



# words of the champions

..... your **key** to the **bee** .....

# howdy, word nerds!

## about this study guide

Do you dream of winning a school spelling bee, or even attending the Scripps National Spelling Bee National Competition? *Words of the Champions* is the official study resource of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, so you've found the perfect place to start. Prepare for a 2023 or 2024 classroom, grade-level, school, district, county, regional or state spelling bee with this list of 4,000 words.

All words in this book have been selected by the Scripps National Spelling Bee from our official dictionary, Merriam-Webster Unabridged (<http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>).

*Words of the Champions* is divided into three difficulty levels, ranked One Bee, Two Bee and Three Bee. These are great words to challenge you, whether you're just getting started in spelling bees or if you've already participated in several. At the beginning of each level, you'll find the *School Spelling Bee Study List* words. For any classroom, grade-level or school spelling bee, study the 150-word One Bee *School Spelling Bee Study List*, the 150-word Two Bee *School Spelling Bee Study List* and the 150-word Three Bee *School Spelling Bee Study List*: a total of 450 words.

Following the *School Spelling Bee Study List* in each level, you'll find pages marked "Words of the Champions." Are you a school spelling bee champion or a speller advancing to compete beyond the school level? Study these pages to make sure you're prepared to do your best when these words are asked in the early rounds of competition. And remember, although spelling bees will start with words from this guide, they often end with words you haven't studied.

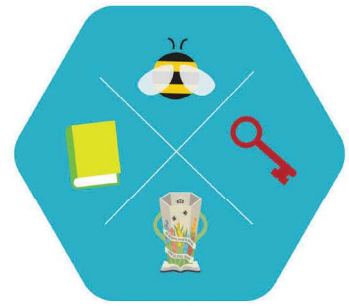
New this year, at the end of this study resource you'll find games, puzzles and themed lists to help you engage with the words in new ways. Enjoy!

Each year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee will release a new version of *Words of the Champions* featuring 800 new words, including an all-new *School Spelling Bee Study List*.

Your spelling bee journey starts now, and taking the first step toward becoming a star athlete of the English language makes you a Champion. These *Words* are for you.

## about the Scripps National Spelling Bee

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational program. By inspiring the exploration of words, the Scripps National Spelling Bee illuminates pathways to lifelong curiosity, celebrates academic achievement and enriches communities. Visit [spellingbee.com](http://spellingbee.com) for more information about the Bee and to check if your school is enrolled. The Scripps National Spelling Bee is administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company.



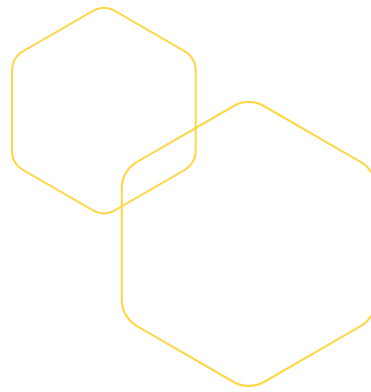
**words** of the  
**champions**

.....  
YOUR KEY TO THE BEE

**Official Dictionary**  
of the  
**Scripps National**  
**Spelling Bee**

[merriam-webster.com](http://merriam-webster.com)

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# difficulty level: one bee



## school spelling bee study list

The first, second and third-grade words from the 2024 School Spelling Bee Study List.

sky  
wow  
hug  
snap  
tape  
sips  
hard  
why  
first  
tide  
bow  
back  
find  
name  
oops  
more  
toss  
chin  
park  
bike  
nest  
rude  
deal  
store  
roads  
cool  
wake  
vase  
tune  
coat  
four  
block

verb - to put one's arms around and press tightly.

heap  
ladder  
tug  
spoon  
spark  
later  
hair  
open  
this  
his  
May  
grid  
wag  
near  
zip  
rug  
dots  
pat  
pole  
snake  
mound  
smaller  
grand  
gross  
wish  
stove  
join  
state  
enter  
blank  
give  
other

bedroom  
branch  
letter  
spring  
dance  
front  
roast  
brave  
bright  
scream  
river  
bride  
stall  
point  
wedding  
little  
doctor  
peel  
snack  
notebook  
brain  
pride  
dear  
live  
tubes  
cloth  
gazed  
mile  
float  
snail  
second  
drew

noun - the portion of the central nervous system in vertebrates that makes up the organ of thought.



### in good company

When it comes to spelling bee participants, the more the merrier! In fact, more than 11 million spellers participate each year in qualifying spelling bees throughout the country and around the world.

stood  
nagged  
scan  
glue  
ground  
shower  
endless  
plunger  
fireworks  
dazzle  
climb  
April  
subway  
broken  
stew  
shall  
flowers  
angry  
create  
drooped  
cluttered  
bursting  
edge  
glasses  
gently  
crown  
shutters

corner  
barely  
able  
present  
clearly  
really  
overcome  
sketch  
evening  
again  
finally  
thumbs  
glittery  
together  
while  
mother  
worth  
solve  
credit  
steel  
pour  
anybody  
whisper  
Thursday  
music  
wears  
thoughts

verb – to speak softly,  
especially with the aim  
of preserving secrecy.



## Great Words, Great Works Reading Program

Each year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee publishes our School Spelling Bee Study List to help students prepare for classroom and school-level spelling bees. These words come from Great Words, Great Works, a list of books carefully selected by the Bee's editorial team. Find it at [spellingbee.com/book-list](https://spellingbee.com/book-list).

# difficulty level: one bee



## Words of the Champions

Organized alphabetically, these words are a great place to start your journey to mastering *Words of the Champions!* Words with a single asterisk (\*) indicate a primarily British spelling. Words with a double asterisk (\*\*) are the preferred spelling. A complete list of the words that were added to this year's study list can be found on page 40.

### A

abaft  
abandon  
abashed  
object  
aboriginal  
acceptance  
acclaim  
accolade  
accomplice  
acquit  
acrostic  
adage  
addendum  
addition  
addle  
adhesion  
adjective  
adjudicate  
admonition  
adnate  
adsum  
advection  
adversaria  
affront  
aforesaid  
afroth  
agility  
agitation  
algae  
alienate  
alpaca — noun – a South American mammal that resembles a llama.  
alpha  
altercation  
amass  
Americana  
amiably  
Amish

amnesty  
amulet  
amusement  
ancho  
anime  
animus  
anklet  
anniversary  
annotate  
anoint  
ante  
anthropology  
anyway  
apology  
apparel  
applicable  
appraisal  
apprehensive  
arithmetic  
armadillo  
astonish  
astounding  
atomic  
atonement  
attendee  
attitude  
auction  
auditorium  
avalanche  
avatar  
avenue  
aviation  
awry

### B

bachelorette  
backgammon  
badger

bailiff  
ballad  
banana  
banquet  
baptismal  
barbie  
bask  
become  
Bengal  
bias  
birdie  
biscuit  
bizarro  
blandish  
blarney  
bleary  
bleat  
blemish  
blink  
blizzard  
blooper  
blurb  
boarders  
boogie-woogie  
bootless  
botany — noun – the science of plants.  
bother  
bountiful  
bowie  
breathtaking  
brethren  
brick  
bristle  
brochure  
broil  
bubbly  
buffet  
buffoonery

bumblebee  
bungee  
burial  
buzzworthy

## C

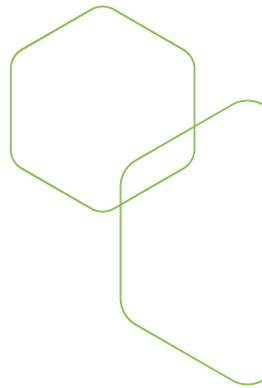
cabbage  
cactus  
cadence  
calculator  
calendar  
camcorder  
candid  
canoe  
canteen  
cantor  
capacity  
capitalist  
captivated  
caramel  
carnation  
carnival  
carriage  
carrot  
cashier  
casino  
casserole  
casualty  
caterpillar  
cathedral  
catnap  
celebratory  
celery  
celestial  
cello  
cement  
census  
centipede  
charioteer  
charitable  
chastise

chortle  
chowder  
churlish  
chute\*\*  
OR shute  
cidery  
cinderella  
cinematic  
citation  
clarinet  
classical  
clearance  
cleave  
clover  
clowder  
coach  
coalition  
cockles  
collie  
collision  
combustible  
comedienne  
commandeer  
comparison  
compass  
compatriots  
compelling  
complementary  
compartment  
composite  
conch — noun – an edible marine mollusk with a large spiral shell.  
concrete  
condemn  
condensation  
condiments  
conference  
consideration  
contraction  
contradictory  
contrite  
contusion

conundrum  
convention  
convocation  
convoy  
cooperate  
copperhead  
corgi  
corkscrew  
cornily  
cranium  
criminal  
criteria  
crocodile  
crumpet  
crux  
curator  
curfew  
curio  
cushion  
cyclone  
cymbals

## D

daft  
daisy  
daresay  
dawdle  
debris  
debunk  
decor  
definitely  
delta  
derby  
designer  
dialect  
dicey  
dictum  
difficult  
digression  
dillydally  
disaster



## cruising the airwaves

The first broadcast of the Bee wasn't on television – it was on radio!  
It wasn't until 1946 that it was first televised.

disposition  
disrepair  
distinctive  
diva  
diverge  
diversion  
diversity  
divine  
divvy  
docket  
documentary  
domino  
donatee  
downcast  
dragoon  
dramatization  
dreadlocks  
dribbles  
drivel  
Dudley  
dumbwaiter  
duress  
dynamite

## E

eagerly  
earmark  
earnestly  
eclipse  
editorial  
eerily  
effortless  
Egyptian  
eighth  
Einstein  
elaborative  
elasticity  
elegant  
element  
elevator  
elicitation  
eligibility  
ellipse  
elocution  
elucidate  
elusive

noun – a small dotted slab that together with other such slabs is used to play a game.

adjective – hard to catch.

emancipatory  
embassy  
embezzlement  
emblazoned  
emerald  
empty  
encore  
encroach  
endearing  
endure  
enervate  
engineer  
entreat  
entrée  
entrepreneur  
enumerated  
enviable  
epoxy  
erode  
eruption  
escalator  
escapade  
essential  
establishment  
evaluate  
evaporation  
ewe  
exaggerate  
excursion  
exemplar  
exercise  
existence  
explode  
extensive  
extinct  
extinguish  
extracurricular  
extradition  
extraordinaire  
exude

## F

fabulist  
facade  
factorial  
fadeaway

fallacy  
fanatic  
fashionista  
feeble  
fellowship  
felonious  
ferret  
fervently  
fez  
fido  
fie  
flar  
filbert  
financier  
fission  
fisticuffs  
flabbergast  
flashback  
flattery  
fleeciness  
fleetness  
flexitarian  
flight  
flimflammer  
flipperling  
floridly  
flounder  
flourish  
flout  
fluctuation  
fluid  
flummery  
foible  
folate  
folly  
fomentation  
foosball  
foothills  
foozle  
foppery  
forensics  
forfeit  
forgeable  
formalize  
OR formalise\*  
fortification

noun – a small animal with broad flat limbs adapted for swimming (as a baby seal).

frailty  
freckle  
freegan  
freight  
fribble  
frisket  
frock  
frontier  
frugal  
fundamental  
funnel  
furnace  
futility

## G

gab  
gaffer  
gaggle  
gallant  
galley  
gardenesque  
gargle  
garniture  
gaucho  
gazette  
genius  
genteel  
ghastly  
giggle  
gist  
gizzard  
glitterati  
gnarled  
Godspeed  
goober  
gossip  
gotcha  
gouge  
graham  
grandeur

verb – to  
laugh in a silly  
manner.

graphologist  
grapple  
gridiron  
griefful  
groom  
gruel  
guess  
gymnastics

## H

habitual  
haggle  
hamlet  
handle  
handyman  
hangar  
haphazard  
hardtack  
harmonious  
harrowing  
hatchet  
hazelnut  
headlong  
heavenly  
heiress  
heist  
hermitage  
hexagonal  
Highlands  
hijab  
hoagies  
hoax  
hobble  
hollyhock  
homage  
homesteader  
homicide  
honeybee  
horseradish  
hostile

howler  
hurriedly  
husk  
hydra  
hydrant

noun – one of the  
leaves enveloping  
an ear of corn.

## I

iceberg  
ignite  
inclusion  
income  
infiltrate  
infirm  
inflammable  
influential  
inglorious  
insomnia  
installation  
intellectual  
intensify  
intertidal  
intricate  
irrigation  
irritability  
island  
isms  
isolation

verb – to  
set on fire.

## J

jammer  
jankers  
jersey  
jitterbug  
joinery  
junior

noun – a soft  
knitted fabric  
used for making  
clothing, especially  
sportswear.

## K

kazoo  
kennel  
kenning



## why is it so hard to spell English words?

English consists of originally English words, but it also collected words from other languages and made them part of the English lexicon. With 26 letters and about 44 letter sounds, English is a hodgepodge of letters and sounds that don't always line up. Take the letter 'x,' for example, found in the words "extra," "mix," and "example," or the vowel sound in "weigh" and "way"!

kernel  
kilt  
kindred  
kiwi  
knight  
knoll  
kodak  
kudos

noun – praise given for some achievement.

## L

labradoodle  
lactose  
languish  
lapel  
lateral  
lawyer  
league  
leaven  
leeway  
legacy  
legislature  
legitimately  
leisure  
lettuce  
lexicon  
liege  
ligament  
likelier  
limelight  
linguistics  
literally  
livid  
lucky  
lumbar  
luminance  
lupine

noun – the center of public attention.

## M

macaw  
macrobiotics  
madrigal  
magician  
mahogany  
maidenhair  
maize  
mambo

manacle  
mandate  
manta  
mantra  
marathon  
maritime

adjective – of or relating to navigation or commerce on the sea.

marooned  
martial  
mastiff  
maternity  
matrimony  
mauve  
maverick  
maximum  
mayhem  
measly  
medallion  
melody  
melted  
membership  
memes  
memorandum  
menial  
merchandise  
merely  
Merlin  
meteor  
metrical  
Michigander  
millionaire  
mince  
minutia  
miraculous  
mischief  
misconception  
missile  
missive  
mister  
mockery  
modality  
modem  
modify  
modular  
mogul  
molasses  
molecule

monopolize  
OR monopolise\*  
montage  
moped  
morose  
mosaic  
mummified  
munchkin  
musings  
mutter

## N

nationalism  
neaten  
necessity  
neigh  
nerfing  
nervily  
newbie  
nocturnal  
nominee  
nonconformist  
nozzles  
nuggets

plural noun – small usually round-shaped pieces of food.

## O

obliterate  
oblong  
obscure  
occupancy  
olympiad  
omega  
omission  
onion  
optician  
optimum  
opulent  
oracle  
orchestra  
ordinance  
organelle  
ounce  
ouster  
overtures  
overweening  
owlshy  
ozone

adjective – having a shape that is elongated beyond a square or circle.

**P**

pageantry  
 paginate  
 paisley  
 palatial  
 pallor  
 pantheon  
 parkour  
 parley  
 partridge  
 passage  
 pastime  
 pathogen  
 patience  
 patrician  
 pauper  
 pear  
 peat  
 peddle  
 pedicure  
 pedigree  
 pending  
 penguin  
 peninsular  
 peony  
 performance  
 permafrost  
 peruse  
 pervasive  
 photogenic  
 physical  
 physicists  
 pillar  
 pitiful  
 placards  
 placate  
 platinum  
 platoon  
 pliant  
 plummet  
 portrait

noun – a medium-sized, short-winged game bird with short legs and neck.

praise  
 precursor  
 predicament  
 premonition  
 primitive  
 principality  
 prism  
 procedure  
 procrastinate  
 profiteer  
 prominent  
 prone  
 proposal  
 propulsion  
 prosperous  
 proxy  
 publish  
 puckish  
 pulpit  
 punctuation  
 pungent  
 punily  
 puniness  
 purification  
 puritan  
 purse  
 putrid  
 puzzles  
 pyramid

**Q**

quantify  
 quart  
 quaver  
 quirky  
 quota

adjective – full of peculiarities.

**R**

rabid  
 raisin  
 rebuff

recanted  
 reconsider  
 recovery  
 recruit  
 redemption  
 reflect  
 regiment  
 registrar  
 rehearsal  
 reign  
 reiterate  
 rejuvenate  
 remorseful  
 renewable  
 replete  
 residue  
 respite  
 restive  
 retorts  
 retriever  
 revelation  
 revulsive  
 riddance  
 riffraff  
 riviera  
 rocket  
 row  
 rubric  
 rugby  
 rumor

adjective – marked by fidgety or uneasy behavior.

OR rumour\*

**S**

sacrifice  
 salivate  
 sandal  
 satchel  
 scalp  
 scandal  
 scanty  
 scent

verb – to produce an excessive amount of drool.

**our mission:**

By inspiring the exploration of words, the Scripps National Spelling Bee illuminates pathways to lifelong curiosity, celebrates academic achievement and enriches communities.

scholarship  
science  
sci-fi  
scooter  
scornfully  
scrapple  
screeno  
scripture  
scrooge  
scrounge  
scrutiny  
scullery  
sculpture  
seclusion  
seize  
selfie  
seller  
semester  
sensory  
September  
sequel  
serenade  
servitude  
sewage  
shaggy  
shamrock  
shindig  
shipping  
shore  
simmer  
sister  
situation  
skimmed  
skirmish  
skydiving  
slab  
sloop  
slovenly  
slurry  
snitch  
sodden  
solicit  
solidity  
solitude  
solstice  
solvency

soprano  
sorbet  
spangled  
spatula  
specificity  
spectral  
speculate  
spindle  
spiteful  
splurge  
spreadsheet  
sprite  
spry  
squeamish  
squirm  
stagestruck  
stamina  
stampede  
stance  
standee  
steampunk  
stencil  
stereotypical  
sterling  
sternum  
steroid  
stewardship  
stomach  
storm  
stowaway  
strong  
stubble  
stupefy  
substitute  
suffix  
suitable  
summary  
sunflower  
sunseeker  
surly  
surplus  
swannery  
sweltering  
sword  
sympathy  
system

## T

talent  
tango  
tase  
tawny  
technician  
teenagers  
tendency  
terrier  
thawed  
thespian  
thicket  
thievery  
thorn  
thrift  
throughout  
tickled  
timber  
toastmaster  
toilsome  
transcription  
transference  
traverse  
treasury  
treatise  
trendy  
trespass  
trifle  
trinkets  
troll  
tropical  
trounce  
trove  
truffle  
truly  
trumpet  
truncate  
tubers  
tunnel  
tutorial  
twilight

noun – a brass instrument with a flared bell and three buttons pressed to make different notes.

## U

uncle  
undercroft  
undergird

unfazed  
unfurl  
university  
uppercut  
urgency

useful  
usher

noun –  
someone who  
escorts people  
to seats at a  
gathering.

## V

various  
varnish  
varsity  
vascular  
vassal  
vault  
veered  
venue  
versatile  
version

vicinity  
vindictive  
vinegar  
vineyard  
virtually

noun –  
neighborhood.

visibility  
vlogging  
vocabulary  
volcano  
votive

## W

waiver  
wamble  
wand  
warning  
wasp  
water  
wattage  
weald  
wealthy  
weaponry  
welding  
welterweight  
wharf  
wheelde  
whelp  
whereas  
whet

why  
whimsical  
whirlybird  
whisk  
wield  
wimple  
wince  
windbaggery  
wizened  
wordmonger  
wring

noun – pompous  
meaningless talk.

## Y

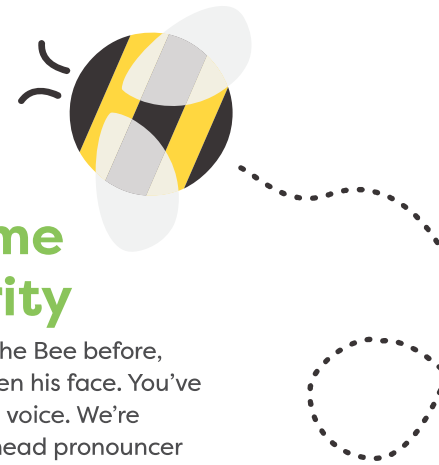
yammer  
yawl  
yeanling  
yippee  
yonder  
yoo-hoo  
yore

verb – to talk rapidly,  
for a long time, and  
often loudly.

## Z

zither

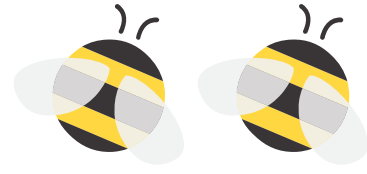
noun – an instrument that  
has a shallow horizontal  
soundboard topped with  
30 to 40 strings that are  
typically plucked by a  
performer.



## a big-time Spellebrity

If you've watched the Bee before, you've probably seen his face. You've definitely heard his voice. We're talking about the head pronouncer of the Bee, Dr. Jacques Bailly. He won the Scripps National Spelling Bee in 1980 and took up the role of head pronouncer in 2003.

# difficulty level: two bee



## school spelling bee study list

The fourth, fifth and sixth-grade words from the 2024 School Spelling Bee Study List. Words with a single asterisk (\*) indicate a primarily British spelling. Words with a double asterisk (\*\*) are the preferred spelling.

bronze

flea

buckeye

sudsy

antlers

plural noun – horns of animals of the deer family, typically present only in the male.

dapper

stroll

criss

bestie

cereal

silence

fury

howdy

important

popovers

thousand

razor

roughly

drawl

oddity

insult

valley

gather

dessert

stagecoach

peaceful

ailment

combat

rotten

expressway

practice\*\*

OR practise

squash

amused

pouch

outfits

sewing

transform

marble

gallon

flitting

plaza

yesterday

nighttime

putty

glumly

ignore

improve

Internet

pantry

hungrily

confident

vision

diamond

stitchery

fiddlehead

hobbit

doughnut

OR donut

precious

wafting

occupy

Afrobeat

termite

insulation

intertwine

recital

furniture

ambush

squire

submerged

saucer

gloaming — noun – twilight : dusk.

engulf

graduate

fascinated

composition

wisdom

ourselves

invisible

completely

poisonous

intimidate

drawers

disdain

deliberately

spacious

forearms

gratitude

appreciation

devotion

inscription

inventory

wheezy

possible

replace

crookedly

fragrant

fowl

responsible

awfully

manual



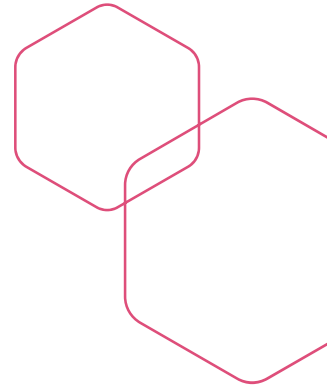
### who knew?

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational program.

thorax  
tostones  
bunions  
bamboozled  
Oman  
flummox\*\*  
    OR flummix  
    OR flummux  
inscrutable  
serenity  
congregation  
sentinel  
Arctic  
fluke  
captain  
delegation  
verve  
Vaseline  
gastritis  
platypus  
salute  
mantel  
    OR mantle  
amphitheater  
desecration  
diode  
mischievous

bionic  
syllables  
sultanate  
turban  
sausage  
disgruntled  
terrify  
quip  
information  
incubator  
droll  
vultures  
Arabic  
Brooklyn  
sacred  
reindeer  
disclaimer  
quotation  
superior  
privilege  
fallow  
replica  
provision  
reference  
havens  
voracious

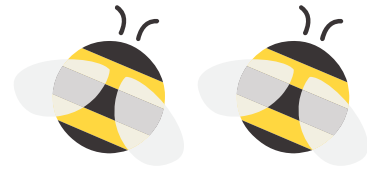
noun – a headdress consisting of a long cloth that is wrapped around a cap or directly around the head.



## from around the world

Most spellers at the Scripps National Spelling Bee are from the United States, but spellers also come from Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Canada, Ghana and Department of Defense Schools in Europe.

# difficulty level: two bee



## Words of the Champions

Organized alphabetically, these words are a great place to continue your journey to mastering *Words of the Champions!* Words with a single asterisk (\*) indicate a primarily British spelling. Words with a double asterisk (\*\*) are the preferred spelling. A complete list of the words that were added to this year's study list can be found on page 40.

### A

|               |                                      |              |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| aardvark      | affluent                             | analgesia    |
| aberration    | affogato                             | anchorage    |
| ablation      | afghan                               | ancillary    |
| ablaut        | aficionado**                         | anemic**     |
| abnegation    | OR aficionado                        | OR anaemic   |
| abominable    | agalma                               | anent        |
| abrogate      | agate                                | anglophile   |
| absolution    | agave                                | anhinga      |
| abstemious    | agelicism                            | anicca       |
| academese     | aggrandizement                       | anionic      |
| Acadians      | aglossal                             | anise        |
| accentuate    | agnail                               | ankh         |
| accrual       | agonistic                            | anneal       |
| accumulate    | agoraphobia                          | annuity      |
| acerbity      | aioli — noun – garlic<br>mayonnaise. | annulment    |
| achromatic    | akimbo                               | anodyne      |
| acoustic      | albeit                               | anonymity    |
| acquiesce     | alimentation                         | anorak       |
| acral         | allergenic                           | anserine     |
| acuity        | allocable                            | antacid      |
| acumen        | allonym                              | antagonistic |
| acupuncture   | alluvial                             | anticipatory |
| adjugate      | alma mater                           | antipathy    |
| adjure        | alpestrine                           | antiquarian  |
| adolescence   | althorn                              | antithesis   |
| adulation     | amalgam                              | anxiety      |
| advocatory    | ambrosial                            | aperture     |
| aerobics      | ammonite                             | apiary       |
| affable       | ammunition                           | aporia       |
| affeer        | amygdala                             | apothecary   |
| affenpinscher | anabolic                             | apotheosis   |
| affianced     | anaglyphy                            | apparatus    |
| affiliate     | analects                             | approbatory  |
|               | analepsis                            | aqueduct     |



### did you know?

Vocabulary questions were first introduced as part of the Bee on the written test in 2013. Oral vocabulary questions were given at the National Competition for the first time in 2021.

aqueous  
aquiclude  
arbitrary  
arboretum  
archaism  
archetype  
arduous  
argot  
arietta  
armaments  
armature  
armistice  
arpeggio  
arraign  
arrearage  
art brut  
artesian  
artifice  
asado  
ascension  
ascetic  
Asgard  
Asiago  
aspish  
assailant  
assiduous  
assumption  
assure  
asthmatic  
astral  
astringent  
astrobleme  
astronaut  
Astur  
asylum  
ataxia  
Aten  
atlatl  
atrabilious  
atresia  
attaché  
attributive  
attrition  
aubergine  
auburn  
aughts

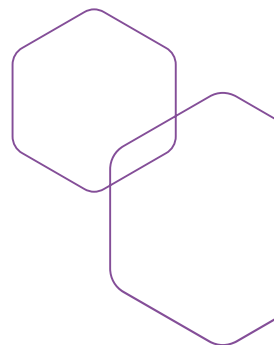
augment  
auklet  
aureole  
auricular  
aurora  
auspices  
austere  
avarice  
avifauna  
avuncular

## B

bacteriolytic  
ballyhooed  
balsamic  
bandicoot  
bango  
bariatrics  
baronetcy  
basilica  
bastion  
Bavarian cream  
beatific  
beguile  
Belgravia  
Bellatrix  
bellwether  
beneficent  
benison  
bereavement  
beret  
bermudas  
beseech  
besieged  
besmirch  
bethesda  
bibliopegist  
bicameral  
bifurcate  
bilaterian  
bilbo  
billabong  
billiards  
billingsgate  
biltong  
binomial

biomimicry  
bittern  
blastema  
blastogenesis  
blatant  
bloviate  
bodega  
bodkin  
boffin  
bona fide  
bonobo  
bonsai  
boomslang  
boondoggle  
borough  
bouffant  
bowsprit  
braille  
Brandywine  
bravado  
breviloquence  
bric-a-brac  
Brigadoon  
Broccolini  
brockage  
brogue  
bromide  
brontophobia  
bruja  
bruxism  
bubonic  
bucatini  
buffa  
bulgogi  
bulgur\*\*  
OR bulghur  
bulwark  
bumptious  
Bundt  
buoyancy  
bureau  
burglarious  
burgoo  
busby

—● adjective –  
voluminous.



## C

cabaret  
cadge  
caducity  
caffeine  
caftan  
OR kaftan  
calcify  
callow  
calumet  
cambio  
cameist  
campanology  
cancion  
candelabrum  
cannoli  
cantankerous  
capillary  
capnometer  
capstan  
capsule  
carbohydrates  
carcinogenic  
cardoon  
caricature  
carnage  
carnitas  
carnitine  
cartilage  
Cassandra  
cassock  
castellated  
castigate  
Castilian  
castor  
cataclysmic  
catalepsy  
catalina  
catalyst  
cathect  
cathode

adjective –  
grumpy and  
argumentative.

cattalo  
OR catalo  
caudex  
causal  
caustic  
cauterize  
cavalcade  
cayenne  
cellophane  
Celsius  
cenotaph  
centenary  
cerebellum  
cetology  
chamberlain  
chancellor  
chaperonage  
charcuterie  
charismatic  
château  
chemise  
Cheshire cat  
chevalier  
chide  
Chihuahua  
chimera  
OR chimaera\*  
chinook  
chintzy  
cholera  
cholesterol  
chrysalis  
chrysolite  
chupacabra  
churchianity  
churros  
ciao  
cicada  
Cincinnati  
circadian  
circuitous

circumflex  
civet  
cladistics  
clairvoyance  
clandestine  
clavichord  
clemency  
cloture  
coalescence  
coaxation  
codswallop  
coercive  
coeval  
cogently  
cogitation  
cognizant  
OR cognisant\*  
cohesive  
cohosh  
coiffure  
colic  
collectanea  
collegiality  
colocate  
comanchero  
comminatory  
commiserative  
commissioner  
commodious  
compendium  
con forza  
concision  
conclave  
concordance  
conduit  
Conestoga  
confabulation  
congeniality  
conglutinant  
connivory  
consecrate



## adjectives vs. nouns

*“My word ends with an /us/ sound! How do I know which letters to use?!”*

Here’s a hint: Ask for the part of speech. If it’s a noun, try -us; if it’s an adjective, -ous is a safe bet.

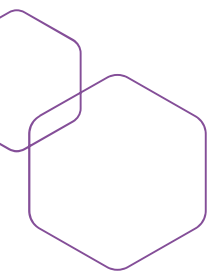
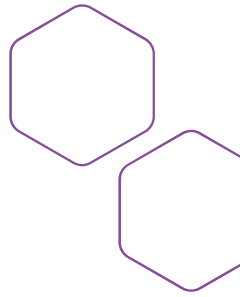
consequent  
constabulary  
consternation  
constituent  
consul  
contemptuous  
continuum  
contrariwise  
contrivance  
contumelious  
Coptic  
cordillera  
corduroy  
coriander  
Corinthian  
corm  
cornea  
cornel  
cornucopia  
corollary  
coroner  
corpulent  
corral  
corrosive  
corsage  
cortex  
cozen  
credence  
credulity  
creel  
crepuscular  
crescive  
cribbage  
cribble  
cribo  
crinoline  
crith  
cruciferous  
crustaceans  
cryogenic  
cudgel  
cum laude  
cumbersome  
cumulus  
curmudgeon  
cutis

cyanosis  
cybernetics  
cygnet  
cynicism

## D

dactylic  
Dalmatian  
dandle  
danseur  
danta  
darnel  
davenport  
deathin  
debilitate  
debutante  
deceitful  
deceleron  
decennial  
deciduous  
decimation  
declamatory  
declension  
declination  
decurion  
defiant  
deglaciation  
déjà vu\*\*  
    déjà vue  
delectable  
deleterious  
deliquesce  
deltoidal  
dementia  
demerits  
demographics  
demonstrative  
demulcent  
denominator  
denticulate  
depose  
depravity  
depreciate  
depredation  
deprivation  
derelict

derisive  
deserter  
desertification  
desolate  
desultorily  
detritus  
deuterium  
diacritic  
diadem  
dialysis  
Dianthus  
diaspora  
diathermy  
diatonic  
dietetic  
dihedral  
dilapidated  
diligence  
diluent  
dimorphism  
dirigible  
discombobulate  
discomfiture  
discountenance  
discreetly  
discretionary  
disembogue  
disjunct  
Disneyfication  
disparate  
disproportionate  
dissemble  
dissipate  
dissonance  
distraught  
divestiture  
dodecahedron  
dogana  
doldrums  
dolma  
dolmen  
domesticity  
domiciled  
domineering  
dopamine  
Dorking



dowager

dowdy

dromic

adjective – of, relating to, or in the form of a racecourse.

druid

drumlin

drupiferous

du jour

duchy

duplicitous

durango

dysgraphia

dyspeptic

dystopia

## E

ebullience

ectoplasm

eczema

Edenic

educand

efface

effervescent

efflux

effraction

effusive

eggcorn

egress

El Niño

embolus

embryo

emeritus

eminent

emissary

emulsify

en masse

ensconced

ensued

entente

environs

epenthesis

epicurean

epidermis

epidural

episcopal

epithet

epitome

epoch

equilibrium

equinox

equivalent

equivocate

eradicate

ermine

noun – any of several weasels that have white fur in winter.

errata

erroneous

erstwhile

erubescence

eructation

escarpment

eschew

espousal

estuary

ethanol

étude

eucalyptus

eucrasia

euphonious

europium

eustress

Evactor

evacuees

evanescent

evo-devo

evzone

ewer

ex libris

exaugural

excelsior

excision

execrable

exeunt

exiguous

exodus

exogenous

exorbitant

expatiate

expectorant

expostulate

expugnable

expunge

exsect

extant

extemporaneous

extrapolate

extravasate

extrorse

## F

facile

factitious

facundity

fajitas

farical

fardel

farina

farkleberry

Farsi

farthingale

fatuously

fealty

feckless

fecund

feign

fenestrated

fenster

fervorous

festooned

feudalism

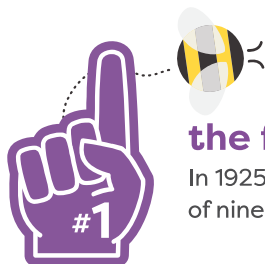
fiat

fibula

fictile

Ficus

fiduciary



## the first bee

In 1925, the first national spelling bee was organized by the Louisville Courier-Journal with a total of nine spellers. Frank Neuhauser won the championship title after correctly spelling “gladiolus.”

finial  
fipple  
firkin  
fjeld  
flagellum  
flagon  
flambé  
flaneur  
flavedo  
flèche  
flittern  
Florentine  
floribunda  
floruit  
flotsam  
FLOTUS  
fluoride  
focaccia  
follicle  
fontina  
forbivorous  
fortissimo  
Franciscan  
fraternity  
fraudulent  
frazil  
freneticism  
Freudian  
frison  
frittata  
froufrou  
froward  
fructiferous  
frugivore  
fucoid  
fugue  
fulgent  
fulminate  
funambulist  
fungible  
furcula  
fusiform  
fussbudget

## G

galapago

noun – ice crystals sometimes similar to slush that are formed in turbulent water.

Gallic  
galvanize  
gambit  
ganache  
gasiform  
gastronome  
gaudery  
gaur  
gelatinous  
Gemini  
genealogical  
geniture  
genome  
gentilial  
geocaching  
geriatric  
germane  
gibbous  
gingivitis  
gladiatorial  
glareous  
glazier  
glissando  
globular  
gluttonous  
gnocchi  
goji berry  
golem  
Goliath  
goosander  
gossamer  
Gothamite  
grande dame  
grandiloquent  
grandrelle  
graticule  
gratis  
gravimetry  
gravitas  
greaves  
Gregorian  
grissino  
groats  
grobian  
grotesqueness  
grouse

adverb – without charge : free.

gubernatorial  
gudgeon  
gules  
gullibility  
gumption  
gustatory

## H

habeas corpus  
habiliments  
hackneyed  
hagiographer  
halibut  
Halifax  
hallucinate  
haplography  
harangue  
harbinger  
harrier  
harrumph  
Hathor  
hauberk  
hauteur  
Hawaiian  
hawok  
heinousness  
heleoplankton  
heliacal  
hennery  
heptad  
hermeneutics  
hermetically  
herringbone  
heterochromia  
heterophony  
hetman  
heuristic  
hibernaculum  
hierurgical  
hinoki  
hipsterism  
histrionics  
Hitchcockian  
hoity-toity  
holmium  
Holocaust

noun – a group of seven people or things.

hologram  
Holstein  
homeostasis  
homester  
homiletics  
hubris  
humerus  
humidistat  
hummock  
Hungary  
hydrangea  
hydrocortisone  
hydrophobia  
hydroponic  
hypochondria  
hypogeous  
hypotenuse  
hyrax

## I

ibex  
ibuprofen  
Icarian  
idiosyncratic  
ignominious  
illative  
illicitly  
illustrious  
immolate  
immortality  
impasto  
impeachable  
impecunious  
impediment  
imperious  
impermeable  
impetus  
implacable  
implicative  
impoverish  
impresario  
impromptu

incinerate  
incisiform — adjective – having the form of a tooth adapted for cutting.  
incitive  
inclement  
incoherent  
incompetent  
incubate  
indemnity  
indicia  
indict  
indigent  
indistinguishable  
indolent  
inducement  
indulgent  
ineffable  
ineluctable  
ineptitude  
inerrancy  
ingenuous  
ingratiante  
inimical  
injurious  
inoculate  
insignia  
instigate  
insufflator  
interred  
interrogative  
intersperse  
intuitable  
inveterate  
inviolable  
iridescent  
irrevocable  
Isle Royale

## J

jactance  
jadeite  
jalapeño  
jambalaya

jarl  
jaundiced  
jeepney  
jettison  
jicama  
jiggery-pokery  
jimberjawed  
jingoism  
jitney  
jocularity  
jubilant — adjective – expressing gladness or triumphant joy.  
judicious  
julienne  
Jurassic  
justiciable  
juvenilia  
juxtapose

## K

kaiser  
kanban  
kanji  
karst  
kerchief  
kinesiology  
kleptocrat  
koto — noun – a long Japanese zither having 13 silk strings.  
krausen  
krypton  
kufi  
kugel  
kung pao

## L

labroid  
labyrinthine  
laceration  
laconic  
lacustrine  
laity  
lambasted  
lambently



### did you know?

The Scripps National Spelling Bee was featured in the 2002 Academy Award-nominated documentary *Spellbound*.

lambkin  
languorous  
lanolated  
lantana  
lapidary  
larceny  
largesses  
larnax  
lassitude  
latigo  
laudatory  
laureate  
lavender  
legalese  
legato  
legerity  
lemniscus  
leviathan  
liaise  
lidocaine  
limned  
limousine  
limpa  
limpet  
limpid  
limpkin  
lingua franca  
linnet  
linstock  
lithium  
lithophone  
litmus  
lobotomy  
locavore  
loch  
logarithmic  
logographic  
lolloped  
longitude  
lorikeet  
lossy  
lousicide  
lovage  
luculent  
ludicrous  
lugubrious  
lumen

noun – a person who eats foods grown nearby whenever possible.

luthier  
lutrine  
luxuriate  
  
**M**  
machination  
mackerel  
macropterous  
macular  
malapropism  
malevolent  
malfeasance  
malingering  
mandrill  
mano a mano  
manumit  
marimba  
marionette  
marring  
marsupial  
mastodon  
matriculation  
mawkish  
McCoy  
Mecca  
medusa  
megalomaniac  
melamine  
melee  
melismatic  
menagerie  
mendacious  
mendacity  
meningitis  
mephitic  
merganser  
meridian  
merino  
mesial  
Mesopotamian  
metaplasia  
metastasize  
metatarsal  
MIDI  
millennial  
millet  
millisecond

millivolt  
minacious  
ministra  
minette  
minuscule\*\*  
OR miniscule  
Miranda  
misnomer  
mitigative  
mitochondria  
mochi  
modiste  
moissanite  
mollify  
monitory  
monochrome  
monture  
moratorium  
mordant  
Moroccan  
morphological  
mortician  
Motrin  
movimento  
muchacha  
mulligan  
Munich  
municipal  
musketeers  
Mylar  
myocarditis  
myoglobin  
myopic  
  
**N**  
Namibian  
nanotechnology  
narcoleptic  
nautilus  
Neapolitan  
necrotic  
nectarine  
neonatology  
neoterism  
nepotism  
netiquette  
neuropathy

adjective – lacking in foresight or keenness of insight.

neuroticism  
Newfoundland  
nexus  
nitrate  
nocive  
noctambulist  
no-goodnik  
nomancy  
nomenclature  
nomophobia  
nonage  
nonchalance  
nonnegotiable  
nonvolatile  
Norovirus  
Nostradamus  
notoriety  
novemdecillion  
noxious  
nuance  
nubuck  
nuciform  
nucleated  
numerology  
nutantion  
nutria  
nuzzer

noun – divination  
by letters.

## O

obfuscate  
oblique  
obloquy  
obnebulate  
obsecration  
obsolete  
obstetrician  
obstreperous  
occipital  
occultation  
Oceanian  
octonocular

adjective –  
stubborn and  
defiant often  
with a show of  
noisy disorder.

octuplicate  
odometer  
officinal  
okapi  
olfactory  
olingo  
ombudsman  
omnilegent  
omniscient  
onus  
oompah  
operose  
opprobrious  
oppugn  
Orion  
orthogonal  
oscitation  
osculatory  
Osloite  
osmosis  
osprey  
ossicle  
ostensibly  
osteopath  
ottoman  
oxalis

## P

pagoda  
palatable  
Paleozoic  
palpebral  
palpitant  
panary  
pancetta  
pancreas  
panegyric  
pantomime  
papyrus  
par excellence  
parabola

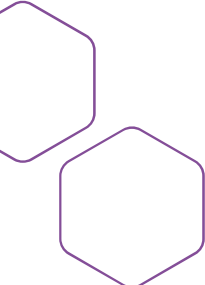
adjective – related  
to breadmaking.

parameters  
paraplegic  
parasol  
pariah  
parliamentary  
parochial  
parodic  
parr  
parsimony  
particulate  
parturient  
parvo  
pashmina  
Patagonia  
patella  
pathos  
patronymic  
paucity  
peacenik  
peculate  
pecuniary  
pedantry  
pelagial  
pelerine  
pelf  
pendragon  
pendulous  
penitentiary  
pepita  
per se  
peradventure  
perceptible  
perilous  
periodontist  
peripheral  
periwinkle  
permutation  
perpetrator  
perquisite  
perseverance  
perspicacious



## there's a first time for everything

Hugh Tosteson was the first winner from outside of the 50 U.S. states. He lived in Puerto Rico and won in 1975.



persuasible  
pertinacity  
pestilence  
petroleum  
phalanges  
phenotype  
philosophize  
phishing  
phlebotomy  
phoenix  
phonetician  
phosphorescent  
phraseology  
phycology  
phylum  
Pierre  
piety  
pilaster  
pilcrow  
pileus  
pilferer  
pilosity  
pilotage  
pinnacle  
pinnate  
pious  
pituitary  
placoderm  
plagiarism  
plaintiff  
planetesimal  
plangency  
planisphere  
planogram  
plantain  
plantigrade  
plaudits  
plenipotentiary  
plenitude  
plentiful  
Plumeria  
plutonomy  
poblano  
podsnappery  
Podunk  
pointelle  
politick

pollutant  
polonium  
poltroon  
polyester  
polygenous  
polypeptide  
polysemy  
polysyllabic  
pomato  
pomegranate  
Pomeranian  
pomology  
pompeii  
pomposity  
pongee  
pontiff  
populace  
porcelain  
porosity  
portentous  
portico  
posada  
posse  
possessive  
posterity  
posthumous  
postural  
potassium  
praxis  
prehensile  
prelapsarian  
preponderance  
preposterous  
preprandial  
presentient  
prespinous  
prevenient  
prima donna  
primeval\*\*  
OR primaeval  
primogeniture  
princeps  
privatim  
privet  
probative  
procurement  
prodigious

profligacy  
profundity  
proletarian  
proliferate  
prolix  
prolusory  
promontory  
propinquity  
proprietary  
proprioceptive  
prorogue  
prosody  
protectorate  
protuberant  
provenance  
proviant  
provincial  
proviso  
psychoanalysis  
puchero  
pugilist  
pugnacious  
pulchritude  
purvey  
pyrite  
pyrotechnics

## Q

quadriceps  
quadrilateral  
quadrillion  
qualms  
quid pro quo  
quiddity  
quinary  
quince  
quintessential  
quirt  
quittance  
quodidian  
QWERTY

noun - the ultimate form or the essential nature of something.

## R

rabato  
rabbinic  
rambla  
rambunctious

ramifications  
ramson  
rankles  
rapscallion  
raptorial  
rasorial  
raucous  
reagent  
realgar  
realm  
Realtor  
rebarbative  
reboation  
recipient  
reciprocity  
reconcilable  
reconnoiter\*\*  
OR reconnoitre  
recreant  
recriminatory  
recumbent  
recusancy  
redolent  
refrigerant  
refugium  
regalia  
reggae  
regicide  
regnal  
regurgitate  
reimbursable  
reminiscent  
remonstrance  
remuda  
remuneration  
renegotiate  
renitency  
reparations  
repartee  
repentant  
repercussion

verb – to bring,  
forcefully impel,  
or pour back out  
again.

repository  
reprieve  
reprisal  
Requiem  
requisition  
resilience  
resplendence  
restitutory  
résumé  
resuscitate  
retinol  
retinoscopy  
retrocedence  
retrodict  
retrograde  
revenant  
reverberant  
rhapsody  
rhizome  
rhythmically  
ricochet  
rictus  
rigatoni  
ritziness  
rollicking  
Romano  
rosin  
roustabout  
Rubicon  
rudiments  
rugose  
ruminate  
rustication  
  
**S**  
sabbatical  
sabermetrics  
sabotage  
sacrament  
sacrosanct  
sailage

salience  
saltatory  
sapphire  
sardonic  
sarmentum  
sartorial  
sashay  
saturnine  
sauger  
scarab  
scarlatina  
scenographer  
schism  
schnell  
schooner  
scintillation  
sclerosis  
scrivener  
scrumptiously  
scumble  
scuppers  
scythe  
secant  
secession  
sedentary  
sedge  
sedum  
seethe  
senecio  
seneschal  
senna  
sensei  
septennial  
sepulchral  
sequential  
seraphic  
serrated  
sesame  
settee  
severance  
shaman



## archaic or obsolete? not here.

The Bee doesn't include words labeled obsolete or archaic in competition lists, and you won't find any in *2024 Words of the Champions* either. Why? Because they're just not used that often. Words labeled obsolete are found in literature but have not been part of standard English since 1755; words labeled archaic are only used rarely or in special contexts such as prayers or poetry since 1755. Why 1755? That was the year that the first really large and comprehensive dictionary was published in London by Samuel Johnson.

shar-pei  
shazam  
shebang  
sheldrake  
shenanigans  
Shetland  
shirk  
shoji  
sieve  
simpatico  
simultaneity  
singultus  
sirenian  
Sirius  
slalom  
slumgullion  
smellfungus  
smithereens  
snell  
sobersides  
sobriety  
solon  
somatotype  
somniaquy  
soothsayer  
sophomoric  
soppiness  
sousaphone  
Spaniel  
spathe  
speciation  
spectrometer  
spinosity  
spiracle  
spirulina  
splenetic  
sponsalia  
spontaneity  
sprightliness  
sprue  
spurious  
stagflation  
staid  
stalwart  
stanchion  
statistician  
statuesque

noun – someone  
who tends to find  
fault in others.

statusy  
stegosaur  
steinkirk  
OR steenkirk  
stellular  
steppe  
stevia  
stigmata  
stimuli  
stipulate  
stratification  
stratocracy  
stratosphere  
striation  
stricture  
stridency  
Styrofoam  
subliminal  
subluxated  
submersible  
subrident  
subsequent  
subsistence  
subterranean  
subtlety  
subversive  
succumb  
succussion  
suet  
suffrage  
Sumatran  
summoned  
superficiality  
superstitious  
supine  
supplicate  
supremacy  
surcease  
surety  
surmountable  
surrealist  
suture  
sycophant  
syllabus  
sylph  
symmetrical  
symposium

syndicate  
syntonize  
syntrophism  
syringe

## T

tabernacle  
tableau  
tabulate  
taciturn  
tae kwon do  
tai chi  
talisman  
tamworth  
tangerine  
tantrum  
tapioca  
tappet  
tarantula  
tarlatan\*\*  
OR tarleton  
Tasmanian  
taverna  
taxonomic  
tectonic  
teemed  
telepathic  
telmatology  
temblor  
temerity  
tempestuous  
tempura  
tenaciously  
tenement  
tensile  
tentacled  
tepidity  
tercentenary  
terminus  
terra-cotta  
terrarium  
tetanus  
Thailand  
theomachy  
theorem  
theosophy  
theriatrics

thoracic  
thoroughbred  
thrasonical  
thwartwise  
thyme  
tibia  
tiffany  
tiffin  
Tinseltown  
titian  
titration  
tomfoolery  
tommyrot —●  
tomography  
tongue  
toorie  
topgallant  
topiary  
toploftical  
toponymic  
torsion  
tortoise  
tosh  
toties quoties  
toxicosis  
tractability  
traiteur  
transcend  
transducer  
transhumance  
transience  
transmissibility  
transmontane  
transpiration  
transposable  
trapezoid  
travails  
treadle  
trefoil  
trellis  
tremulous

noun – complete foolishness or nonsense.

trepanation  
trepidation  
triage  
tributary  
trice  
tricenary  
triceratops  
triforium  
trigeminal  
triglycerides  
trillium  
triste  
trituration  
trophic  
Truckee  
truncheon  
tsk-tsked  
tubular  
tumpline  
tungsten  
turbinado  
turducken  
turgor  
turken  
turophile  
turpentine  
tussock  
tutelage  
tutti-frutti  
twain  
twang  
tympanum  
typhology

## U

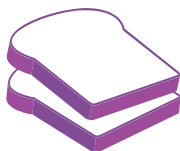
ufology  
Ukrainian  
ulna —●  
umbilical  
umbrage  
una corda

noun – the inner of the two bones of the forearm.

unchristened  
unctuous  
ungetatable  
unilaterally  
univocal  
unmoored  
unremitting  
unscathed  
untenable  
upbraid  
upsilon  
ursine  
usurper  
utilitarian  
uveal  
uvula

## V

vaccination  
vacillate  
vagabonds  
vague  
vainglorious  
valedictorian  
valerian  
valiant  
valuator  
vandalize  
vanguard  
vanquish  
vantage  
varicose  
variegated  
Vatican  
vaudeville  
veganism  
vegetarian  
vehemence  
vehicular  
vendage  
vener



## older than sliced bread

The first national spelling bee was held in 1925. That makes us older than sliced bread, bubble gum and even trampolines.

venerable  
vengeance  
venial  
venomous  
ventail  
ventricle  
ventriloquy  
veracity  
verbena  
verism  
veritable  
vermicide  
vernal  
vertigo  
vespertine  
vestibule  
vetiver  
vetoed  
vicarious  
vice versa  
vicenary  
viceroy  
victimology  
vigil

vincible  
virga  
virulence  
vis-à-vis  
viscosity  
vitriolic  
volary  
OR volery  
volatile  
volition  
volucrine  
volumetric  
Vulcan —● noun – a worker in metals; especially: a blacksmith.

**W**  
wallaby  
Walter Mitty  
widdershins —● adverb – counterclockwise.  
wilco  
wobulator  
woebegone  
wolfsbane  
wootz

**Y**  
yabbies —● plural noun – small burrowing crayfish that live in most Australian creeks and water holes.  
yardang  
yawmeter  
Yorkshire

**Z**  
zazen  
zeitgeist  
zeppelin  
zirconium  
zocalo  
zoetic  
zoolatry  
zowie  
zurna —● noun – a traditional Middle Eastern woodwind instrument.  
zydeco  
zygote



## The Bee's Bookshelf

The Bee's Bookshelf is the official online book club of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. It's a place to explore the connection between stories and spelling. Each month, we read a new book together and share insights, so sign up to receive our monthly emails to find out which book is next. Visit [spellingbee.com/book-club](https://spellingbee.com/book-club) to learn more.

# difficulty level: three bee



## school spelling bee study list

The seventh and eighth-grade words from the 2024 School Spelling Bee Study List. Words with a single asterisk (\*) indicate a primarily British spelling. Words with a double asterisk (\*\*) are the preferred spelling.

tripe  
slakes  
Illinois  
commandments  
contagion  
decibels  
repose  
nondescript  
expulsion  
Laundromat  
pervading  
malnutrition  
tunic  
extravagant  
innards  
acclimate  
recede  
indignant  
wok  
categorically  
demure  
chasm  
hitherto  
horticulture  
magistrates  
sprocket  
punctually  
dynasty  
koi  
incense  
incited  
deficiencies

noun – a state of resting after activity or strain.

incarnated  
pews  
malicious  
interstellar  
petticoat  
insufferable  
spawned  
gorilla  
quarry  
kung fu  
steeds  
destitution  
patronize  
OR patronise\*  
dilute  
societal  
uncanny  
communing  
deadpan  
arable  
surfactant  
nitrogen  
paralysis  
metronome  
attorney  
snivel  
contemptible  
altimeter  
jugular  
insolent  
aura  
propitious

ellipsis  
thyroid  
elongated  
lasso\*\*  
OR lasso  
incandescent  
bureaucrats  
refuge  
shoal  
perpendicularity  
antechamber  
jeopardy  
sauna  
conciliatory  
forsook  
boba  
animatronics  
frijoles  
minus  
senescent  
secreted  
aspirin  
aptitude  
Chicana  
bilge  
simultaneously  
Copenhagen  
Bunsen burner  
defoliant  
aerosol  
Ramadan\*\*  
OR Ramadhan



### find the bee on social media

Connect with us! If you're 13 or older, follow the Scripps National Spelling Bee on social media. You can find us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Use #spellingbee to join the conversation.

photosynthesis

malignant

matterhorn

divot

pixels

antonyms

Trinidadian

mangels

nopales

Gilgamesh

conjunto

Sumerian

pinyin

Taoism\*\*

OR Daoism

lymphoma

scandium

dendrochronology

palomino\*\*

OR palamino

retinitis pigmentosa

fens

haw

peplos\*\*

OR peplus

moira

Erlenmeyer flask

Samian

luciferin

megaron

sphagnum

pronaos

noun – a legendary Sumerian king and hero of a particular long narrative poem.

craquelure

Macao

OR Macau

silicon

Albuquerque

Mumbai

turquoise\*\*

OR turquoise

Assam

lanthanides

antimony

amphoras

hypocaust

avens

grebe

pipette\*\*

OR pipet

leks

pullets

Macedonia

centrifuge

coleus

Tetrazzini

Pleiades

coccidiosis

rooibos tea

Versailles

meitnerium

Okefenokee

Popocatepetl

Shaanxi

plural noun – ancient Greek jars or vases having large oval bodies, narrow cylindrical necks, and two handles.

## our namesake

Although the first national spelling bee occurred in 1925, it wasn't until 1941 that Scripps-Howard Newspapers, now known as The E.W. Scripps Company, assumed leadership of the program.



# difficulty level: three bee



## Words of the Champions

Organized alphabetically, these words are a great place to complete your journey of mastering *Words of the Champions!* Words with a single asterisk (\*) indicate a primarily British spelling. Words with a double asterisk (\*\*) are the preferred spelling. A complete list of the words that were added to this year's study list can be found on page 40.

### A

|                |               |              |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| à fond         | ague          | anomaliped   |
| à la grecque   | ahimsa        | anosognosia  |
| a posteriori   | ahuatle       | antenatus    |
| ab aeterno     | Ahuehuate     | Antigua      |
| abaculus       | Ahura Mazda   | Apabhramsa   |
| abraum         | ailette       | ape-ape      |
| acacia         | aistopod      | aperçu       |
| accordatura    | Aitutakian    | aphasia      |
| acerola        | ajimez        | Apistogramma |
| acetaminophen  | akaryote      | apocryphal   |
| acetone        | akkum         | apophyge     |
| acharya        | alate         | Apostolici   |
| Achernar       | alcarraza     | Appaloosa    |
| acicula        | Alfvén        | appetitost   |
| acidophilus    | alleluiatic   | après        |
| acoel          | allochroous   | Aramaic      |
| acrogeria      | almuerzo      | Ardhamagadhi |
| acropachy      | alouatte      | Ardipithecus |
| ad nauseam     | alpargata     | ardoise      |
| adiabatic      | altazimuth    | arenaceous   |
| adieu          | amaryllis     | aretalogy    |
| adscititious   | amour propre  | as nas       |
| Aegilops       | amphistylar   | ascites      |
| aegrotat       | amuse-gueule  | astaxanthin  |
| aerophilatelic | anabathmoi    | Asura        |
| aes rude       | anaphylaxis   | asylee       |
| Aesir          | anathema      | attacca      |
| affiche        | ancien régime | au bleu      |
| ageusia        | andouille     | au courant   |
| agitprop       | anemone       | au jus       |
| Aglaia         | angiitis      | avgolemono   |
| agrypnia       | aniseikonía   | azotea       |
|                | Anno Hegirae  | azulejo      |

noun – a chicken soup made with egg yolks and lemon juice.



### home sweet home

While many people think the Bee is headquartered in Washington, D.C., our hive is actually located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**B**

baccate  
 bagwyn  
 bahr  
 bahuvihi  
 bailiwick  
 balata  
 balbriggan  
 baleen  
 banh mi  
 Barnumesque  
 Bartókian  
 Barylambda  
 bas-relief  
 batamote  
 battue  
 Baucis  
 bauxite  
 bavardage  
 Beauceron  
 beaumontage  
 Beaux arts  
 beccafico  
 Bêche-de-Mer  
 becquerel  
 ben trovato  
 Beowulf  
 berceuse  
 bergère  
 Bernoulli effect  
 bêtise  
 betony  
 beurre  
 Bezier curve  
 bhangra  
 bhikshuni  
 bibelot  
 bibimbap  
 bisbigliando  
 bismillah  
 blatherskite  
 blottesque

bobolink —●  
 Boise  
 Bolognese  
 boniface  
 bordereaux  
 Bosc  
 bouclé  
 boudin  
 bouillon  
 boulevardier  
 boutade  
 boutonniere  
 bozzetto  
 Braeburn  
 brouhaha  
 brume  
 bruschetta  
 buccal  
 buñuelo  
 Bunyanesque  
 Burkinabe

noun – a small American songbird that resembles the blackbird.

**C**

cabochon  
 ca'canny  
 cacaxte  
 cachexia  
 cocoëthes  
 Caerphilly  
 cahiers  
 caique  
 cairn  
 caisson  
 calabash  
 calamondin  
 calligram  
 caló  
 calusar  
 calvities  
 camarilla  
 Camembert  
 canaille

cantatrice  
 caprifig  
 Caracas  
 carcajou  
 carrageenan\*\*  
 OR carrageenin  
 OR carragheenin  
 Carrickmacross  
 cartouches  
 caryatid  
 Casimir effect  
 Castalia  
 catachresis  
 cataphora  
 catarrh  
 catjang  
 cavalletti  
 caveola  
 cephalopod  
 cermet  
 chalaza  
 Chalcolithic  
 champignon  
 Charon  
 chastushka  
 chasuble  
 cheongsam  
 chèvre  
 chicanery  
 chopine  
 chorten  
 choucroute  
 ciénaga\*\*  
 OR cienega  
 ciliopathy  
 cioppino  
 cire perdue  
 cirri  
 clerihew  
 cobalamin  
 coccygeal  
 colcannon



### on a global scale

At just 12 years old, Jody-Anne Maxwell from Kingston, Jamaica was our first international champion. She won the Bee in 1998.

colloque  
colporteur\*\*  
OR colporter  
colubrine  
concatenate  
connoisseur  
consanguine  
consigliere  
consommé  
contrapposto  
contretemps  
copernicium  
corrigena  
corybantic  
coterie  
cotoneaster  
coulbiac  
coulisse  
coulrophobia  
coup de grace  
courgette

couverture  
creances — plural noun –  
fine lines used  
to leash a hawk  
during training.  
crokinole  
croquembouche  
croquignole  
croustade  
cryptozoa  
cushag  
cynocephali

## D

daguerreotype  
Darjeeling  
darmstadtium  
de rigueur  
decastich  
degauss  
Deimos  
Delmarva Peninsula  
demitasse  
démodé  
demurrage  
Déné  
dengue  
dentifrice  
derring-do

Deseret  
desiccate  
Devanagari  
dghaisa  
dhole  
dhurrie  
diapason  
diaphanous  
diastole  
Djibouti  
dragée  
drahthaar  
Dubhe  
Dubuque  
duello  
duxelles  
dvandva  
Dvorak —  
dysphasia  
dysrhythmia

noun – a typing  
keyboard with  
frequently used  
letters placed  
centrally.

## E

ecchymosis  
echelon  
echinoderm  
edamame  
effete  
effleurage  
Egeria  
eisteddfod —  
élan  
eleemosynary  
eluate  
embouchure  
emollient  
emolument  
emphysema  
ennui  
Enoch Arden  
enoki  
epideictic  
epistemology  
epixylous  
Equatoguinean  
Erewhonian  
Eris  
erythroblast

noun – a Welsh  
competitive  
festival of the  
arts especially  
in singing.

Esau  
escarole  
escheator  
esclandre  
escritoire  
espadrille  
espalier  
espial  
esplanade  
estancia  
estovers  
estrepo  
ethylene  
étouffée  
eudiometer  
Euroclydon  
exchequer

## F

farfalle  
farouche  
farrago  
fatshedera  
fauchard  
Feldenkrais  
fellaheen\*\*  
OR fellaheen  
fêng shui  
ferruginous  
fête champêtre  
fetticus  
fibromyalgia

Firbolg — plural noun – an  
ancient group of  
people in Ireland.

flehmen  
force majeure  
Formica  
foudroyant  
frabjous  
fracas  
funori  
furan  
Furneaux  
furuncle

## G

gabarit  
gabbro

gaffe  
OR gaff  
gagaku  
Gaia  
gaillardia  
Galahad  
galatea  
galena  
gallivat  
galoot  
gambol  
Gaspesian  
gasthaus  
gattine  
Geatish  
gegenschein  
gendarme  
genet  
gesellschaft  
giallolino — noun – any of a variety of yellow pigments.  
ginglymus  
Gippsland  
glabella  
glacis  
glengarry  
glyceraldehyde  
goanna  
Gondwana  
graywacke  
griot  
Groenendael  
Gruyère  
guan  
guapena  
Guarnerius  
guayabera  
guerite  
guichet  
Guidonian  
Gurmukhi  
gyascutus

gyokuro  
gypsophila  
gypsum

## H

halala  
OR halalah  
halcyon  
Hamtramck  
hangul  
haupia  
hebdomadad  
Hebrides  
hei-tiki  
hellebore  
hemorrhage  
henotheism  
hepatectomy  
Herodotean  
hiortdahlite  
Hippolyta  
hirsute  
hoi polloi — plural noun – ordinary people : multitude, masses.  
holobenthic  
hominin  
homoscedasticity  
hordeolum  
hsaing-waing  
Hsia  
Huallaga  
huerta  
Humboldt  
hutia\*\*  
OR jutia  
hypoathral  
hyssop  
hysteresis  
hysteron proteron

## I

ichthyology

icosahedron  
ikat  
ikebana  
immie  
in medias res  
in silico  
incunabula  
inglenook  
ingot  
insouciance  
integument  
internecine  
interregnum  
Inugsuk  
Inuk — noun – a member of the Inuit people.  
isagoge  
Ishihara test  
isosceles  
ivermectin

## J

jai alai  
jealousie  
janthina  
jasmone  
je ne sais quoi  
jerboa  
joropo  
Jumada — noun – either of two months of the Islamic year.  
Jungian

## K

kakapo  
kaleidoscope  
kalimba  
kalopanax  
Kannada  
kapparah  
katakana  
katana  
kathakali



## the history of silent letters

What's up with all those silent letters?! The word "debt," for example, comes from a Latin word *debita*, which comes from *debitum*, meaning "debt." French borrowed the word and dropped the "b," but a few hundred years after the word passed to English, we put the "b" back in to make it closer to the original Latin. Why? Probably just to make it look more "classical," but it sure does make it harder to spell!



kepi  
Keplerian  
kerril — noun – an Asiatic sea snake.  
Keynesian  
kichel  
kipuka  
Kitksan  
kiva  
Kjeldahl  
kobold  
koh-i-noor  
Koine  
koji  
korrigan  
krewe  
kriegspiel  
Kuiper Belt  
kwashiorkor  
kyphoplasty

## L

La Tène  
laccolith  
lanceolate  
langrage  
laterigrade  
Latinxua  
lebensraum  
leberwurst — noun – liver sausage.  
lebkuchen  
lecithin  
lefse  
lierre  
ligas  
lilliputian  
limaçon  
Lullaillaco  
lobscouse  
loess\*\*  
OR löss  
logothete  
lokelani  
louche  
loupe  
luftmensch  
lunulae

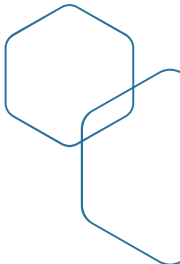
## M

macaque  
macchiato  
macigno  
mackinaw  
macushla  
mademoiselle  
maillot  
majuscule  
Makgadikgadi Pans  
malaise  
Mandelbrot set  
mandorla  
mandragora  
mange-tout  
mangonel  
Manu  
maquillage  
Marathi  
marcel  
marcescent  
maringouin  
martinoe  
mascarpone  
mässig  
mediobrome  
medulla  
megacephalic  
megrims  
meiosis  
mele  
mellifluous  
Menaia  
meringue  
Metonic cycle  
microfiche  
millegrain  
Mirach  
miscible  
mittimus  
moiety  
mondegreen  
MOOC  
moraine — noun – a collection of earth and stones carried and finally deposited by a glacier.  
moribund  
morion

mortadella  
motherumbung  
mozo  
muesli  
mufti  
muktuk  
muliebrity  
Muzak  
myeloma

## N

Nabal  
nacelle  
nahcolite  
naïveté  
naricorn  
Naugahyde  
naumachia  
neem  
neophyte  
Ner Tamid  
nescience  
Nethinim  
Nicoise  
nictitate  
nidicolous  
nimiety  
niminy-piminy — adjective – absurdly nice; ridiculously delicate; finicky.  
nisi  
nival  
ni-Vanuatu  
niveau  
nodosity  
nonpareil  
notturmo  
noumenon  
nouveau  
Novanglian  
nudibranch  
nyctinasty



## O

obesant  
odontiasis  
oeuvre  
ogival

olecranon  
oleiculture  
onomatopoeia  
onychorrhexis  
oolite  
oopuhue  
Oort cloud  
oppidan  
Orinoco  
ormolu  
orogeny  
orphéon  
oryx  
ostium  
otiose  
Ouagadougou  
oud  
outré  
oviparous  
oxyacetylene

noun – brass made to imitate gold and used for furniture and other decorative purposes.

## P

pachyderm  
paella  
pahoehoe  
palaver  
palooka  
pampootie  
panacea  
Panatheneaea  
Panchen Lama  
panettone  
panjandrum  
pannose  
papillon  
pappardelle  
parallax  
paramahansa  
pareidolia  
Parmentier  
parquet

parterre  
pas seul  
pasilla  
pastitsio  
patois  
Patripassianism  
pejorate  
pekoe  
Pepysian  
perciatelli  
perianth  
petechia  
Philistine  
philopatry  
phloem  
phlox  
Phobos  
photovoltaic  
piatti  
piccata  
pierrot  
piloncillo  
pinniped  
piscivorous  
pistou  
Plantagenet  
pneumatocyst  
pochoir  
podagra  
point d'appui  
Ponzi  
portmanteau  
portugais  
porwigele  
pot-au-feu  
pothos  
potpourri  
pou sto  
poudre B  
prajna  
pralltriller

noun – a tadpole.

pratique  
prêt-à-porter  
prion  
Promethean  
promyshlennik  
pruritus  
psalmody  
pschent  
psoriasis  
ptyxis  
pudibund  
puerilely  
pylorus  
Pythagorean  
Pyxis

## Q

qiyas  
Quaoar  
quasar  
quattrocento  
Quito  
quokka  
quonk  
Quonset

noun – a small, stocky wallaby with a reddish-brown coat and a short tail.

## R

raclette  
rafflesia  
rajpramukh  
ranunculus  
rapparee  
rapprochement  
Rastafarian  
Rayleigh wave  
realpolitik  
recamier  
redingote  
rembrandt  
rennet  
renvoi

noun – a lightweight woman's coat that is belted with the front open.



## it's all Greek to me

We often get questions about why we use words that may not appear to be English. Most words in the English language are words that we borrowed from other languages. We borrowed them, used them and now call them our own.

rescissible  
revanche  
veille  
rhododendron  
rhyton  
rinseau  
risorgimento  
risposta  
rissole  
Robigalia  
rocaille  
roi fainéant  
rond de jambe  
rondeau  
ronin  
rooseveltite  
rosemaling  
roseola  
rouille  
rubaiyat  
rubato  
rubefacient  
ruelle  
runcible spoon  
rupicolous  
ruscus  
rutabaga  
ryas  
Ryeland  
Ryukyu

## S

saccharide  
saeta  
Sagittarius  
sakura  
salmagundi\*\*  
OR salmagundy  
sambal  
samsara  
Sangamon  
sangfroid  
sannyasi  
Saashyant  
Sapporo  
savoir faire

Sbrinz  
scaberulous  
scagliola  
Schedar  
schefflera  
sciatica  
sciolistic  
sclaff  
scobiform  
scrofula  
scurrilous  
seine  
selah  
semaphore  
seraya  
serin  
sesquipedalian  
sessile  
seton  
Sfax  
sforzando  
Shawwal  
Shiba Inu  
shubunkin  
silique  
Sir Roger de Coverley  
Skeltonic  
skerrick  
smriti\*\*  
OR smrti  
soirée  
sororal  
sorrel  
sostenuto  
souchong  
sous vide  
spiedini  
spodumene  
sprechstimme  
sravaka  
stevedore  
Strelitzia  
stretto  
Strigolniki  
stroganoff  
struthious

stupa  
sturnine  
stygian  
styptic  
succès fou  
succorance  
OR succourance\*  
Sufi  
supercilious  
surimi  
surreptitious  
svarabhakti  
Svengali  
sybaritic  
synanthrope  
syncope

noun - the introduction of a vowel sound in Sanskrit especially between r or l and a following consonant.

## T

taal  
tachycardia  
tachyon  
taedium vitae  
tamarack  
tamari  
tambour  
tam-o'-shanter  
tanager  
tandoori  
tannined  
taoiseach  
tapetum  
tardigrade  
tarpaulin  
taurine  
Tchefuncte  
Tegucigalpa  
telamon  
teledu  
telegnosis  
temalacatl  
tempeh  
teneramente  
terai  
teraphim  
teratism  
terra nullius

Terre Haute  
tessitura  
tetrachoric  
Teutonic  
thalassic  
theca  
Theravada  
thimerosal  
Thomism  
thuluth  
tic douloureux  
tikka  
tikkun  
tilleul  
tinamou  
tinnient  
tintinnabulary  
tiramisu  
tmesis  
toccata  
toey  
toile  
Tok Pisin  
tokonoma  
tomahawk  
tomalley  
tonsillitis  
topazolite  
toque  
toreutics  
torii  
toril  
tourelle  
tournedos  
towhee  
trichinosis  
triduum  
trillado  
triquetra  
triskelion  
tristeza  
trochee

trompe l'oeil  
trous-de-loup  
trouvaille  
tryptophan  
tsukupin  
tullibee —● noun – a whitefish of central and northern North America.  
turmeric  
tusche  
Typhoean

**U**  
ubi sunt  
ubiquinone  
ullage  
ululate  
unakite —● noun – an opaque igneous rock flecked with green, black, pink, and white that is used as a gemstone.  
unguiculate  
uraeus  
urushiol  
ushabti  
Ushuaia  
usufruct

**V**  
varicella  
velouté  
verisimilitude  
vermeil  
Véronique  
vexillologist —● noun – a specialist in the study of flags.  
viaticum  
vicissitudes  
vigneron  
vignette  
vilipend  
villi  
vinaceous  
vinaigrette  
vitiate  
vituperative  
vizierial

**W**  
wabeno  
Waf  
wahine  
Wampanoag  
wapiti  
wassail  
weka  
weltschmerz —● noun – a white cheese that is eaten fresh prior to preserving.  
Wensleydale —●  
wentletrap  
whippoorwill  
whydah\*\*  
OR whidah  
wigan  
wildebeest  
witch of Agnesi  
wushu

**X**  
xerogel  
xiphias  
xyloglyphy —● noun – wood sculpting that is artistic in nature.

**Y**  
yakitori  
yosenabe —● noun – a soup made of vegetables and seafood in broth.  
yttriferous  
yuga  
yuloh  
yuzu

**Z**  
zacate  
zaibatsu  
Zamboni  
Zanni  
zapateado  
Zdarsky tent  
zemi  
zimocca  
zortzico  
zugzwang —● noun – the need to make a move in chess when it is not to one's advantage.



### did you know?

The Scripps National Spelling Bee has declared co-champions in 1950, 1957, 1962, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2019. In fact, in 2019 we had octo-champs!

# Words that are new this year!

With each edition of *Words of the Champions*, 20% of the words are replaced with brand new words! This includes each year's new School Spelling Bee Study List, but it also includes words at the One, Two and Three Bee levels of *Words of the Champions*. Below is the complete list of this year's newly added words that are not also on the School Spelling Bee Study List. Words with a single asterisk (\*) indicate a primarily British spelling. Words with a double asterisk (\*\*) are the preferred spelling.

**Please note:** These words are included in the full list in the previous pages. We've compiled them here for you for ease of studying.

## A

abashed  
abject  
ablation  
aboriginal  
abraum  
acclaim  
acidophilus  
acupuncture  
addendum  
addition  
admonition  
adnate  
advection  
affiche  
affiliate  
agility  
agrypnia  
alienate  
alimentation  
analects  
anionic  
anise  
anklet  
anneal  
anniversary  
anomaliped  
anosognosia  
ape-ape  
appetitost  
arrearage  
Asiago  
astronaut  
asylee

atrabilious  
attrition

## B

baccate  
bagwyn  
become  
billingsgate  
birdie  
bisbigliando  
boarders  
boffin  
Boise  
boogie-woogie  
Braeburn  
breathhtaking  
Broccolini  
broil  
bumblebee  
busby

## C

caducity  
caique  
calamondin  
calcify  
calvities  
cancion  
candid  
cardoon  
carrageenan\*\*  
    OR carrageenin  
    OR carragheenin  
cathode

catnap  
caudex  
cello  
chamberlain  
ciénaga\*\*  
    OR cienega  
cloture  
coach  
cogitation  
comminatory  
commiserative  
compelling  
concision  
confabulation  
conglutinant  
consideration  
convention  
copperhead  
Coptic  
corm  
coroner  
credit  
cynicism

## D

daisy  
decimation  
declination  
decurion  
delectable  
Delmarva Peninsula  
dghaisa  
diathermy  
diatonic

dihedral  
dimorphism  
disaster  
disjunct  
diversion  
drahthaar  
dribbles  
dromic  
druid  
drumlin  
dysgraphia

## E

eagerly  
earmark  
editorial  
eisteddfod  
ellipse  
endearing  
ensued  
epistemology  
epixylous  
eructation  
eucrasia  
europium  
evzone  
excelsior  
exeunt  
explode  
extradition  
extraordinaire  
extrorse

## F

facundity  
fadeaway  
fardel  
farthingale  
feeble  
fenster

fiat  
fictile  
finial  
fipple  
flight  
flittern  
flummery  
folate  
folly  
foozle  
foppery  
forbivorous  
fribble  
fundamental  
fusiform  
fussbudget

## G

gaffer  
gaggle  
galley  
Gallic  
gardenesque  
gargle  
genet  
geniture  
gizzard  
Gondwana  
grapple  
gravimetry  
gravitas  
guapena

## H

habitual  
Hamtramck  
hatchet  
hennery  
henotheism  
Hitchcockian

hoagies  
holmium  
horseradish  
howler  
hypoathral  
hysteresis

## I

immortality  
incisiform  
incitive  
income  
incubate  
indistinguishable  
influential  
insufflator  
Inugsuk

## J

jammer  
jaundiced  
jerboa

## K

kazoo  
kenning  
kaji  
kriegspiel

## L

labroid  
laccolith  
lambently  
langrage  
larnax  
latigo  
limelight  
limned  
limpet  
limpkin



## one dictionary to rule them all

The only source for the spelling of words given in the Scripps National Spelling Bee is Merriam-Webster Unabridged (<http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>).

linstock  
lunulae  
lutrine

## M

macigno  
madrigal  
Makgadikgadi Pans  
marring  
metaplasia  
Michigander  
millet  
millisecond  
minestra  
minette  
mockery  
modality  
modem  
modify  
monture  
morion  
muliebrity  
musings  
myocarditis

## N

naricorn  
Norovirus  
nozzles  
nuzzer

## O

obsecration  
oopuhue  
operose  
Orinoco  
oscitation  
ostium  
overtures

## P

paginate  
palooka

pannose  
paraplegic  
passage  
pastime  
perciatelli  
perianth  
periodontist  
photovoltaic  
piatti  
pinnate  
plantigrade  
plentiful  
podsnappery  
polygenous  
prajna  
pralltriller  
pratique  
prelapsarian  
preprandial  
primogeniture  
proliferate  
prolusory  
promyshlennik  
prosody  
proviant  
proxy  
ptyxis  
purvey

## Q

quirt  
Quito

## R

rankles  
rapparee  
rapscallion  
rasorial  
reagent  
recanted  
reconsider  
recovery  
refugium

remuda  
renegotiate  
renewable  
renitency  
rigatoni  
rosemaling  
ruscus

## S

sannyasi  
sarmentum  
scandal  
schnell  
sci-fi  
scobiform  
sedum  
seller  
senna  
sensei  
sensory  
September  
shaggy  
sloop  
snell  
solidity  
solon  
solvency  
sorbet  
speciation  
sponsalia  
sprechstimme  
stance  
steampunk  
steinkirk  
    OR steenkirk  
stowaway  
stratocracy  
Styrofoam  
subluxated  
subsistence  
subversive  
succorance  
    OR succourance\*

suffix  
Sufi  
sybaritic  
syntonize  
syntrophism

## T

tamworth  
telmatology  
tendency  
terra nullius  
theosophy  
thrift  
tikka  
tilleul  
titration  
toastmaster  
traiteur  
transducer  
transpiration  
treadle  
treasury  
triage

trinkets  
trophic  
tubers  
tumpline  
tunnel  
turducken  
tutorial  
twain  
twang  
typhology

## U

uppercut  
usufruct

## V

valerian  
veneer  
ventail  
viceroi  
vigil  
vinaceous  
viscosity

## W

Wampanoag  
wealthy  
whydah\*\*  
OR whidah  
wimple

## Y

yawl  
yawmeter  
yore

## Z

zapateado  
Zoetic



## Word Club

Want a new way to study? The Word Club app, available for free in the App Store and the Google Play Store, will make mastering *Words of the Champions* fun! Choose from multiple different quiz and study options for both spelling and vocabulary, all with expert audio pronunciations from the Bee's head pronouncer, Dr. Jacques Bailly.

# vocabulary: one bee, a-z



New this year, we've selected 26 of our favorite words from the One Bee section of *Words of Champions* (one for each letter of the alphabet) and included their definitions throughout this study guide. Below, you can find all of those definitions in one helpful place.

Want more vocabulary? Download the FREE Word Club app today to find definitions like these for all 4,000 *Words of the Champions* words.

**alpaca** – *noun* – a South American mammal that resembles a llama.

**botany** – *noun* – the science of plants.

**conch** – *noun* – an edible marine mollusk with a large spiral shell.

**domino** – *noun* – a small dotted slab that together with other such slabs is used to play a game.

**elusive** – *adjective* – hard to catch.

**flipperling** – *noun* – a small animal with broad flat limbs adapted for swimming (as a baby seal).

**giggle** – *verb* – to laugh in a silly manner.

**husk** – *noun* – one of the leaves enveloping an ear of corn.

**ignite** – *verb* – to set on fire.

**jersey** – *noun* – a soft knitted fabric used for making clothing, especially sportswear.

**kudos** – *noun* – praise given for some achievement.

**limelight** – *noun* – the center of public attention.

**maritime** – *adjective* – of or relating to navigation or commerce on the sea.

**nuggets** – *plural noun* – small usually round-shaped pieces of food.

**oblong** – *adjective* – having a shape that is elongated beyond a square or circle.

**partridge** – *noun* – a medium-sized, short-winged game bird with short legs and neck.

**quirky** – *adjective* – full of peculiarities.

**restive** – *adjective* – marked by fidgety or uneasy behavior.

**salivate** – *verb* – to produce an excessive amount of drool.

**trumpet** – *noun* – a brass instrument with a flared bell and three buttons pressed to make different notes.

**usher** – *noun* – someone who escorts people to seats at a gathering.

**vicinity** – *noun* – neighborhood.

**windbaggery** – *noun* – pompous meaningless talk.

**yammer** – *verb* – to talk rapidly, for a long time, and often loudly.

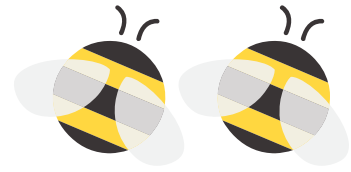
**zither** – *noun* – an instrument that has a shallow horizontal soundboard topped with 30 to 40 strings that are typically plucked by a performer.



### piecing it together

A root can be a simple stand-alone word all by itself (like Greek *para* meaning “alongside”) or a root can also be a word’s core piece having a clearly identifiable meaning that, with the help of a suffix or prefix, makes a stand-alone word. Think about Dev Shah’s 2023 winning word: “psammophile”. The first part of this word contains the Greek root *psamm-* meaning “sand.” The second part of Dev’s word contains the Greek root *-phil* from the Greek word *philos* meaning “beloved, dear, loving.” Put that together and... can you guess what the word means?

# vocabulary: two bee, a-z



New this year, we've selected 26 of our favorite words from the Two Bee section of *Words of Champions* (one for each letter of the alphabet) and included their definitions throughout this study guide. Below, you can find all of those definitions in one helpful place.

**aioli** – *noun* – garlic mayonnaise.

**bouffant** – *adjective* – voluminous.

**cantankerous** – *adjective* – grumpy and argumentative.

**dromic** – *adjective* – of, relating to, or in the form of a racecourse.

**ermine** – *noun* – any of several weasels that have white fur in winter.

**frazil** – *noun* – ice crystals sometimes similar to slush that are formed in turbulent water.

**gratis** – *adverb* – without charge : free.

**heptad** – *noun* – a group of seven people or things.

**incisiform** – *adjective* – having the form of a tooth adapted for cutting.

**jubilant** – *adjective* – expressing gladness or triumphant joy.

**koto** – *noun* – a long Japanese zither having 13 silk strings.

**locavore** – *noun* – a person who eats foods grown nearby whenever possible.

**myopic** – *adjective* – lacking in foresight or keenness of insight.

**nomancy** – *noun* – divination by letters.

**obstreperous** – *adjective* – stubborn and defiant often with a show of noisy disorder.

**panary** – *adjective* – related to breadmaking.

**quiddity** – *noun* – the ultimate form or the essential nature of something.

**regurgitate** – *verb* – to bring, forcefully impel, or pour back out again.

**smellfungus** – *noun* – someone who tends to find fault in others.

**tommyrot** – *noun* – complete foolishness or nonsense.

**ulna** – *noun* – the inner of the two bones of the forearm.

**Vulcan** – *noun* – a worker in metals; especially: a blacksmith.

**widdershins** – *adverb* – counterclockwise.

**yabbies** – *plural noun* – small burrowing crayfish that live in most Australian creeks and water holes.

**zurna** – *noun* – a traditional Middle Eastern woodwind instrument.

# vocabulary: three bee, a-z



New this year, we've selected 26 of our favorite words from the Three Bee section of *Words of Champions* (one for each letter of the alphabet) and included their definitions throughout this study guide. Below, you can find all of those definitions in one helpful place.

**avgolemono** – *noun* – a chicken soup made with egg yolks and lemon juice.

**bobolink** – *noun* – a small American songbird that resembles the blackbird.

**creances** – *plural noun* – fine lines used to leash a hawk during training.

**Dvorak** – *noun* – a typing keyboard with frequently used letters placed centrally.

**eisteddfod** – *noun* – a Welsh competitive festival of the arts especially in singing.

**Firbolg** – *plural noun* – an ancient group of people in Ireland.

**giallolino** – *noun* – any of a variety of yellow pigments.

**hoi polloi** – *plural noun* – ordinary people : multitude, masses.

**Inuk** – *noun* – a member of the Inuit people.

**Jumada** – *noun* – either of two months of the Islamic year.

**kerril** – *noun* – an Asiatic sea snake.

**leberwurst** – *noun* – liver sausage.

**moraine** – *noun* – a collection of earth and stones carried and finally deposited by a glacier.

**niminy-piminy** – *adjective* – absurdly nice : ridiculously delicate : finicky.

**ormolu** – *noun* – brass made to imitate gold and used for furniture and other decorative purposes.

**porwige** – *noun* – a tadpole.

**quokka** – *noun* – a small, stocky wallaby with a reddish-brown coat and a short tail.

**redingote** – *noun* – a lightweight woman's coat that is belted with the front open.

## consonants 101



Not sure whether the word has one consonant or two? Check to see if the word has a suffix, such as a verb that has been conjugated. These words often – but not always! – have a doubled consonant before that suffix. “The speckled frog *hopped* off the log while the horse *plodded* down the lane and the train *chugged* down the tracks.” In each of these cases, the vowel before the doubled letter is a short sound. Can you spot others like this, and some that have long vowel sounds and do not double that consonant?

**svarabhakti** – *noun* – the introduction of a vowel sound in Sanskrit especially between r or l and a following consonant.

**tullibee** – *noun* – a whitefish of central and northern North America.

**unakite** – *noun* – an opaque igneous rock flecked with green, black, pink, and white that is used as a gemstone.

**vexillologist** – *noun* – a specialist in the study of flags.

**Wensleydale** – *noun* – a white cheese that is eaten fresh prior to preserving.

**xyloglyphy** – *noun* – wood sculpting that is artistic in nature.

**yosenabe** – *noun* – a soup made of vegetables and seafood in broth.

**zugzwang** – *noun* – the need to make a move in chess when it is not to one's advantage.



### **all about the schwa**

Be like a schwa – never stressed! Except that when you're a speller, a schwa can really stress you out! Why? A schwa is pronounced "uh" and in spelling can be any vowel: a, e, i, o, u or y. That can make a word pretty tough to spell. If you ask for the word's language of origin, you can try using that to help you out. If your word is from Greek, you might want to try an 'o' for that schwa, like in "bacteriolytic"!

# themed lists, games and puzzles

New this year, we hope the activities and lists below will provide you with a more engaging way to interact with and study the *Words of the Champions*. All of the words in the lists and games that follow appear in this year's edition of *Words of the Champions*. Enjoy!



# ologies

Ology means “a branch of knowledge” or “the study of.” Check out these words that all end in -ology. What do you think they mean?

1. phycology
2. phraseology
3. nanotechnology
4. anthropology
5. numerology
6. neonatology
7. campanology
8. ufology
9. victimology
10. ichthyology
11. kinesiology
12. cetology
13. pomology

# foods

You better make yourself a snack while you're studying this list of food-related words!

1. chowder
2. crumpet
3. hazelnut
4. paella
5. rutabaga
6. frittata
7. jalapeño
8. jambalaya
9. tapioca
10. edamame
11. tiramisu
12. gnocchi
13. stroganoff
14. ganache



## animals

Lions and tigers and...alpacas, oh my! Check out this list of animals found in *Words of the Champions*.

1. flounder
2. ewe
3. caterpillar
4. bonobo
5. tortoise
6. mackerel
7. alpaca
8. macaw
9. cicada
10. lorikeet
11. crocodile
12. mandrill
13. labradoodle
14. okapi
15. aardvark
16. ibex
17. wallaby
18. tarantula
19. Shar-Pei
20. jerboa



## music

Did you know that many of the spellers at the National Competition are also accomplished musicians? Learning these musical words can help you on your path to becoming a spelling bee superstar too!

1. harmonious
2. trumpet
3. con forza
4. mambo
5. cantor
6. sousaphone
7. cadence
8. orchestra
9. marimba
10. serenade
11. glissando
12. acoustic
13. muzak
14. accordatura





## words that make you giggle

We know that spelling can be a serious business, but it's also really fun! Could you keep a straight face if you got one of these words at the microphone?

1. dillydally
2. whirlybird
3. riffraff
4. munchkin
5. bilbo
6. tutti-frutti
7. festooned
8. fisticuffs
9. burgoo
10. sashay
11. bandicoot
12. froufrou
13. gibbous
14. equinox
15. bulgogi
16. niminy-piminy
17. evo-devo
18. wootz
19. pampootie
20. boondoggle

# animal scramble

Read the clue for each puzzle and then unscramble the letters to reveal the name of the animal. Finally, use the letters from the highlighted spaces to complete the final puzzle.



This mammal has been domesticated in Peru and is often used for transportation, as well as for its wool.

**PLAAAC**

— — — — **■** —



This pouched marsupial may be known for hopping, but it can also swim and crawl!

**BWLALAY**

— **■** — — — — —



This slow-moving reptile’s life-span is longer than a human’s, with the oldest living specimen estimated to be over 190 years old.

**SIOTETRO**

**■** — — — — —



These horned mountain climbers can run up to 45 miles per hour.

**BEIX**

— — **■** —



The name of this fish species is often used as part of an exclamation — it follows the word “holy.”

**KMLEERAC**

— — — — — **■** — —



This striking mammal shares its features with several others, including giraffes and zebras.

**POIKA**

— — — **■** —



Males of this imposing species of monkey look a lot like they’re wearing masks.

**DLAILMNR**

— — — — — **■** — —

## games



Unlike the scaly counterpart it's often confused with, this reptile prefers to chill out in saltwater or brackish environments.

**ODLCCEROI**

— — — — — **L** — —



This “designer dog breed” was bred to possess the nature of a guide dog with a low-shedding, hypoallergenic coat.

**EOAOADLDRBL**

**E** — — — — — — — — — —



If you live in eastern North America, you dread the emergence of this noisy insect every 17 years.

**AACCDI**

— — — — **C** — —



This brush-tongued parrot feeds primarily off of nectar.

**KRETELOI**

— — **R** — — — — —

**Use the highlighted letters from each answer to complete the final puzzle!**

— — — — — — — — — —



# word ladders

Change one letter in each line to get from the first 2024 Words of the Champions word to the last!

The first one is done for you. Can you do the rest?



WAND  
WARD  
WARP  
WASP

1

PRONE  
-----  
TROVE

2

OUSTER  
-----  
MISTER

3

BRICK  
-----  
BLINK

4

SLAB  
-----  
-----  
SPRY

5

DAISY  
-----  
-----  
-----  
FOLLY

6

FIE  
-----  
-----  
-----  
EWE

7

WAMBLE  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
GIGGLE

8

DAFT  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
DIVA

9

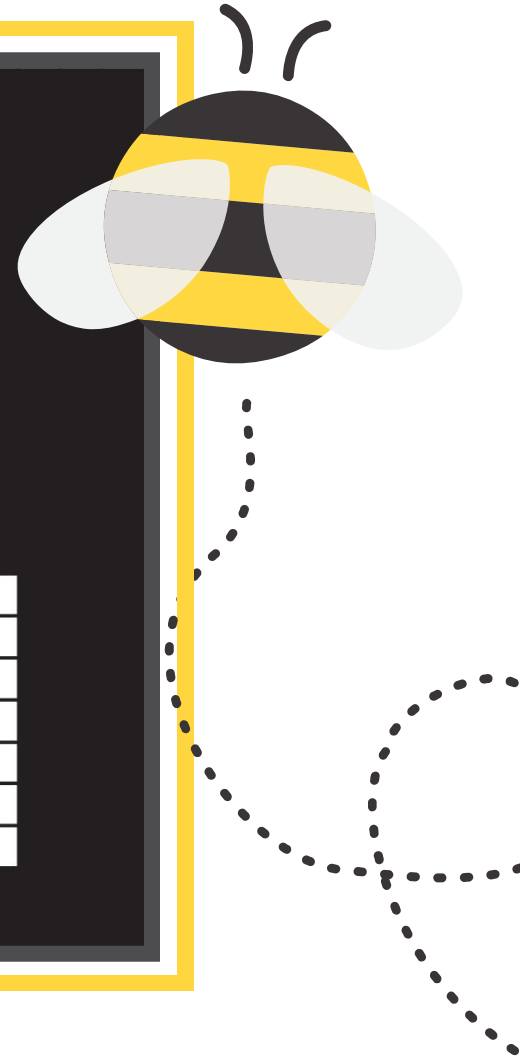
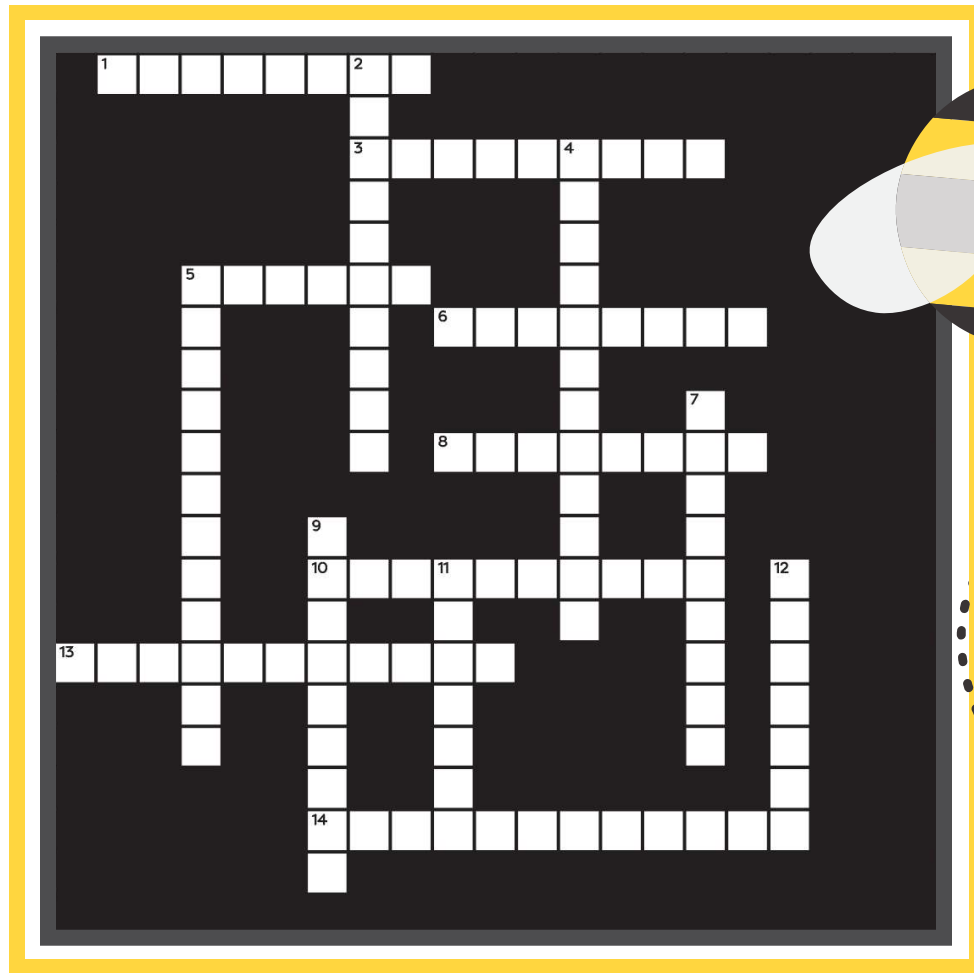
PEAT  
-----  
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-----  
-----  
AWRY

one last challenge!

10

THORN  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
WRING

crossword puzzle  
**people and their work**



**across**

- 1 performs miscellaneous tasks (as in a home or public building) (8)
- 3 investigates complaints in an official capacity (9)
- 5 handles lighting and electrical needs on a motion picture set (6)
- 6 plans and supervises projects in a technical field (8)
- 8 fights with their fists professionally : a boxer (8)
- 10 manages an opera company (10)
- 13 sells old things, such as rare old books (11)
- 14 organizes economic venture - for example, by starting new businesses (12)

**down**

- 2 prepares and sells medicines (10)
- 4 works with masses of numerical data (12)
- 5 studies handwriting (12)
- 7 practices a branch of medicine that focuses on structural integrity of the tissue (9)
- 9 invests large amounts of money (9)
- 11 sells houses and other such properties, as well as land (7)
- 12 handles customer payments (as in a store) (7)

# attitudes & emotions



apprehensive

bubbly

candid

deceitful

distraught

domineering

downcast

jubilant

puckish

repentant

surly

valiant

vindictive



**words of the**  
**champions**

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