WORDS OF THE CHAMPIONS
YOUR KEY TO THE BEE
2022
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 2021 or 2022 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 (900 words), Two Bee (2,075 words) and Three Bee (1,025 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
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.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE
School Spelling Bee Study List

wide    last    sprung    china    bonnet    wallet
part    well    zoomed    stopped    rodeo    focus
mink    mess    large    also    salad    circus
tummy   left    closed    floor    cousin    aware
goods   rush    plates    frames    camera    mango
nook    gone    matching    studied    woggles    firmly
jelly   drill    track    spikes    inflate    imagined
slow    meet    chart    speech    single    reveal
tufts   lid    bread    shoe    polish    ached
cold    lisp    clock    prize    dolphin    fabric
lane    post    crusts    smug    skiing    detour
son     bent    pain    rapids    Texas    impolite
same    nice    loud    slide    mumbles    squiggles
much    rope    flapped    goals    because
deer    logs    cell    shelter    mumble
ink     hat    cheese    creak    detail
thing   swim    beak    gutter    alas
try     upon    poor    frankly    barrels
duckling idea    power    knot    clerks
mask    singing    foam    search    forty
hike    kites    clutch    crouched    mumbles
car     feet    knife    found    paddles
rage    must    place    gloves    whiskers
gift    turning    oil    pretty    condition
gift    very    wanted    gushed    slumped

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE
Great Words, Great Works Reading Program

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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
**preferred spelling

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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
**preferred 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.

*chiefly British spelling
knack satisfactorily barefoot trope knock whittle joyful genuine recluse shield tiger romaine migraine oasis navigator humane polenta delicacy noggin background thistle althorn Spaniel kilt whirlybird Hungary welding aforesaid varnish spindle wheedle whelp yonder raffraff restive infiltrate contraction rabid redemption satisfactory various giggle constituent skirrmish acceptance peat barefoot bowie flounder shore trope teemed cleave knock soppiness millionaire joyful bask concrete knock whittle soppiness joyous barefoot bowie flounder shore trope teemed cleave knock soppiness millionaire joyful bask concrete

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE
Words of the Champions

Back in D.C.
Mark your calendar! The Scripps National Spelling Bee will take place May 30 - June 3, 2022, at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Oxon Hill, Maryland, near Washington, D.C.

***Beginning at this point, all the words remaining in the One Bee section are new to the 2022 version of Words of the Champions.
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 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.

Words of the Champions

- terrarium
- posterity
- statusy
- mambo
- putrid
- FLOTUS
- insomnia
- incompetent
- Disneyfication
- congeniality
- intertidal
- solitude

- optician
- gelatinous
- gotcha
- capitalist
- respite
- eighth
- Shetland
- causal
- hologram
- spiteful
- snitch
- maternity

- bungee
- periwinkle
- entreat
- peninsular
- flipperling
- fleeciness
- escapade
- handle
- gumption
- mortician
- Homesteader
- nitrate

- joinery
- literally
- medusa
- unchristened
- buzzworthy
- recumbent
- tiffany
- musketeers
- proposal
- weaponry
- deceitful

- cinderella
- league
- repercussion
- astounding
- hijab
- donatee
- parvo
- apparel
- windbaggery
- squeamish
- Oceanian
- charitable
- physical

- punily
- Bengal
- evacuees
- linguistics
- pulpit
- plummet
- addle

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE

Words of the Champions
DIFFICULTY LEVEL

TWO BEE
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.

**preferred spelling**

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.

**preferred spelling**
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?

Word meaning questions were first introduced as part of the Bee on the written test in 2013. 2021 was the first year in which word meaning questions were asked orally.
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**

- phosphorescent
- anxiety
- conch
- singultus
- impromptu
- oracle
- condemn
- scenographer
- neuroticism
- cannoli
- platoon
- solstice
- swannery
- probative
- oblique
- buoyancy
- situation
- lumbar
- topiary
- reverberant
- yeanling
- homicide
- graphologist
- principality
- Nostradamus
- taxonomic
- beret
- talisman
- reciprocious
- reciprocity
- molecule
- millennial
- ineffable
- abnegation
- phosphorescent
- beguile
- centenary
- conch
- errata
- oracle
- cadence
- vehicular
- Sabbatical
- platoon
- pugilist
- tapioca
- festooned
- tectonic
- dazed
- cumulus
- seraphic
- harrumph
- embezzlement
- fallacy
- asylum
- remuneration
- expostulate
- integument
- Hebrides
- macaw
- perspicacious
- reimbursable
- jambalaya
- geriatric
- mitigation
- pyrite
- analipsis
- mitigation
- sacrifice
- Appaloosa
- consternation
- repetitions
- tamer
- abnegation
- impasto
- bifurcate
- recruit
- tableau
- Embassy
- caftan
- ermine
- estuary
- technician
- homogen
- hackneyed
- cameist
- scrumptiously
- toploftical
- noctambulist
- visibility
- sensitivity
- ligament
- plenitude
- illustrious
- Egyptian
- foible
- osteopath
- khaki
- colic
- implore
- implore
- implore
- fêng shui
- acuity
- ostensible
- acuity
- subliminal
- nervily
- gingivitis
- patience
- tenement
- varicose

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**
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
Did You Know?

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

*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

eschew
ventricle
inducement
vanguard
portrait
tepidity
meridian
spontaneity
platinum
nonnegotiable
disparate
artifice
cymbals
nucleated
exorbitant
repairs
constabulary
speculate
stratosphere
noxious
arbitrary
quasar
Podunk
seize
pathos
equinox
prosperous
sclerosis
ablaut
abonomic
jimberjawed
toesome
tempestuous
univocal

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
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE
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
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 2022 version of Words of the Champions.

resonate
suspicion
repudiate
emporium
Victorian
forestallment
Iberian
dandle
effete
Antigua
vaudeville
frisket
brockage
malapropism
pelf
aqueous
Dianthus
olio
Halifax
concordance
huerta
vascular
wentletrap
serrated
poblano
conclave
Gregorian
rebuff
taverna
illicitly
cribbage
crith
Namibian
tricenary

resonate interred maudenhair peradventure fulminate sostenuto
suspicion legerity aureole Rye land bilaterian wootz Farsi
repudiate legerity aureole domesticity movemento novemdecillion
emporium Vatican spinosity episcopal mandorla adjugate
Victorian fucoid prespinous consecrate epidural
forestallment parley cladistics trituration parodic
Iberian meningitis gasiform neoterism pomegranate patella
dandle nutation valuator interregnum osculatory
effete nutria deseterer viaticum orthog onal
Antigua sedge jankers homiletics tase
vaudeville capstan Evactor psalmody Shiba Inu
frisket vicarious possessive omnilegent Shiba Inu
brockage alate venial princeps misnomer
malapropism victimology seton procurement eustress depreciate
pelf ibex demerits cribo blastogenesis Pierre
aqueous cudgel diaspora colubrine octuplicate davenport
Dianthus bicameral pious immie in silico
olio irradiation borough aretalogy particulate recreant
Halifax labradoodle volatile sessile majuscule
concordance portico gnocchi du jour Pomeranian Cheshire cat
huerta corsage surety lanceolate freegan
vascular smellfungus pileus bowsprit emissary
wentletrap arboretum fez Charon balsamic
dill
serrated Zamboni glengarry chupacabra pothos
corvus
poblano blarney commissioner Acadians polysyllabic cum laude
corvus
conclave diacritic grande dame Gippsland teraphim
Gregorian mephitic verism froward anserine
corvus
rebuff complementary dramatization ensconced elicitation catalina
taverna Philistine nonconformist château OR catalo restitutory
illicitly dyspeptic château catalo elit ibility cholesterol
cribbage inglorious erroneous hypogeous placle astaxanthin
crith louche Salvador ***composite runcible spoon Florentine
Namibian avatar trillado Miranda goji berry stricture
tricenary grandiloquent per se Newfoundland implicative
no-goodnik

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Did You Know?
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
**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE**

### Words of the Champions

| imaret | allelopathy | cinerarium | hieroglyphic | kathakali | onychorrhexis |
| cornichon | capoeira | polemic | melee | cozen | existence |
| devastavit | agnolotti | paladin | emolument | oxalis | vigneron |
| Mediterranean | ballabile | totipotency | ikebana | myeloma | tanned |
| longevous | draegerman | agnomen | exaurgical | lebensraum | spiedini |
| digerati | prescient | Bauhaus | gailardia | mufti | anginga |
| solecism | Fribourg | sacerdotal | caryatid | dirigible | jai alai |
| hypertrophy | proselytizer | skeuomorph | heliacal | surgease | Rastafarian |
| ravigote | OR *proselytiser | binturong | schefflera | ascetic | succussion |
| inchoate | tenon | mamushi | contrapposto | oolite | avifauna |
| judoka | nubilous | lipophilic | temblor | megrims | joropo |
| vaccary | iatrogenic | codicil | insouciance | podagra | toxicosis |
| Adelaide | onychitis | coulomb | catarrh | palaver | **colporteur** |
| unwonted | roux | violaceous | quattrocento | luthier | OR colporter |
| tazza | tuatara | Rorschach | filleigrane | yttriferous | Agitprop |
| damson | chicle | arthralgia | canaille | vermeil | Achernar |
| pelisse | sulcus | desman | verisimilitude | Ougadoucou | cassock |
| succade | thalamus | jacaranda | Keynesian | bibliopegist | meringue |
| tumulus | gyttja | huapango | akaryote | plagiargism | mackinaw |
| dorsiflexor | jibboom | predilection | azulejo | holobenthic | sambal |
| profiterole | vestigial | entomaphagy | hauberk | boutonniere | yuloh |
| valetudinary | Orwellian | paronomasia | bouillon | anodyne | hermeneutics |
| arshti | gimpaled | facsimile | tarpaulin | saccharide | tikkun |
| vireo | OR gimballed | renminbi | cephalopod | boulevardier | macaque |
| rococo | cabaletta | interferon | pulchritude | quokka | lassitude |
| lachsschinken | hesped | sedulous | pekeo | lidoceine | oeuvre |
| wakame | umami | velouté | patois | contretemps | ouvre |
| bathos | persiflage | Aesopian | Rubicon | a posteriori | Castilian |
| nihilism | toreador | frigate | Truckee | a posterior | trichinosis |
| ustion | vermicelli | enoptromancy | aerophatelic | scaberulous | ecclesiology |
| sumpsimus | frangipane | satiety | ankh | aganglyph | teppanyaki |
| morel | reseau | perorate | contumelious | reconnoiter | cicatriz |
| abeyance | moulage | danseur | vicissitudes | reconnoitring | somnolent |
| rongeur | interpellate | chevalier | lilliputian | realpolitik | intonaco |
| mountebank | genuflect | taurine | Sbrinz | colloque | realia |

**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
**preferred spelling
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE
Words of the Champions

grison  toroidal  speleothem  sangfroid  upsilon  rouille
phulkari  bialy  euripus  pasilla  sakura  rescissible  Jungian
garrulous  appartenances  samarium  maringouin  buccal
paroxysm  corsair  variscite  argot  zocalo
communiqué  zabaglione  bolide  vicenary  **aficionado  OR afficionado
communal  zabaglione  bolide  vicenary  **aficionado  OR afficionado
Chantilly  velamen  vervain  ajimez  facie
jacquard  sporran  chanoyu  pompeii  benison
guilloche  kente  calumnny  mangonel  gakaku
appositive  ranine  escabeche  coalescence  amygdala
dirndl  riparian  ad hominem  Plantagenet  scurrilous
latke  **accoutrement  oubliette  bauxite  flèche
martinet  OR accouterment  béchamel  kakapo  moieties
asterion  radicchio  repoussage  pelagial  sforzando
hypallage  dudgeon  otacoustic  ague  thalassic
solenoid  nitid  naranjilla  largesses  frazil
derid  Basenji  elegiac  fulgent  rapprochement
veridical  Jacobean  Stradivarius  Yeatsian  glacis
threnody  cincinnat  pâtissier  olecranon  ahimsa
 ballotage  synecdoche  surfeit  mascarpone  kanji
ocotillo  tulsi  limicologus  rissole  weltschmerz
 dudubante  sebaceous  girandole  seneschal  jalousie
 disciform  papeterie  googol  pinniped  ichthyology
 mizuna  litigious  étagère  wahine  pruritus
 trichotillomania  phytophilous  anechoic  grissino  dactylic
 huipil  meuniere  leonine  coterie  affogato
 mustelid  hilum  laulau  sylph  scrivener
 prestidigitation  fanfaronade  Gruyère  Cincinnati  dysrhythmia
 soupçon  malachite  proprioceptive  diastole  dragée
 diphtheria  urticaria  oppeg  mediobrome  choucroute
 bdelloid  capsacin  macropterous  demurrage  hsaing-waing
 nugatory  ptosis  euphonious  tristeza  stevedore
 commorients  pejerrey  retinoscopy  trigeminal  harangue
 immiscible  horologist  sepulchral  bruja  niveau

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
**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE**

**Words of the Champions**

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**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
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

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transhumance

phloem

lacustrine

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thesis

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inasty

pointelle

vinaigrette

tinni
ent

ai

pocho

glyceraldehyde

hagiographer

syncope

icosahedron

goanna

wassail

ammonite

tanager

pneumato

fortissimo

portmanteau

It’s All Greek to Me

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**preferred spelling**
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

Words of the Champions

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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 2022 version of Words of the Champions.
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