V, S, M (one or more black sapphires whose total value equals or exceeds 10,000 gp)

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

Great necromantic power causes any number of Small or Medium corpses you can see within range to animate. Each corpse immediately stands up and becomes undead. You decide whether a corpse becomes a zombie or a skeleton. These undead are permanently under your command and follow your verbal orders to the best of its ability. They also gain a bonus to their attack and damage rolls equal to your spellcasting ability modifier for the next 24 hours.

PROTECTION FROM POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ENERGY

3rd-level abjuration

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Touch

Components: V, S

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 hour

Classes: Blackguard, Cleric, Paladin, Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

For the duration, the willing creature you touch has resistance to necrotic and radiant damage.

REVIVE UNDEAD

6th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 minute

Range: Touch

Components: V, S, M (a black pearl worth at least 500 gp)

Duration: Instantaneous

Classes: Cleric, Warlock, Wizard

Your restore animation to the remains of an undead creature you touch. The target reanimates with all of its hit points, but it is under no compulsion to behave in any particular way unless it was under your control before it was destroyed. This spell fails if the target was destroyed by a Turn Undead effect, or if its body was otherwise completely obliterated by a spell or other effect. The undead must have been inactive for no more than a week, and its challenge rating must be equal to or less than your character level (or challenge rating, if you don't have a class level).

SHELTERED VITALITY

6th-level abjuration

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Touch

Components: V, S

Duration: 1 hour

Classes: Cleric, Warlock

One willing creature you touch gains advantage on saving throws against the following effects for the duration:

- Effects that reduce its ability scores
- Effects that reduce its hit point maximum
- Effects that cause its exhaustion level to increase

UNHOLY CRUSADE

3rd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Self (30-foot radius)

Components: V

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 minute

Classes: Blackguard

Unholy power radiates from you in an aura with a 30-foot radius, infusing your allies' weapons with negative energy. Until the spell ends, the aura moves with you, centered on you. While in the aura, each nonhostile creature in the aura (including you) deals an extra 1d4 necrotic damage when it hits with a weapon attack.

VAMPIRIC SMITE

3rd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 bonus action

Range: Self

Components: V

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 minute

Classes: Blackguard, Paladin

The next time you hit a creature with a weapon attack before this spell ends, you siphon away some of the target's life force. The attack deals an extra 3d6 necrotic damage to the target, and you regain hit points equal to half the amount of necrotic damage dealt.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 4th level or higher, the damage increases by 1d6 for each slot level above 3rd.

VEIL OF UNDEATH

6th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: Self

Components: V, S, M (a black sapphire worth 1,000 gp)

Duration: 1 hour

Classes: Cleric, Sorcerer, Warlock

You gain many of the traits common to undead creatures. You gain the following benefits for the duration:

- Your body appears sick and ghastly, as though you were a walking corpse. Undead with an Intelligence score of 6 or lower won't attack you except in self defense or when ordered to, and you are detected as an undead by a paladin's Divine Sense feature.
- You don't require air, food, drink, or sleep.
- You are immune to necrotic damage. Whenever you are subjected to necrotic damage, you instead gain a number of temporary hit points equal to half the necrotic damage you would have taken.
- You are immune to the poison, disease, and exhaustion.

VENOMOUS SMITE

1st-level evocation

Casting Time: 1 bonus action

Range: Self

Components: V

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 minute

Classes: Blackguard, Paladin

The next time you hit a creature with a melee weapon attack during the spell's duration, your attack deals an extra 1d6 poison damage. Additionally, the target must make a Constitution saving throw or be poisoned until the spell ends. As an action, the creature can make a Constitution check against your spell save DC to overcome the poison and end this spell.

WALL OF PAIN

5th-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 120 feet

Components: V, S

Duration: Concentration, up to 1 minute

Classes: Blackguard, Cleric, Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

You create a wall of negative energy on a solid surface within range. You can make the wall up to 60 feet long, 20 feet high, and 1 foot thick, or a ringed wall up to 20 feet in diameter, 20 feet high, and 1 foot thick. The wall is opaque and lasts for the duration.

When the wall appears, each non-undead creature within its area must make a Constitution saving throw. On a failed save, a creature takes 4d8 necrotic damage and has its speed halved until the end of their next turn. On a successful save, it takes half as much damage and does not have its speed halved.

A non-undead creature takes the same damage when it enters the wall for the first time on a turn or ends its turn there. The other side of the wall deals no damage.

An undead that passes through either side of the wall has its speed doubled until the start of the undead's next turn.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 6th level or higher, the damage increases by 1d8 for each slot level above 5th.

WEAKENING AURA

2nd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 bonus action

Range: Self (30-foot radius)

Components: V, S

Duration: 1 minute

Classes: Blackguard, Cleric

You create an aura of negative energy that weakens the life force of nearby creatures. Creatures within 15 feet of you can't regain hit points and have disadvantage on death saving throws, saving throws against exhaustion, and saving throws against effects that would reduce their hit point maximum.

On each of your turns before the spell ends, you can use your bonus action to temporarily disable the field until the start of your next turn.

WITHER LIMB

2nd-level necromancy

Casting Time: 1 action

Range: 30 feet

Components: V, S

Duration: 1 minute

Classes: Blackguard, Sorcerer, Warlock, Wizard

Choose one humanoid that you can see within range to make a Constitution saving throw. On a failed save, you can choose to wither one of its legs or one of its arms. If you wither a leg, the target falls prone and can't stand up for the duration. If you wither an arm, the target drops any item it is holding with that arm, and until the spell ends, it can't use that arm to use or hold items, to make attacks, or to perform somatic components for spells.

At Higher Levels. When you cast this spell using a spell slot of 3rd level or higher, you can target one additional humanoid for each slot level above 2nd.