

FAQ for Words of the Champions

What is *Words of the Champions*?

Words of the Champions, Your Key to the Bee is a new study resource for students participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee program. The list of 4,000 words will be used by students participating in school and regional spelling competitions. The complete word list will be accessible to schools that [enroll](#) in the Bee program.



What does *Words of the Champions* replace?

It replaces Spell It!, the longstanding study booklet co-created by the Bee and Merriam-Webster.

How will spellers access the resource?

Words of the Champions and other study materials will be available for teachers at Bee-enrolled schools to download from spellingbee.com beginning August 20. There is an e-book version also available for purchase on Amazon Kindle.

Do spellers in all grades need to learn all 4,000 words?

Nested in *Words of the Champions* are 450 words that make up the School Spelling Bee Study List. Spellers study those words for classroom and school spelling bees. The Bee sourced those words from books included in its 2020 Great Words, Great Works reading program. The 18 titles are engaging and grade-appropriate books for elementary and middle school students. By reading the books, students can gain a deeper understanding of the words they are learning to spell this year.

Do spellers need to know the vocabulary in addition to spelling?

The purpose of the Bee is to help students improve their spelling and increase their vocabularies. Students should learn the definitions as part of their review of the words. For classroom and school-level bees, it is up to the teachers to determine if they want to include vocabulary in their competitions. At the regional level, some sponsors include vocabulary in their contests.

Can anyone get *Words of the Champions*?

There is an e-book version available for purchase on Amazon Kindle. The additional materials (pronouncer guides for classroom/school spelling bee and vocabulary supplement) are only available to schools that enroll in the Bee program.

Why should my school enroll if I can get the *Words of the Champions* as an e-book on Amazon?

The Bee prepares additional study and competition materials only available for schools that enroll in our program. While *Words of the Champions* is a word list, the pronouncer guides needed for classroom and school spelling bees provide the additional information such as pronunciation, part of speech and definition. Enrollment also includes the vocabulary supplement for schools that want to include vocabulary as part of their competition. Those materials are not available in the e-book version. Enrollment is required for school champions to advance to the regional competition.

Who created the *Words of the Champions*?

The Scripps National Spelling Bee created *Words of the Champions*.

What is the source of all the *Words of the Champions*?

All the entries are in the Bee's official dictionary, Merriam-Webster Unabridged.