WORDS OF THE CHAMPIONS
YOUR KEY TO THE BEE

2021
GREETINGS, CHAMPIONS!

About this Study Guide
Do you dream of winning a school spelling bee, or even attending the Scripps National Spelling Bee? 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 2020 or 2021 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 (800 words), Two Bee (2,100 words) and Three Bee (1,200 words). 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.

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. The purpose of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives. Visit 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.
DIFFICULTY
LEVEL
ONE BEE
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE
School Spelling Bee Study List

gel       day       scorch      hear       sizzle
train     upset     motor       sprint      jotted
sport     father    talking     awe         swirled
rich      jam       money       afar        amount
eel       mugs      couch       bowl        sighed
fans      fair      nibble      sweat       sheen
dome      dinner    strands     cost        worse
tall      rats      chapter     sleek       sandwich
better    fed       chess       bottle      worse
hit       sir       slimy       smart       combed
peanut    boom      squeak      stared      gleaming
cake      wave      friend      plopped     repress
bite      trunk     laptop      darted      clothes
noon      sleepy    movie       angry       either
gummy    full       known       sidekick    rely
sting     huge       suffer      stuff       chose
ray       born       double      least       else
dusk      jumping   watch       little      picture
mops      damp      ahoy        felt        prepare
thanks    from      dream       summer     percent
dash      hunch     whine       carefully   afraid
dash      hunch     beans        would       rescue
skin      each      shade       child       star
star      shade      space       tailight    began
began     ribs       princess    quicker     grew
princess  forever   piper       presence    fine
freeze

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 a list of books carefully selected by the Bee's editorial team. That list of books is called Great Words, Great Works. Find it at spellingbee.com/book-list.
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.

*chiefly British spelling
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. ESPN started airing the Scripps National Spelling Bee in 1994.

*chiefly British spelling
Mark your calendar! The Scripps National Spelling Bee will take place from May 24-29, 2020, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.

The 93rd Scripps National Spelling Bee

Mark your calendar! The Scripps National Spelling Bee will take place from May 24-29, 2020, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.

**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE**

Words of the Champions

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***Beginning at this point, all the words remaining in the One Bee section are new to the 2021 version of Words of the Champions.***
A Big Time Spellebrity

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE
Words of the Champions

spectral
dialect
heist
avenue
pending
ewe
stagestruck
standee
sailage
yoo-hoo
profiteer
kernel
tawny
dialect
heist
avenue
pending
ewe
stagestruck
standee
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yoo-hoo
profiteer
kernel
contraction
dialect
heist
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pending
ewe
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profiteer
kernel
camcorder
dialect
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pending
ewe
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profiteer
kernel
groom
dialect
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kernel
peat
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avenue
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kernel
harrowing
dialect
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dialect
heist
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ewe
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peddle
dialect
heist
avenue
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yoo-hoo
profiteer
kernel
effortless
dialect
heist
avenue
pending
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standee
sailage
yoo-hoo
profiteer
kernel
moped
dialect
heist
avenue
pending
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groats
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profiteer
kernel
Highlands
Our Purpose

The purpose of the Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

*chiefly British spelling
### Words of the Champions

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**Who Knew?**

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

*chiefly British spelling

**preferred spelling
Did You Know?
In 2002, the Bee introduced the written test at the national finals for the first time. The vocabulary portion of the test came along in 2013.
Most spellers at the Scripps National Spelling Bee are from the United States, but spellers also come from American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Canada, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan, South Korea and Department of Defense Schools in Europe. **preferred spelling

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**From Around the World**

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

**preferred spelling**
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."

**preferred spelling

1. soothsayer
2. veracity
3. marionette
4. adjudicate
5. caricature
6. evaporation
7. bittern
8. flotsam
9. discombobulate
10. germaine
11. scrutiny
12. resolute
13. halibut
14. spectrometer
15. circadian
16. servitude
17. traverse
18. tungsten
19. vineyard
20. equivalent
21. portentous
22. phraseology
23. vermilion
24. pecuniary
25. cornea
26. resilience
27. apiary
28. tropical
29. pontiff
30. omniscient
31. capacity
32. sewage
33. epoxy
34. sieve
35. trounce

**nascent

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."
**Did You Know?**

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

**preferred spelling**
There's a First Time for Everything
Hugh Tosteson was the first winner from outside of the fifty U.S. states. He lived in Puerto Rico and won in 1975.

*chiefly British spelling
Older than Sliced Bread

The National Spelling Bee was first held in 1925. That makes us older than sliced bread, bubble gum and even trampolines.

**preferred spelling

caffeine  panacea  cabaret
frfrouf  eschew  ventricle
inducement  vanguard  portrait
tepidity  meridian  spontaneity
platinum  nonnegotiable  disparate
artifice  cymbals  nucleated
exorbitant  reparations  constabulary
speculate  stratosphere  noxious
arbitrary  quasar  Podunk
seize  pathos  equinox
prosperous  sclerosis  ablaut
anabolic  Jeffrey  **minuscule

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions

caffeine  jimberjawed  syllabus  arithmetic  olfactory  pliant
panacea  toilsome  animus  depredation  en masse  billiards
panacea  tempestuous  trillium  ignominious  stroganoff  obstreperous
froufrou  univocal  Dalmatian  auction  procrastinate  frabjous
froufrou  avarice  cholera  diligence  purification  spiracle
froufrou  bouclé  **minuscule  bodega  plantain  Formica
froufrou  bouclé  **minuscule  bona fide  rhythmiscally  rustication
meridian  treatise  populace  legalese  pantheon  akimbo
erartificial  onomatopoeia  encroach  benefit  apothecosis
erartificial  oomph  parameters  equilibrium  bravado  centerX
exorbitant  merganser  prolix  gastronomie  trifle  apotheosis
erartificial  sternum  mitochondria  epithet  epitome  entrée
nucleated  indigent  stigmata  simultaneity  annulment  homeostasis
reparations  sternum  mitochondrial  trifle  epistle  homeostasis
constabulary  par excellence  onomatopoeia  encroach  benefit  apothecosis
speculate  thwartwise  lavender  acacia  trespass  bizarro
stratosphere  tae kwan do  tensile  tetanus  commander  dissemble
noxious  fenestrated  gaudery  scarlatina  bonsai  gallant
arbitrary  lugubrious  luxuriate  ciao  university  intensify
quasar  isosceles  calavade  genome  Celestial  hurriedly
calamari  par excellence  onomatopoeia  encroach  benefit  apothecosis
calamari  par excellence  onomatopoeia  encroach  benefit  apothecosis
plastic  **minuscule  quote  unquote  unquote  unquote

**preferred spelling
### Words of the Champions

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**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.

**preferred spelling**
**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE**

Words of the Champions

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**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 to learn more.

**preferred spelling**

*** Beginning at this point, all the words remaining in the Two Bee section are new to the 2021 version of *Words of the Champions*. 
**Did You Know?**


**preferred spelling**

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DIFFICULTY
LEVEL
THREE BEE
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.

*chiefly British spelling
**preferred spelling
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.

*chiefly British spelling
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

Words of the Champions

grison  toroidal  speleothem  sepalchral  bruja  niveau
phulkari  bialy  euripus  sangfroid  upsilon  rouille
garrulous  appurtenances  samarium  pasilla  sakura  rescissible
paroxysm  corsair  variscite  maringouin  buccal  Jungian
communiqué  zabaglione  bolide  argot  zocalo  Groenendael
Chantilly  velamen  vervain  vicenary  **aficionado
jacquard  sporran  chanoyu  ajimez  OR afficionado
sorghum  clematis  hamadryad  pompeii  piscivorous
guilloche  kente  calumny  ooviparous  benison
appositive  ranine  escabeche  manganol  gagaku
dirndl  riparian  ad hominem  coalescence  amygdala
lakte  **accoutrement  oublieette  Plantagenet  scurrilous
martinet  OR accourement  bechamel  bauxite  fiche
asterion  radicchio  repousage  kakapo  tetrachoric
hypallage  dudgeon  otacoustic  pelagial  sforzando
solenoid  nitid  naranjilla  ague  thalassic
veridical  Basenji  elegiac  largesses  fraiz
threnody  concinnate  patissier  fulgent  rapprochement
Jacobean  Stradivarius  OR patissier  olecranon  glaci
ballotage  synecdosce  surfeit  toreutics  ahimsa
ocotillo  tulsi  limicolous  mascarpone  kanji
dubitante  sebaceous  girandole  rissole  weltschmerz
disciform  papeterie  googol  seneschal  jalousie
mizuna  litigious  etagere  pinniped  ichthyology
trichotillomania  phytophilous  anechoic  grissino  pruritus
huipil  meuniere  gruyere  wahine  dactylic
mustelid  hilum  laulau  sylph  affogato
prestidigitation  fanfaronade  laulau  scrivener
souçon  malachite  Gruyere  katsura  dysrhythmia
diphtheria  urticaria  propriocceptive  diastole  dragée
bdelloid  capsaicin  oppugn  mediobrome  choucroute
nugatory  ptosis  macropterus  demurrague  hsaing-waing
commorients  pejerrey  euphonious  tristeza  stevedore
immiscible  horologist  retinoscopy  trigeminal  harangue

Word Club
Want a new way to study? The Word Club app, available 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 official pronouncer, Dr. Jacques Bailly.

**preferred spelling
Home Sweet Home

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

*chiefly British spelling
**preferred spelling
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.

**preferred spelling

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

Words of the Champions

Keplerian pneumatocyst xerogel cachexia ululate cordillera

codswallop fortissimo vizierial connoisseur sororal zazen

hauteur portmanteau cresive ferruginous epideictic cabochon

camarilla tryptophan gendarme embolus après

nidicolous neophyte demulcent caveola zydeco

oxyacetylene buffa goosander farina consanguine

queue farfalle clavichord kwashiorkor heuristic bibimbap

hellebore de rigueur lecithin nudibranch demitasse

transhumance secant plenipotentiary paramahamsa tomalley

phloem coccygeal comanchero triquetra bas-relief

lacustrine Diplodocus meiosis foudroyant duello rhizome

ageusia tachyon gules sesquipedalian fjeld Wensleydale

piller piccata nimiety expugnable tomography erubescent

deleterious isagoge lokelani profligacy effleurage hackamore

ikat élan psoriasis chastushka blancmange

pylorus breviloquence bavardage funori estovers

erythroblast kalimba coulibiac piloncillo Erehwonian rembrandt

maillot illative xyloglyphy xiphas ryton bonspiel

epenthesis betony Aramaic étoffée orogeny hackmore

hinoki béton anathema OR etouffee Pepsian blanckmane

nonpareil transience basilica degauss esplanade simulacrum

nyctinasty frison rajpramukh tussock gesellschaft cnidarian

pointelle flavedo Chalcolithic lanolated tamari capotasto

vinaigrette maquillage rinceau linnet arenaceous Panagia

tinnient mortadella filar embouchure panettone nockerl

aioli stanchion bhangra plangency tmesis rhabdoid

pochoir spirulina risorgimento apocryphal clerihew apodyterium

glyceraldehyde eleemosynary agalma tamarack tsukupin apoplexy

hagiographer force majeure analgesia puerilely katakana verdure

syncope ossicle dengue obloquy Parmentier fait accompli

icosahedron anemone cantatrice dhole rugose dreikanter

goanna alpargata emollient **budgerigar brume penicillin

wassail disembogue parquet OR budgereegah hiortdahlite pendeloque

ammonite luculent dhrurie OR budgerygah extravasate beelzebub

tanager expatiate lapiday outré incunabula rhinorrhagia
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

Words of the Champions

One Dictionary to Rule them All

The only source for the Scripps National Spelling Bee is Merriam-Webster Unabridged. (http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com)

**preferred spelling

***Beginning at this point, all the words remaining in the Three Bee section are new to the 2021 version of Words of the Champions.