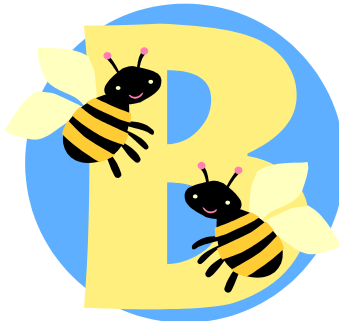


# **2019 DAVIS COUNTY FINAL SPELLING BEE**

**APRIL 10, NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

## **STUDY GUIDE**



Welcome to the Davis Clipper Spelling Bee!

This study guide will provide you with both a list of words to study, as well as explanations for what different languages bring to the spelling of words. Good spellers are often good readers, to prepare for the big bee, read and study as much as you can. Not only study the words in this guide, but go online to different spelling Web sites that will give you more hints on language of origin, spelling rules, commonly misspelled words, and practice your spelling in front of other people so that you know you are speaking clearly and slowly.

In order to increase your vocabulary, when you find words that you are not familiar with, you are encouraged to look up those words in the dictionary. This will greatly help you prepare and learn, not just memorize.

The first few rounds of the Davis Clipper final spelling bee will be words you are familiar with from this study guide. As the rounds progress, however, we will begin using words that you may not be familiar with, words that are not included in this guide. It is your responsibility to understand the word to the best of your ability before you begin to spell. Remember to ask questions in order to help you understand the word, such as definition, alternate pronunciations, it's part of speech, language of origin, and the use of the word in a sentence.

Good luck and good spelling!

# Words from Latin

No language has been more influential in the development of English than Latin. Historically, Latin has also been the language of culture, religion, education, and science in the Western world. It is still used today, often to name newly discovered species of plants and animals or to form some compound words in various scientific and technological fields.

## Spelling Tips for Latin Words

- 1 A difficult thing to remember about words from Latin is whether an internal consonant (like rr in interrupt) is doubled. To help you remember the correct spelling, try to remember related words all together (like interrupt with interruption and necessary with necessity).
- 2 The \ü\ sound (as in ooze) is nearly always spelled with a u in words from Latin. It typically follows a \d\, \j\, \l\, \r\ or \s\ sound. After other consonants, this sound normally becomes \yü\ (as in bugle, refugee, and meticulous).
- 3 Be cautious of words like crescent in which the \s\ sound is spelled with sc in words from Latin. Other examples include visceral, discern, and discipline.
- 4 When you hear within a word from Latin the \s\ sound followed by any of the sounds of e (long, short, or schwa), there is a possibility that the \s\ sound is spelled with c as in exacerbate, access, adjacent, condolences, facetious, and necessary.
- 5 The letter i is a vowel often used to connect two Latin word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\ə\), and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter i might be a good guess (as in carnivore and herbivore).
- 6 The letter k rarely appears in words from Latin, and its sound is nearly always represented by c as in canary, prosaic and canine.
- 7 The letter x often gets the pronunciation \gz\ in words from Latin, as in exacerbate and exuberant.
- 8 The combination ious ends many adjectives of Latin origin. When the consonant that precedes ious is c or t, the sound of the final syllable is \shus\ as in precocious, facetious, ostentatious and pernicious.

## Latin Words

incredible	peculiar	obstinate	conjecture
electoral	placid	access	percolate
maculated	condolences	plausible	accurate
benefactor	postmortem	formidable	tenuous
candidate	redundancy	ventilator	simile
predicate	affectation	benevolent	meticulous

implement	nasal	equilateral	burglar
aggression	despicable	dejected	fungus
interruption	impetuous	humble	abominable
alliteration	fugitive	fastidious	vestibule
amicable	trajectory	vaccination	stylus
lucid	gregarious	ambiguity	tolerable
militia	pulpit	irritate	relevant
curriculum	aqueduct	quotient	delicacy
foliate	ardent	stalker	evolution
stimulation	ambivalent	resonate	operating
sponsorship	convivial	jovial	vacuum
painful	nimbus	itinerant	wobbling
establishment	prone	crescent	lunatic
abdomen	atrocities	agenda	debilitate
facsimile	languid	mundane	perturb
renegade	succumb	tentative	mediocre
magnanimous	filament	herbivore	mercurial
providence	discern	rupture	prescription
prerogative	vernacular	pernicious	veracious
efficacy	innocuous	exacerbate	infinitesimal
ameliorate	facetious	commensurate	belligerent

## Words from Greek

The words in this list are related to words that were used 2500 years ago! English gets an important part of its vocabulary from the language of ancient Greece. Classical Greek, as it is called, is quite different from, but closely related to the language spoken in Greece today. The ancient Greeks provided the foundation for many important ways of looking at the world and for living in society that are still important today; that is one reason their language has remained so influential. It is still used today, for example, when scientist need a word to describe something newly created or discovered.

### Spelling Tips for Greek Words

1. In a few words from Greek, *e* appears at the end of a word and has long e sound (\ē\): Some examples are acme, apostrophe, and hyperbole.
2. A \k\ sound in English often represents a sound from Greek that we don't actually use, and the most common spelling of this sound in English is *ch*: See anachronism, arachnid, character, chronic, chronology, dichotomy, hierarchy, matriarch, melancholy, notochord, patriarch, synchronous, and tachometer.
3. The most frequent sound that *y* gets in words from Greek is short *i* (\i\ ) as in Calypso, cryptic, cynical, dyslexia, eponym, homonym, polymer, synchronous, synergy, synonym, synopsis, and syntax.
4. A long *i* sound (\ī\ ) in a word that comes from Greek is sometimes represented by *y*, especially after *h* as in dynamic, hydraulic, hydrology, hyperbole, hyphen, and hypothesis.
5. The Greek letter called *phi* (pronounced \fī\ ), even though its sound is exactly the same as English *f*, almost always appears as *ph* in words from Greek. Consider, for example: apostrophe, diphthong, ephemeral, epiphany, euphemism, hyphen, metamorphosis, metaphor, phenomenon, philanthropy, spherical, topography, and zephyr. These words are only a sample: Hundreds of words in English derived from Greek show this spelling.
6. The letter *o* is the vowel most often used to connect two Greek word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\ə\ ) as in xylophone, notochord, and ergonomic and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter *o* is a good guess. The non-study-list words hypnotist, geometric, and electrolyte are among the many, many words made of Greek word elements connected by *o*.
7. The (\j\ ) sound is always spelled with *g* in words from Greek. No *j* appears in any of the words in this list.
8. A schwa in words from Greek is occasionally spelled with *y*: See analysis, etymology, misogynist, odyssey, and zephyr.

### Greek Words

lethargy	eulogy	dyslexia	abacus
android	homonym	synergy	pragmatic
adamant	bombastic	phenomenon	metaphor

enthusiasm	antibiotic	spherical	tragic
athlete	automation	myriad	phobic
hippopotamus	chronic	dynamic	polymer
eclectic	hydraulic	monotonous	narcoleptic
melancholy	utopia	idyllic	topography
orthodox	semantics	amnesia	tachometer
aristocracy	thesaurus	philanthropy	protein
cholesterol	peripheral	democracy	rhinoceros
patriarch	criterion	strategy	hyphen
character	acronym	tropical	autopsy
isobar	paradox	matriarch	pyre
asterisk	synchronous	endemic	nemesis
periscope	metabolize	analysis	angelic
stoic	eponym	charismatic	zoology
chronology	parabolic	agnostic	demotic
protagonist	diagnosis	cosmos	sarcasm
acrobat	cemetery	cynicism	planet
dinosaur	galaxy	marathon	marmalade
music	panic	arachnid	metamorphosis
dichotomy	misogynist	euphemism	hyperbole
anomaly	anachronism	dactylology	paradigm
zephyr	iridology	nautical	pathology

# Words from Arabic

Arabic words have come into English in two different ways. Relatively few, in more modern times, have made the jump directly. In these instances, Arabic had a name for something that was either unknown in English or lacked a name. The more frequent route of Arabic words into English was in previous eras, often traveling through other languages on the way. For that reason the spelling of Arabic words in English is not consistent. Nevertheless, there are a few clues that you can watch out for.

## Spelling Tips for Arabic Words

1. Double consonants are often seen in words from Arabic. More often than not, they occur in the middle of a word as in mummy, cotton, and henna. When they are at the end of a word (albatross or tariff), this is usually because of the spelling conventions of English or some other language that the word passed through to get here.
2. Note how many words on this list begin with *a*/; this spelling can be traced to the definite article *al* ("the") in Arabic, which sometimes gets borrowed along with a word. Most of the time the spelling is *al* in English, but not *el* in elixir.
3. A long sound (\ē\ ) at the end of an Arabic word is often spelled with *i* as in safari but may also be spelled with *y* as in alchemy.
4. The schwa sound (\ə\ ) at the end of an Arabic word is usually spelled with *a* as in henna, tuna, algebra, and alfalfa.
5. The Arabic alphabet has 28 letters, and among these are letters that represent half a dozen sounds that do not even exist in English. Thus, when a word crosses over from Arabic to English, there is always a compromise about how it will be spelled and pronounced, which sometimes results in inconsistencies. Some English consonants have to do double or triple duty, representing various sounds in Arabic that native speakers of English don't make.
6. A typical word in Arabic has three consonant sounds, with or without vowels between them: gazelle, safari, talc, and carafe are typical examples.

## Arabic Words

arabesque	guitar	mosque	arsenal
azure	adobe	borax	hazard
Islamic	tuna	zenith	sultan
admiral	giraffe	safari	henna
artichoke	mattress	imam	sequin
elixir	alcohol	algebra	mohair
mummy	saffron	tariff	talc

gazelle	alcove	ghoul	alchemy
apricot	crimson	massage	hummus
albatross	garble	tarragon	candy
gauze	jar	julep	tangerine
garbage	orange	spinach	sugar
muslin	camphor	algorithm	minaret
carafe	marzipan	alcazar	lemon

## ***Words from Asian Languages***

When English-speaking people--mainly British--began to trade with the Indian subcontinent and the Far East, it was necessary to find words for many things never before encountered, whether foods, plants, animals, clothing, or events. Many words that were borrowed from Asian languages as a result of trade have become well established in English, and the process continues today. It is difficult to find reliable patterns to help you spell these words because they were borrowed at different times by different people.

### ***Spelling Tip for words from Asian Languages***

- 1 Most of the words from various Asian languages were introduced into English by people who spoke English. Therefore, an approach that you might find useful is to simply spell the word the way you would spell it if you were hearing it for the first time. In other words, use the letters you would use if the spelling were completely up to you!
- 2 The long e sound \ē\ is spelled ee in dungaree and rupee.

### ***Words from Asian Languages***

nirvana	rupee	dungaree	guru
juggernaut	bungalow	tandoori	yeti
shampoo	gunnysack	seersucker	typhoon
chutney	jungle	bamboo	yamen
cushy	bangle	karma	pundit
cummerbund	loot	jackal	oolong
catsup	ginseng	kowtow	rickshaw
lychee	soy	basmati	gingham
batik	Buddha	gung-ho	yin

# ***Words from Japanese***

Japanese is a relative latecomer among the languages that have influenced English, making it a welcome language of origin for spellers: Recently borrowed words are spelled more consistently than those from languages that English has been borrowing from for centuries. Japanese is written in English according to the sound of Japanese words and is not influenced by the Japanese writing system, which uses symbols for words rather than letters.

## ***Spelling Tips for Japanese Words***

1. A long e sound (ē) is very common at the end of Japanese words and is usually spelled with *i* such as in sushi, teriyaki, wasabi, and several other words on the list.
2. Be careful, however, of some Japanese words in which long e is spelled simply with *e* as in karate and karaoke.
3. An (ü) sound is also a common way to end Japanese words and is spelled with *u* as in haiku, tofu, and kudzu.
4. Long o (ō) at the end of a word from Japanese is spelled with *o* as in honcho, mikado, and sumo.
5. A long a sound (ā) heard in geisha is spelled *ei* in some words from Japanese.

## ***Japanese Words***

haiku	ramen	sukiyaki	koi
futon	kudzu	ninja	samurai
Mikado	banzai	sushi	teriyaki
hibachi	sumo	tofu	sashimi
origami	honcho	shogun	tsunami
geisha	sayonara	miso	kimono
karaoke	sake	emoji	shiatsu
wasabi	karate	judo	zen
karaoke	tycoon	Kabuki	issei

# Words from French

Before the Modern English that we speak today was fully settled, the French of the Middle Ages—a direct offshoot of Latin—was widely spoken in the British Isles, as a result of the conquest of Britain by France in 1066. English is so rich in vocabulary today partly because we often have words with similar or overlapping meanings. For example, we may call the animal a *hog* (Old English), but the meat it produces is *pork* (from French).

Today, English words with French credentials are everywhere in English. Our pronunciation of vowels and consonants is quite different from the modern French of today, but there are many consistent spelling patterns that can help us make an educated guess about how to spell words that come from French.

## Spelling Tips for French words

- 1 French nearly always spells the \sh\ sound with *ch*, and this spelling of the sound is very common in words from French. *Chagrin*, *chauvinism*, and *crochet* are examples.
- 2 A word from French ending with a stressed \et\ is usually spelled with *ette* as in *croquette* and *layette*.
- 3 A long *a* sound (\ā\ ) at the end of a word from French can be spelled a number of ways. One of the more common ways, though, is with the *et* as in *cachet*, *crochet*, and *croquet*.
- 4 A somewhat unfamiliar way to spell long *a* (\ā\ ) as the end of a word from French is with *er* as in one pronunciation of *foyer*.
- 5 A long *e* sound (\ē\ ) at the end of a word from French can be spelled with *ie* as in *prairie* and *sortie*.
- 6 Words ending with an \āzh\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled *age* as in *collage*, *mirage*, *dressage*, *garage*, and *barrage*.
- 7 A \k\ sound at the end of a word from French is often spelled *que* as in *mystique*, *boutique*, and *physique*.
- 8 When the \sh\ sound occurs as the end of a word from French, there is nearly always a silent *e* that follows it, as in *gauche* and *quiche*.
- 9 Words ending with an \ād\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled *ade* as in *fusillade*.
- 10 French speakers have a number of vowels that English speakers modify in pronunciation. Our way of pronouncing the French *aise* (pronounced \ez\ in French) is usually \āz\.
- 11 French has many different vowel sounds and diphthongs that are distinctly French, but it has only the same 26 letters to spell them with that English has. Therefore, French relies on certain combinations of vowels and consonants when spelling to show what vowel sound is meant. When pronounced in English, many of these sounds are simplified. The result is that many different English spellings stand for the same sound in French words.

***French Words***

absurd	denture	warranty	effigy
bureaucracy	prairie	crochet	enclave
mascot	capillary	altruism	sustain
ballet	miraculously	centrifuge	napkin
cognizance	pedicure	romantic	peloton
chagrin	sojourner	barrage	torrential
layette	matinee	parliament	gorgeous
mirage	magician	orientation	chaplain
pastel	pacifism	ratchet	denim
manicure	prowess	pomade	menu
harass	boutique	pistol	plateau
etiquette	sabotage	dentist	coupon
maneuver	rectangle	debris	debacle
restaurant	queue	ambulance	detour
rapport	genre	lieutenant	repertoire
camouflage	farouche	sangfroid	rendezvous
saboteur	renaissance	raconteur	faux pas

# Words from German

English and German are in the same language family, and because of that you might expect that they would look more like each other than they do! While many words of German origin in English have some telltale signs, others have been anglicized (made to look and sound more English). Therefore, you might not know at first glance where they came from. Most English borrowings from German happened relatively early in the history of English, but occasionally there are new arrivals. These tend to become English with fewer spelling changes than the early borrowings did.

## Spelling Tips for German words

1. Don't stay away from consonant clusters! German words often have combinations of three or more consonants that don't occur in thoroughly English words. Examples include gst in angst, schn in schnauzer, and nschl in anschluss.
2. A \k\ sound in a word from German is usually spelled with a k at the beginning of the word or syllable (as in einkorn, kitsch, and kuchen) and often with a ck at the end of a word or syllable (as in glockenspiel and rucksack).
3. A long i sound usually has the spelling ei in words from German, and in fräulein, Meistersinger, and several other words in the list.
4. The \f\ sound, especially at the beginning of a word, is sometimes spelled with a v in German words as in vorlage.
5. The letter z is far more common in German than in English. Note that its pronunciation is not usually the same as the English \z\. When it follows a t, which is common, the pronunciation is \s\ as in spritz, pretzel, and seltzer.
6. The \sh\ sound in words of German origin is usually spelled sch, whether at the beginning or end of a word or syllable. In schottische, you get it in both places.
7. A long e sound (\ē\ ) usually has the spelling ie in words from German, as in blitzkrieg.
8. The letter w is properly pronounced as a \v\ in German, as you hear in one pronunciation of edelweiss. Many German words, however, have become so anglicized that this pronunciation has vanished. Most Americans, for example, say "bratwurst" not "bratyurst."

## German words

angst	schnauzer	mourn	garnishee
pretzel	wanderlust	knapsack	harbinger
belfry	existential	poltergeist	liverwurst
waltz	lederhosen	feldspar	dachshund
seltzer	noodle	autobahn	streusel

bratwurst	polypeptide	sauerbraten	spareribs
eiderdown	pumpernickel	verboten	rucksack
strudel	umlaut	hamster	prattle
Neanderthal	delicatessen	zeppelin	lager
fest	kindergarten	glockenspiel	haversack
edelweiss	Rottweiler	gesundheit	kraut (cabbage)

# ***Words from Slavic Languages***

Many people in Eastern Europe and Asia speak a Slavic language such as Czech, Ukrainian, Croatian, or Bulgarian. Some words of Slavic origin that have made their way into English traveled through another language first, reflecting the fact that contacts between English-speaking and Slavic-speaking cultures have not always been direct.

## **Slavic Words**

gulag	tundra	vampire	parka
Permian	sputnik	Slav	knish
robot	glasnost	cravat	samovar
paprika	Kremlin	sable	Soviet
troika	kasha	mammoth	nebbish
polka	Siberian	Bolshevik	slave
shaman	beluga	borscht	bagel
kibitz	kosher	lox	latke
kielbasa	apparatchik	mazel tov	babushka

# Words from Dutch

Like German, Dutch is a member of the same language family as English: the Germanic family. Many of the original European settlers in North America came from the country that later became the Netherlands, and those early settlers were one of the sources of Dutch words in American English today.

1. A typical Dutch word in English is often a hybrid. It gives some clues to its Dutch origins either in sound or spelling, but it has also been made more English-friendly as a result of spending years on the tongues and pens of English speakers. When you hear “Dutch origin,” the best bet to start with is just to spell the word as it sounds. But be on the lookout for unusual vowel-sound spellings such as those you see in furlough and maelstrom.

## **Dutch Words**

walrus	waffle	splice	boulevard
crimp	wiseacre	trawl	caboose
uproar	stipple	frolic	bundle
school	bruin	skipper	spoor
cockatoo	howitzer	floss	easel
decoy	beleaguer	gulden	ravel
cruiser	wainscot	holster	gruff
buckwheat	bluff	grabble	blister
harpoon	yacht	hustle	scum
furlough	landscaped	trek	excise
bowery	brackish	waft	scrabble
aloof	beaker	coleslaw	cricket
elope	dock	freight	geek
golf	hooky	iceberg	kink
landscape	luck	nasty	pickle
pump	scone	slurp	snack
maelstrom	huckster	apartheid	boss

# Words From Old English

Old English was the language spoken in Britain before the French arrived in 1066. If you could listen to a conversation in Old English, you would probably be scratching your head a lot. A few of the words would make sense, but most of them wouldn't. Like plants and animals, languages evolve—keeping the things that they find useful, discarding others, and picking up new things along the way. This study list represents some of the real success stories in English: words coined long ago that have not lost their usefulness over dozens of generations.

## Spelling Tips for Old English Words

1. Old English likes double consonants following short vowels, especially if the vowel is in a stressed syllable. Examples include quell, paddock, mattock, sallow, fennel, hassock, and errand.
2. A long a sound (ā) at the end of an Old English word is often spelled ay as in belay.
3. Long e (ē) at the end of an adjective or adverb from Old English is nearly always spelled with y. Examples of this include dreary, watery, windily, fiery, creepy, daily, stringy, timely, and womanly.
4. Long o (ō) at the end of Old English words is typically spelled with ow as in sallow. By contrast, a long o at the end of a word in many languages that English has borrowed from is simply spelled with o.
5. When the syllable ʰsəl ends an Old English word, it is nearly always spelled stle, with the t being silent. The only common exception to this rule is pestle, which some people pronounce with the t.
6. Silent gh after a vowel is common in Old English words, as in slaughter. Silent gh usually appears after i in words like plight (not on the study list) and nightingale, and it signals that the vowel is pronounced ʰl.
7. The vowel combination oa in Old English words is nearly always pronounced as long o (ō) as in loam and goatee.

## Old English Words, Middle English Words

bequeath	nostril	forlorn	creepy
barrow	abide	quiver	radical
dearth	bachelor	daily	doughtily
bower	slaughter	barley	broadleaf
earwig	gospel	stringy	welfare
furlong	hassock	workmanship	anvil
keen	linseed	orchard	mongrel

goatee	hearth	timely	fennel
girth	behoove	perpetual	maggot
knave	wretched	teachable	purchase
mermaid	reckless	fathom	errand
among	conceited	decaffeinate	mileage
guise	hemorrhage	jargon	lavender
whirlpool	misinterpret	womanly	nestle
hue	singe	revitalize	aspen
worrisome	hurdle	threshold	sorrel
cleanser	learned	icicle	nosiest
dreary	hundredth	dealership	dairy
gristle	tithe	rambunctious	writhe
besmirch	brine	bushel	heir
soothsayer	stalwart	sleight	quench
banshee	shriveled	plenty	oft
mistletoe	salve	dubiety	windily
newfangled	blithe	kirtle	heifer

# ***Words From New World Languages***

The people of the tribes and nations who lived in the New World before the arrival of European explorers were like people everywhere: They had a name for everything! Often, the language of the newly arrived people simply absorbed the native term, imposing changes on it that would make it fit in better with the newcomers' language. Some of these terms jumped directly to English from a native language. Others traveled through some other language along the way. Though Hawaiian isn't a true New World language, it is included here because Hawaii is now a part of the United States.

## ***Spelling Tips for Words From New World Languages***

1. Remember that words settling down in English are often spelled according to English word patterns. If you're completely unsure of how to spell a word from a New World language, you can try just "sounding it out." This strategy would work for hurricane, muskrat, wigwam, and several other words on the list.
2. Take note of the language(s) a word may have traveled through on its way to English, for the path to English often gives a clue about spelling. For example, if it had been up to an English speaker, the *\u028a* sound at the end of caribou would probably have been spelled oo; but the influence of French gives us the current spelling, because French usually spells this sound ou.
3. Coyote shows evidence of having passed through Spanish on its way to English: The voiced final e is typical of Spanish words. Another example from this list is tamale.
4. Remember what folk etymology is? Words that entered English from New World languages were prime candidates for this process. If parts of a native word sounded familiar, they were often spelled by the settlers in a familiar way, as in woodchuck. Muskrat is also probably a result of folk etymology.

## ***Words from New World Languages***

totem	iguana	ketosis	hurricane
woodchuck	cacao	chocolate	wigwam
thoroughbred	mortarboard	jerky	conservatism
make-believe	puma	muskrat	varmint
demolition	midget	skepticism	complexity
westerner	skillfully	isolation	aerodynamic
tomato	hominy	adept	pampas
jeggings	bayou	coyote	wolverine
toucan	self-appointed	petunia	chipotle

cashew	vegetarianism	tangelo	upheaval
sextuplet	humongous	hydroplane	smattering
cheeseball	shoplifting	crowdfunding	dartboard
opossum	persimmon	curmudgeon	quinine
luau	mahi mahi	ipecac	inconceivable

***Words from International Scientific Vocabulary***

radon	cauterize	brachium	calendula
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# ***Eponyms***

Eponyms are words based on a person's or character's name. Sometimes the person's name and the word are exactly the same and the word simply takes on a new meaning. In other cases the person's name is slightly changed. When this happens, the stressed syllable of the new word can also change and you won't always recognize the origin, which might be a somewhat familiar name. Take, for example, gardenia. It's really just a man's name (Alexander Garden) with the plant-naming suffix -ia. In fact, all of the words in this list that end with ia are names for plants are based on the last names of botanists.

## ***Eponyms***

praline	Newton	tantalize	macadamia
gardenia	mentor	quisling	angstrom
magnolia	salmonella	melba	Kelvin
boysenberry	jodhpurs	Samaritan	shrapnel
zinnia	vulcanize	yahoo	begonia
poinsettia	Frankenstein	saxophone	Dracula
diesel	ampere	pasteurize	guillotine
Kleenex	atlas	boycott	braille
cardigan	chauvinist	derby	guppy
Hoover	Jacuzzi	leotard	mentor
Morphine	nicotine	panic	pasteurization
Sandwich	silhouette	volt	watt
forsythia	Esperanto	Fahrenheit	narcissistic

# Words from Italian

English vocabulary owes Italian a big debt in two categories that provide a lot of enjoyment for many people; music and food. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when the idea first started catching on of giving some instructions to performers of musical scores, many of the important composers were Italian—and it was natural for them to use their own language. The result is that the standard terms for musical expression today are Italian. Many Italian food terms made their way into American English particularly as a result of 19<sup>th</sup>-century immigration.

## Spelling Tips for Italian Words

1. Long e (\ē\ ) at the end of a word from Italian is usually spelled with *i* as in confetti, graffiti, zucchini, and many other words on the list. In Italian, the final *i* usually indicates a plural form. This is not always true, however, of Italian words in English
2. Long o (\ō\ ) at the end of an Italian word is spelled with *o* as in incognito, vibrato, stucco, virtuoso, concerto, and many other words on the list.
3. A long e sound (\ē\ ) at the end of a word from Italian can be spelled with *e* as in provolone and finale, although this spelling of the sound is less common than *i* (see tip 1).
4. The \sh\ sound has various spellings in words from Italian; a spelling it usually doesn't have is sh! It can be spelled *sc* as in crescendo or *ch* as in charlatan and pistachio. The spelling of the \sh\ sound in capricious is also seen in words that come from Latin—the ancestral language of Italian.
5. The \k\ sound can be spelled *cc* when it comes before long o (\ō\ ) as in stucco or when it comes before \ä\ as in staccato.
6. Another Italian spelling of \k\ is *ch* as in scherzo.
7. The sound \ē-nē\ common at the end of Italian words (it forms diminutives), is usually spelled *ini*.
8. The double consonant *zz* is typically pronounced \ts\ in words from Italian, as in paparazzo.

## Italian Words

staccato	parapet	virtuoso	pesto
ballot	falsetto	harmonica	ravioli
confetti	ditto	sonata	bambino
semolina	provolone	bravura	salami
influenza	extravaganza	fresco	Parmesan
cavalry	scampi	stucco	credenza
piazza	inferno	finale	vibrato

cameo	contraband	fiasco	bandit
cadenza	gondola	ballerina	pastel
rotunda	malaria	spaghetti	alarm
cauliflower	grotto	balcony	antipasto
cantata	galleria	harpsichord	concerto
incognito	regatta	allegro	macaroni
vendetta	crescendo	palmetto	carnival
mascara	portfolio	piccolo	graffiti
broccoli	cappuccino	espresso	coffee
pistachio	soda	opera	caliber
lagoon	scalpel	torso	volcano
carpet	gallery	grotesque	archipelago
charlatan	prosciutto	novel	scenario
adagio	segue	zucchini	maraschino
capricious			

## Words from Spanish

England and Spain had some opportunities for word exchanges through war and trade. The real crossroads for Spanish and English, however, has been North America, starting as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> century when Spanish explorers first came to the New World. This crossroads is as busy today as ever, for Spanish is the second-most frequently spoken language in the United States. Because of the long border we share with Mexico and the large number of Americans whose origins go back eventually to Mexico, American English has many words that come directly from Mexican Spanish.

### Spelling Tips for Spanish Words

1. The good news about words from Spanish is that they are often spelled the way they sound. There is no need to throw in any silent letters in most cases.
2. A long o sound (ō) at the end of a word is often a mark of Spanish origin, and it is nearly always spelled simply with o as in embargo and many other words in this list.
3. A long e sound (ē) at the end of a word of Spanish origin is usually spelled with i as in mariachi.
4. The k sound is sometimes spelled with qu in words of Spanish origin. This is especially true when the vowel sound that follows is long a (ā) long e (ē), or short i (i). Quesadilla is an example from our list.
5. It is much more common for the k sound to be spelled with c in words of Spanish origin. This is almost invariable when the vowel sound that follows is a schwa (ə) as in canasta, short a (a) as in castanets, or long o (ō) as in flamenco and junco.
6. A schwa at the end of a word from Spanish is very common and is usually spelled with a as in bonanza, canasta, and several other words in the list.
7. The combination ll in Spanish words is traditionally treated as a single letter and is pronounced as consonant (y) in American Spanish. When such words enter English, sometimes that sound persists. At other times it is pronounced just like ll would be in an English word; that is, as ll. Some words, such as mantilla and tomatillo, even have two pronunciations in English. Quesadilla and tortilla always have the y pronunciation in English; chinchilla, flotilla, vanilla, peccadillo, and cedilla always have the ll pronunciation. Be on the lookout!
8. Note that, except for ll, double consonants in words from Spanish are not very common. Buffalo and peccadillo represent exceptions. In Spanish, buffalo has only one f and peccadillo has only one c. English spelling rules prefer two consonants as a signal that the previous vowel is short, as in the case in these words.

### Spanish Words

burrito	pueblo	vanilla	cedilla
hacienda	fiesta	Alamo	mesa
jalapeño	barrio	quesadilla	mariachi
sombrero	tornado	filibuster	patio

alligator	cafeteria	Amarillo	renegade
canasta	vigilante	bongo	macho
bonanza	adios	desperado	tortilla
chinchilla	cabana	oregano	empanada
cilantro	lariat	enchilada	castanets
anchovy	sierra	bolero	buffalo
mosquito	iguana	barbecue	jerky
potato	fiesta	ranch	conquistador
sassafras	sarsaparilla	punctilio	gazpacho
embarcadero	caballero	armadillo	bronco