



WORDS OF THE CHAMPIONS

YOUR KEY TO THE BEE

2020

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 2019 or 2020 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 125-word One Bee *School Spelling Bee Study List*, the 225-word Two Bee *School Spelling Bee Study List* and the 100-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.

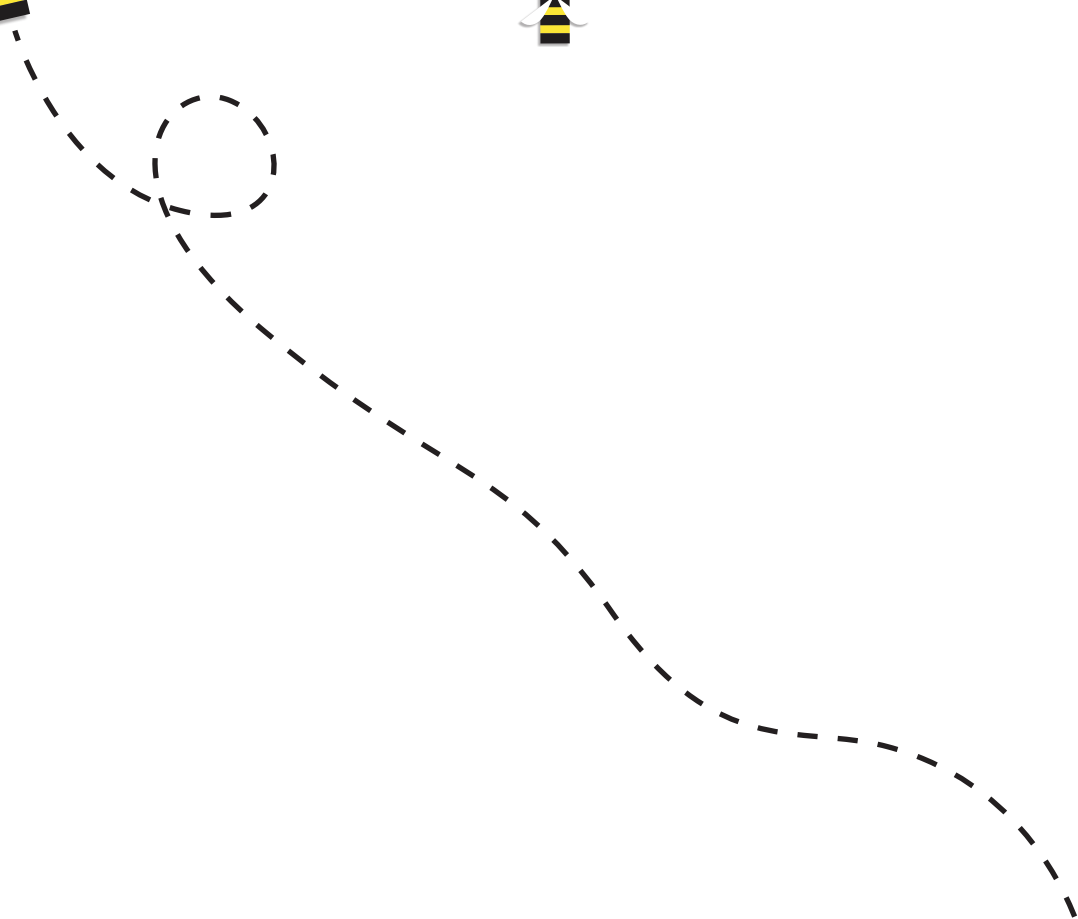
About the Scripps National Spelling Bee

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

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|----------|------------|-----------|
| punting | seal | ash | filters | beeswax | holler |
| crowd | twirled | flame | cone | social | billboard |
| secret | admit | grits | never | behold | chicken |
| fumble | grown-ups | cliff | silly | mix | puppets |
| pond | pieces | hem | Monday | drool | waited |
| health | brass | candles | grub | understand | finish |
| pardon | onshore | brim | hook | sound | cheer |
| shake | stunts | plot | number | benches | twisty |
| kiddo | deny | desk | cooking | shrugged | chips |
| proof | jolly | bobcat | amazed | still | scoop |
| gorp | powder | polo | collect | pranks | rover |
| town | walnut | roller | local | smiled | forgive |
| bingo | sawdust | stark | proper | peach | ribbon |
| clever | flustered | drum | basement | pie | shoo |
| inside | barber | snarl | ripple | size | greedy |
| reply | chimes | argue | feats | hall | beam |
| frozen | cabin | loppers | plumbing | jangled | crew |
| special | faint | petal | stubborn | chain | crate |
| film | manger | giant | adrift | workhorse | hotel |
| results | peppermint | sniffle | sweeten | antennas | stray |
| soda | broth | mouth | neon | honest | |

Great Words, Great Works Reading Program

Each year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee publishes its 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**

Words of the Champions

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| gradual | bedlam | gargantuan | gimmick | monopolize | target |
| ferocious | shortfall | salsa | flannel | water | angora |
| frequently | cowlick | chaotic | cucumber | marathon | snippet |
| permission | opinionated | shrimp | McMansion | omission | ascribe |
| towel | slogan | mandate | janitor | newbie | hodgepodge |
| sundae | triumphant | turret | lionize | spreadsheet | verbiage |
| ornament | parenthetic | pigeon | headdress | badger | nephew |
| rooster | listener | satellite | fragrance | fortification | imbibe |
| scold | guardian | parasite | pear | hydra | savvy |
| organza | dwindled | favorite | system | grouse | reckon |
| fragile | fraught | OR *favourite | pedigree | manta | boorish |
| galaxy | sturdy | cascade | empty | astonish | tarmac |
| complaint | treadmill | dandelion | amulet | fashionista | iteration |
| curries | originate | famous | guess | stubble | nurture |
| tennis | forfend | pristine | magician | genius | volcano |
| grumbling | OR forefend | golden | carrot | nuance | forensics |
| garlic | eavesdrop | modesty | meteor | stencil | miraculous |
| hula | January | amphibian | distraught | penguin | trendy |
| reactionary | scruple | jealousy | freight | freckle | permafrost |
| muscular | moxie | remedial | honeybee | blooper | iceberg |
| drizzle | winnow | vouch | blemish | misconception | cactus |
| accurate | incentive | trivia | crumpet | lambkin | nationalism |
| studio | admirer | shoulder | blizzard | chowder | leeway |
| illusionist | emotional | zebra | squirm | sunflower | pilferer |
| genetic | chia | butterscotch | harmonious | lambasted | rollicking |
| levity | raspberry | apron | lawyer | volumetric | quart |
| moisture | bogus | beagle | valiant | flattery | lactose |
| toughness | recoup | kidney | purse | simmer | domineering |
| tasteless | bookworm | wistful | raisin | whisk | onion |
| astute | veteran | raven | trumpet | bathtub | abandon |
| turtle | erase | fructose | bias | fantastically | jamboree |
| Pinkerton | handcuffs | Amazon | lettuce | failure | junior |
| fortune | spinal | companion | shamrock | tolerable | hamlet |
| sluggard | demolition | panorama | Americana | mosquito | jubilant |

In Good Company

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



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE

Words of the Champions

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| thawed | mince | puzzles | dollars | deodorant | skeleton |
| uncle | bubbly | scumble | hospitality | dojo | weakness |
| dawdle | graham | extinct | necklace | conductor | priority |
| mogul | headlong | jersey | explanation | garment | third |
| troll | timber | trapezoid | thimblery | ladybug | ovation |
| kindred | medallion | dillydally | landmark | bebop | sonar |
| tantrum | maximum | haggle | peerless | nuisance | beverage |
| science | clover | sword | flute | saga | stench |
| cement | casino | mastiff | skateboard | lookout | yarn |
| venomous | distinctive | cooperate | manifesto | blouse | hubbub |
| plaintiff | mister | merchandise | imitative | relish | premium |
| mayhem | warning | gauntlet | famished | propaganda | sinus |
| thicket | useful | apology | ecotourism | foxes | trait |
| gymnastics | difficult | carnival | cancel | ragamuffin | swallow |
| island | mischief | buffoonery | flooey | ingredient | recyclable |
| peacenik | talent | intellectual | ginger | generosity | turnip |
| ounce | kiwi | tickled | lifetime | religious | tirade |
| memorandum | publish | domino | integrity | timidly | materialize |
| bother | mutter | ignite | arcade | bargain | winsome |
| missile | sedentary | legacy | manufacture | around | trencher |
| munchkin | divine | splurge | bellyache | wan | compilation |
| banana | lexicon | neigh | keyhole | faculty | dandruff |
| furnace | bristle | cabbage | seldom | spelunker | widget |
| foothills | daresay | erode | impostor | major | goblet |
| tongue | owlishly | formalize | OR imposter | methodology | gander |
| caterpillar | criminal | OR *formalise | glimpse | weevil | slipshod |
| wasp | recipient | anyway | magnate | innermost | pencil |
| kudos | strong | isolation | hangnail | aromatherapy | granola |
| alpha | canteen | measly | novelist | peekaboo | monarch |
| shebang | aviation | apprehensive | sourly | beckon | jargon |
| tibia | lucky | zither | serpentine | rhinestone | incendiary |
| hazelnut | rocket | whiff | taco | mundane | velcro |
| votive | reflect | organic | melodramatic | magnificent | award |
| lantern | scent | mugwump | sirloin | flexible | parsley |

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.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **ONE BEE**

Words of the Champions

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| rascal | quack | amigo | holiday | porridge | myself |
| ravine | spider | bestow | indigo | eyelet | marine |
| perplex | weather | gung ho | forage | yeti | cloudy |
| qualitative | twinge | umbrella | tooth | groove | cricket |
| sticky | poncho | synthetic | dauntlessly | estimate | motto |
| hamstring | hooligan | cloying | faucet | cattail | torch |
| vacuum | decade | olive | scheme | paraphrase | pamper |
| reliable | forbidden | truth | cough | heartthrob | pleasant |
| snore | jumbo | balderdash | straw | cheek | robin |
| ladle | mortal | infringe | hooves | daughter | historical |
| surefire | bugaboo | interloper | shadow | laser | rules |
| enchantment | standard | routine | meekness | invoke | geometric |
| apple | yearn | privacy | squall | upshot | villa |
| mellow | primatologist | decision | OR squawl | climate | midriff |
| nacho | voluntary | farfetched | omen | yankee | teaspoon |
| problem | furious | linen | militant | dim sum | worrywart |
| acorn | wombat | piratical | civics | moose | developer |
| cutlery | marginalize | pigsty | locker | cuckoo | shopaholic |
| ambitious | swipe | misery | jabberwocky | dilemma | magma |
| monumental | eternity | months | detention | outrageous | briefcase |
| basilisk | imagery | guffaw | sparkle | silver | deputy |
| lamentable | pastel | caravan | calico | fedora | mangrove |
| brilliant | twice | culinary | theme | wildcat | enfranchise |
| competitive | megahertz | boycott | literacy | monstrosity | kiln |
| lounge | gnash | calzone | loathe | sofa | webisode |
| supper | knuckle | bawl | axle | eggplant | kangaroo |
| explosive | bribery | circle | glimmer | kosher | Romeo |
| cajole | glucose | respect | vacation | minority | emerge |
| bauble | mower | introverted | napkin | default | twitchy |
| happenstance | campus | fuddy-duddy | overrun | heroic | arrogant |
| tussle | infant | pulley | yellowfin | bombard | normative |
| inched | thunderbolt | Kodiak | clodhopper | furtive | homework |
| dimension | despicable | misinterpret | crayon | journal | mildew |
| ugliness | elderly | twee | bakery | tulip | pattern |

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.



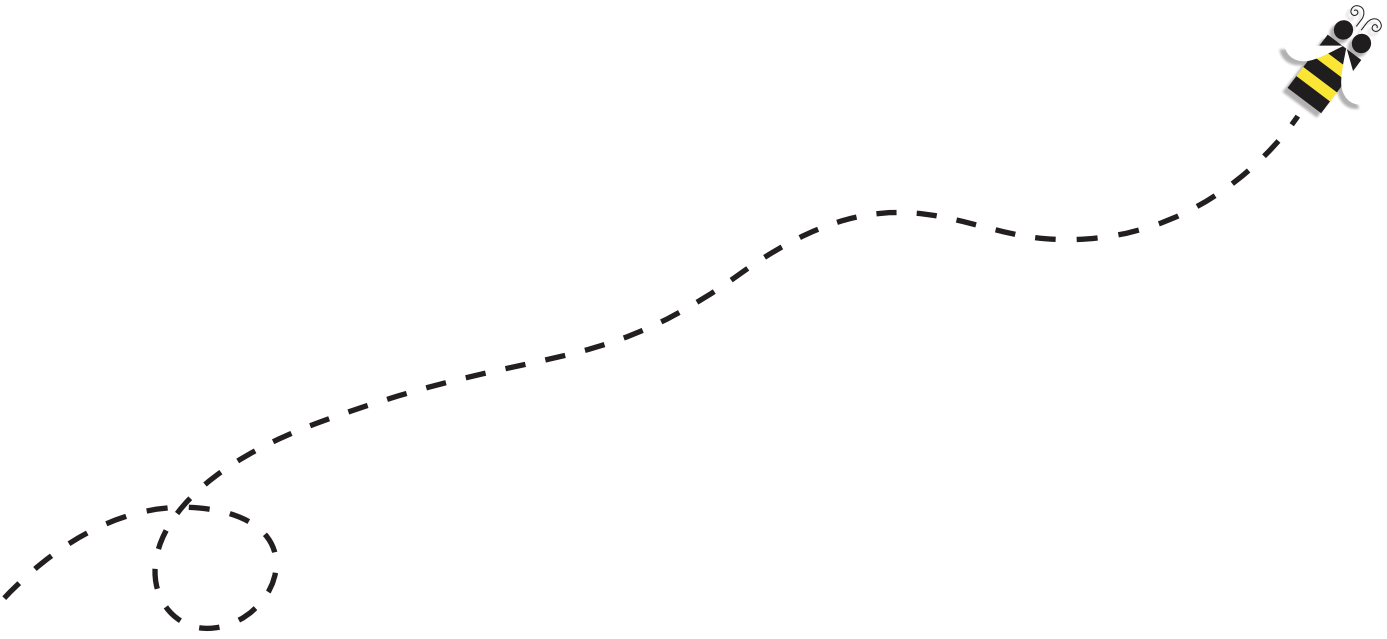
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **ONE BEE**

Words of the Champions

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| coffee | envoy | dough | nourish | knack | |
| botch | postpone | emperor | vulpine | satisfactory | migraine |
| receptacle | wafer | utterable | aloha | barefoot | oasis |
| bagpipe | software | leniency | entrance | trope | navigator |
| bonfire | factoid | frivolous | kindergarten | knock | humane |
| abruptly | marvelous | potato | restaurant | whittle | polenta |
| bushel | OR marvellous | wholehearted | functionary | joyful | delicacy |
| skedaddle | evinced | metadata | dodge | genuine | noggin |
| toddler | season | farewell | iota | recluse | background |
| everglades | horizon | hypnotic | gelato | shield | thistle |
| pellet | arborio | jewel | hankering | tiger | |
| klutz | cartoon | tangible | esteem | romaine | |

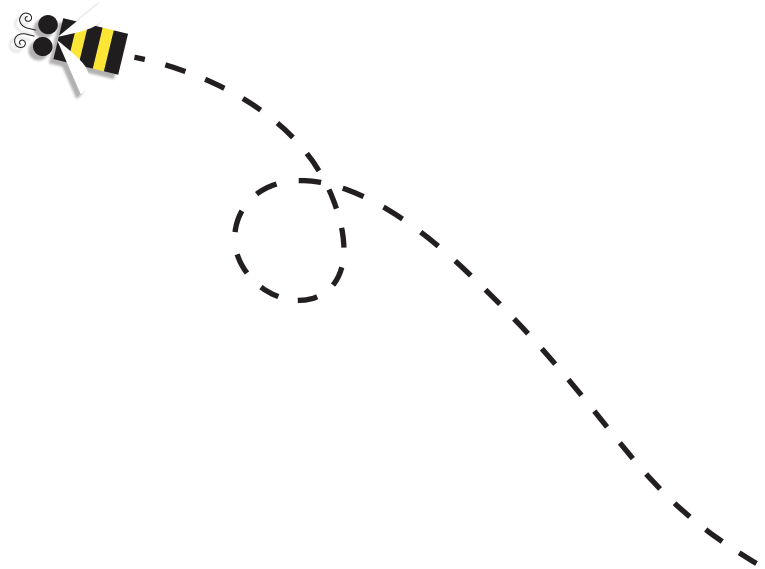
A Big Time Spellebrity

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

TWO BEE





DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

School Spelling Bee Study List



| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| gallop | luggage | pulse | utensils | wily | gabled |
| dinosaur | ramparts | cottage | depot | rookie | settle |
| brought | vinyl | garland | incident | transparencies | somber |
| ancient | anemometers | gnaw | brambles | hazmat | OR sombre |
| earthquake | dainty | comfort | trifecta | Antarctic | tampered |
| tapestry | buckle | caroling | shingle | perfume | loyal |
| delivery | vividly | OR carolling | mason | plaiting | remarkable |
| attagirl | briny | foolishness | avoid | writers | joists |
| salamanders | pavement | constellation | static | series | scrambling |
| disembark | garnet | sundering | samples | audience | inspector |
| usual | furrow | junction | modern | insubstantial | distressed |
| challenge | sprawl | exploits | chalk | staggered | smudge |
| cahoots | museum | rabble-rouser | concentrate | assistance | throttle |
| oozing | wren | profound | proud | sanitized | perfection |
| Mars | legend | wreath | expiration | diminished | capable |
| pelican | transistor | profile | batteries | organist | gadgets |
| drastic | amplify | untoward | centuries | operator | channel |
| yoga | security | memorial | differed | Louisiana | chisel |
| burlap | refrain | industrial | fearsome | perpetual | chimney |
| blazer | tactics | barrier | fiercest | blustery | minnow |
| trombone | shepherd | gratingly | residence | molars | domain |
| trembling | Angus | brayed | abated | arrange | shuffle |
| calmed | mulish | Harlem | scattering | dissolved | carpenter |
| police | rivalry | messenger | toppled | extremely | pruners |
| certain | siblings | beacons | vane | plastic | parcel |
| barograph | chestnut | generation | vortices | multiplication | squawk |
| charred | minivan | coverage | turbulent | middle | Sheetrock |
| Pakistan | plaid | deters | obstacles | reasonable | trowel |
| pressure | tissue | Nepal | continental | closet | nervous |
| surmised | scoundrel | disinfectant | deportment | investigation | spirit |
| teak | amino | campaign | exhibits | accident | equator |
| transit | menthol | starvation | agricultural | discussion | evidence |
| cannonade | Tabasco | gamma | momentous | confused | solar |
| appetite | obvious | spleen | disturbance | microwave | explore |

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.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

School Spelling Bee Study List



distance
fault
colonists
prudence
assembly
sheriff

tarry
entity
archives
commotion
vacancy
beatboxing

mutate
commonplace
gingerbread
hunky-dory
dispute
episode

confection
autographs
withers
petite
station

Eight Times the Fun

In 2019, eight spellers made Bee history and inspired a neologism: "Octochamps!" At about midnight on the night of the Finals, the dictionary admitted defeat to what the Bee declared "the most phenomenal assemblage of spellers in the history of this storied competition." Rishik Gandhasri, Erin Howard, Saketh Sundar, Shruthika Padhy, Sohum Sukhatankar, Abhijay Kodali, Christopher Serrao and Rohan Raja ended the 2019 Bee in an eight-way tie.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| hexagonal | unabated | banal | fondant | opponency | primitive |
| litmus | petrifying | seismologist | cupola | referendum | fabulist |
| seethe | specimen | spectacles | herbaceous | quaver | comportment |
| antiquarian | interlocutor | innovator | tentativeness | rabbinic | taciturn |
| phalanges | machete | bursary | pachinko | lapel | sophomoric |
| bachelorette | dulcet | hallowed | decrepitude | mackerel | laureate |
| frontier | salubrious | apogee | redux | callow | Goliath |
| unctuous | roisserie | hiatus | dramaturgy | biscuit | splenetic |
| fluoride | **paneer | freesia | murmuration | flourish | legato |
| moorage | OR panir | exoneration | Clydesdale | beatific | slovenly |
| Minotaur | omnibus | duvet | phonics | repository | aerobics |
| intermezzo | biscotti | turpitude | calisthenics | dissipate | paisley |
| edification | calibrate | platitude | obediential | accomplice | contrariwise |
| vacuousness | appellation | nobiliary | odiferous | kerchief | petroleum |
| epilepsy | duodenum | commerce | combination | whimsical | regalia |
| importunate | valorous | keratitis | torrent | stamina | incinerate |
| recuperation | isotopic | honorific | arsenic | criteria | flagon |
| citronella | carpal | kookaburra | invertebrate | reprieve | incoherent |
| palliative | quizzical | napoleon | **bandanna | consequent | tercentenary |
| abhorrence | heliotrope | superlative | OR bandana | contusion | vituperative |
| personnel | squander | oxygenate | manipulable | mulligan | churlish |
| vexatious | prenuptial | annihilate | axiomatic | sabermetrics | riviera |
| faux | succulent | sarcophagus | indefatigable | elocution | laconic |
| sophisticated | bedraggled | surrogate | ulterior | dowager | excision |
| nebulous | rectitude | terabyte | oligarchy | comparison | emblazoned |
| genus | uranium | uncouth | pianola | diaphanous | bric-a-brac |
| legionnaire | inundate | onerous | dignify | agoraphobia | longitude |
| sternutation | wunderkind | macrocosm | allegiance | buffet | maverick |
| subcutaneous | filial | bulbous | basaltic | tortoise | retrograde |
| alacrity | wearisome | umpirage | scorpion | surmountable | partridge |
| choreographer | visage | heredity | planetarium | endure | insignia |
| leguminous | fascinator | philharmonic | ecstatic | bonobo | binomial |
| ceramics | testimony | endorphin | cinnamon | abrogate | luminance |
| mimetic | beaucoup | pharmacy | pharaoh | effusive | adjective |

Who Knew?

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

**preferred spelling



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| elucidate | myoglobin | approbatory | macular | epoch | leisure |
| spatula | frugal | catalepsy | simpatico | dumbwaiter | vague |
| triglycerides | achromatic | labyrinthine | adhesion | allergenic | wharf |
| stalwart | miscible | notoriety | rennet | vocabulary | altercation |
| bumptious | soprano | subterranean | pinnacle | vassal | fraternity |
| farcical | cutis | aubergine | avalanche | panary | cataclysmic |
| ghastly | hyrax | jalapeño | cadge | tangerine | metatarsal |
| parkour | truncheon | attributive | exodus | pervasive | bereavement |
| fealty | educand | plutonomy | philosophize | haphazard | carbohydrates |
| perilous | Realtor | lobotomy | Requiem | legislature | sesame |
| steroid | billabong | assumption | glitterati | shenanigans | palatable |
| gullibility | bariatrics | entrepreneur | transference | inclusion | gratis |
| tarantula | throughout | besieged | uveal | physicists | nonvolatile |
| cantankerous | propulsion | placoderm | candelabrum | tempura | juvenilia |
| vitriolic | assailant | hermitage | vacillate | reggae | fomentation |
| crinoline | charioteer | permutation | phenotype | futility | reprisal |
| debris | solicit | conference | transposable | untenable | astrobleme |
| armaments | melismatic | woebegone | thrasonical | feudalism | sabotage |
| versatile | spurious | resplendence | trepanation | malevolent | absolution |
| subtlety | tempeh | aphasia | Holstein | posada | rutabaga |
| hangar | statistician | environs | quadrillion | acquiesce | espousal |
| verbena | ibuprofen | celebratory | tardigrade | apothecary | virulence |
| zirconium | injurious | cornucopia | varsity | summary | allocable |
| ventriloquy | anglophile | prominent | scholarship | brogue | effraction |
| circumflex | defiant | archetype | filbert | suet | limousine |
| calligram | substitute | travails | Galahad | koto | drupiferous |
| eczema | quiddity | antipathy | jadeite | jingoism | organelle |
| theomachy | karst | leviathan | peripheral | satchel | osprey |
| fibula | Brigadoon | alpaca | elevator | evanescent | elusive |
| aberration | vestibule | duress | chaperonage | diverge | disproportionate |
| necrotic | ballyhooed | eucalyptus | frittata | exemplar | cayenne |
| eminent | arpeggio | rambunctious | vandalize | marsupial | tabernacle |
| demographics | lupine | ingenuous | chancellor | trefoil | phosphorescent |
| Jurassic | resuscitate | phonetician | pauper | designer | anxiety |

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.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| conch | matrimony | geocaching | affront | jettison | tableau |
| singultus | errata | instigate | element | Promethean | sheldrake |
| impromptu | stipulate | obscure | desolate | embassy | suitable |
| oracle | naïveté | transcription | truncate | contemptuous | cenotaph |
| condemn | OR naiveté | muchacha | pedicure | okapi | Plumeria |
| scenographer | cadence | steppe | **caftan | welterweight | perpetrator |
| neuroticism | fido | palpitant | OR kaftan | scrooge | cinematic |
| cannoli | vehicular | nonchalance | ingratiante | morose | wallaby |
| platoon | sabbatical | realm | sousaphone | osmosis | contrivance |
| solstice | ermine | estuary | amalgam | flimflammer | suffrage |
| swannery | pugilist | technician | carnage | astrigent | thyme |
| probative | tapioca | dietetic | turmeric | mademoiselle | phlebotomy |
| oblique | festooned | homage | zoolatry | nouveau | anemic |
| buoyancy | tectonic | cumulus | ricochet | heterochromia | OR anaemic |
| situation | wizened | essential | hackneyed | consul | depravity |
| lumbar | tomfoolery | seraphic | vespertine | hermetically | effervescent |
| topiary | harrumph | cameist | **brusque | excursion | soirée |
| reverberant | embezzlement | scrumptiously | OR brusque | dreadlocks | OR soiree |
| yeanking | fallacy | toploftical | erstwhile | theriatrics | churros |
| homicide | asylum | noctambulist | lolloped | cumbersome | diadem |
| graphologist | remuneration | visibility | osteopath | affluent | larceny |
| principality | expostulate | ligament | kaiser | chastise | acetaminophen |
| Nostradamus | integument | plenitude | imperious | colic | parochial |
| taxonomic | Hebrides | illustrious | Egyptian | atomic | earnestly |
| beret | macaw | symmetrical | foible | fêng shui | **gaffe |
| talisman | perspicacious | pendulous | lousicide | acuity | OR gaff |
| impecunious | reimbursable | analepsis | ewer | subliminal | ostensibly |
| reciprocity | jambalaya | mitigative | curfew | charismatic | gesticulate |
| molecule | geriatric | pyrite | schism | phoenix | gingivitis |
| millennial | striation | sacrifice | dilapidated | bastion | patience |
| ineffable | Appaloosa | consternation | peony | edamame | quittance |
| abnegation | ramifications | escalator | urgency | porcelain | tenement |
| beguile | temerity | impasto | bifurcate | deglaciation | soothsayer |
| centenary | egress | antagonistic | drivel | recruit | 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, Department of Defense Schools in Europe as well as the Bahamas, Canada, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan and South Korea.

**preferred spelling



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| adage | Neapolitan | caricature | evaporation | garniture | indemnity |
| cicada | chintzy | emerald | bittern | twilight | cyanosis |
| mauve | genteel | liege | flotsam | proletarian | regurgitate |
| emeritus | requisition | wilco | discombobulate | vantage | stegosaur |
| suture | stimuli | germane | scrutiny | discountenance | statuesque |
| obfuscate | schooner | bacteriolytic | concatenate | stupefy | nectarine |
| casualty | declamatory | rhododendron | impeachable | irrevocable | galvanize |
| perseverance | embryo | ineptitude | residue | trellis | agonistic |
| apparatus | languorous | academese | halibut | juxtapose | rosin |
| myopic | stevia | registrar | spectrometer | hydrangea | burial |
| ebullience | phycology | alma mater | circadian | slalom | bulwark |
| clairvoyance | malaise | comedienne | servitude | corollary | iridescent |
| impetus | staid | cutaneous | traverse | étude | quince |
| affianced | acerbity | gnarled | tungsten | cranium | cyclone |
| archaism | inimical | hydroponic | vineyard | equivalent | usurper |
| commodious | kaleidoscope | combustible | interrogative | portentous | phraseology |
| austere | gluttonous | factorial | scullery | nepotism | caramel |
| severance | gypsum | dolma | tiramisu | truffle | pecuniary |
| financier | polypeptide | sapphire | exaggerate | varicella | cornea |
| wildebeest | wushu | prevenient | enoki | tonsillitis | resilience |
| asado | contradictory | Edenic | profundity | thoracic | apiary |
| limpa | penitentiary | tributary | mantra | proviso | ronin |
| adolescence | umbrage | laudatory | escarole | netiquette | tropical |
| menagerie | crustaceans | jitney | nanotechnology | paucity | pontiff |
| hallucinate | bubonic | wattage | bureau | doldrums | omniscient |
| opprobrious | sartorial | papillon | burglarious | slumgullion | capacity |
| nocturnal | escarpment | vertigo | cryptozoa | valedictorian | sewage |
| redolent | Celsius | accumulate | preponderance | auspices | epoxy |
| vendage | dialysis | deltoidal | bruxism | elaborative | discreetly |
| entente | humidistat | opulent | psychoanalysis | proprietary | sieve |
| boomslang | sardonic | paramecium | calendar | **nascent | trounce |
| circuitous | braille | monochrome | reiterate | OR naissant | hydrophobia |
| veracity | vignette | facade | remorseful | adieu | ingot |
| marionette | adjudicate | OR façade | cybernetics | tenaciously | nubuck |

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.”



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| jocularly | fisticuffs | idiosyncratic | aardvark | fiduciary | utilitarian |
| unfurl | propinquity | burgoo | census | emulsify | millivolt |
| calculator | epidermis | occupancy | stagflation | lorikeet | herringbone |
| corduroy | carriage | coriander | brontophobia | malfeasance | orchestra |
| encore | abstemious | amnesty | macrobiotics | sequential | phlox |
| hollyhock | echinoderm | condensation | glareous | intersperse | tractability |
| qualms | optimum | aqueduct | rejuvenate | numerology | montage |
| mosaic | pathogen | ferret | tubular | Paleozoic | compendium |
| centipede | acrostic | widdershins | dodecahedron | funnel | unmoored |
| attendee | anthropology | hostile | rictus | syndicate | yardang |
| nomenclature | cruciferous | subsequent | vengeance | chrysalis | fluctuation |
| botany | macchiato | whet | modular | bethesda | flabbergast |
| Holocaust | ancillary | blatant | kleptocrat | cartilage | accolade |
| augment | toile | pyramid | neuropathy | coeval | connivery |
| acoustic | plaudits | terminus | surrealist | curio | impresario |
| eruption | serenade | agitation | secession | ombudsman | bruschetta |
| auburn | heptad | tremulous | digression | hydrant | dictum |
| virtually | engineer | scythe | intricate | zeppelin | premonition |
| glissando | pilcrow | duplicitous | annotate | superficiality | stereotypical |
| stomach | porosity | protectorate | vehemence | marooned | bergamot |
| demonstrative | tandoori | placards | fervorous | **volary | telepathic |
| megalomaniac | succumb | corral | septennial | OR volery | banquet |
| posse | fervently | credulity | hypotenuse | follicle | upbraid |
| declension | divestiture | dissonance | emancipatory | brochure | pancreas |
| berserk | roseola | shoji | supine | grotesqueness | expunge |
| cathedral | installation | auditorium | fracas | privatim | maize |
| deciduous | harbinger | reconcilable | disrepair | eradicate | metastasize |
| baleen | raptorial | evaluate | photogenic | krypton | quintessential |
| Einstein | sobriety | mastodon | rehearsal | ethanol | pollutant |
| municipal | manumit | denticulate | irritability | quadriceps | brouhaha |
| adversaria | dentifrice | supplicate | vainglorious | tachycardia | pedantry |
| turbinado | collegiality | torsion | ataxia | triceratops | performance |
| brethren | inclement | justiciable | pageantry | sandal | equivocate |
| tympnum | celery | vernal | vinegar | pashmina | fission |

Did You Know?

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

**preferred spelling



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| boondoggle | recriminatory | algae | remonstrance | odometer | intuitable |
| phylum | subaqueous | reminiscent | smithereens | uvula | divvy |
| hypochondria | recusancy | menial | curator | enumerated | fatuously |
| obstetrician | retrocedence | Moroccan | judicious | desertification | fraudulent |
| replete | cauterize | clearance | vice versa | quirky | necessity |
| raucous | immolate | assure | exercise | arraign | piety |
| Brandywine | résumé | compatriots | civet | elegant | veritable |
| surreptitious | extensive | liaise | pancetta | minacious | sashay |
| surplus | transcend | quotidian | waiver | vindictive | sciatica |
| impediment | freneticism | matriculation | decennial | implacable | discomfiture |
| revenant | merino | revulsive | dynamite | logarithmic | emphysema |
| topgallant | pestilence | gaucho | Gemini | regicide | stridency |
| clandestine | mordant | capsule | retinol | hubris | acetone |
| genealogical | posthumous | tragedian | corpulent | hibernaculum | cerebellum |
| pomposity | QWERTY | fajitas | potpourri | bandicoot | pantomime |
| neonatology | foosball | felonious | pallor | malingering | prima donna |
| pituitary | accentuate | palatial | Yorkshire | parliamentary | praxis |
| fleetness | ascension | Mecca | Belgravia | rebarbative | Tinseltown |
| anonymity | venue | albeit | casserole | olympiad | sorrel |
| carcinogenic | microfiche | vermicide | semester | crocodile | McCoy |
| detritus | quadrilateral | echelon | sacrament | venerable | histrionics |
| anorak | turpentine | supremacy | terra-cotta | chemise | cashier |
| enviable | cellophane | clowder | moratorium | campanology | polysemy |
| extrapolate | indulgent | occultation | cognizant | persuasive | stampede |
| extinguish | occipital | Chihuahua | OR *cognisant | desultorily | forfeit |
| pilaster | predicament | promontory | languish | papyrus | armadillo |
| perceptible | provincial | shar-pei | protuberant | El Niño | overweening |
| dystopia | antithesis | narcoleptic | chortle | anchorage | sacrosanct |
| muesli | gouge | efface | unscathed | conundrum | syringe |
| crux | salivate | sycophant | raclette | debilitate | eclipse |
| wordmonger | laity | bellwether | superstitious | mittimus | espadrille |
| wobulator | indolent | clarinet | mawkish | mellifluous | corgi |
| mahogany | documentary | capillary | flambé | clemency | caffeine |
| moribund | bromide | disposition | patronymic | backgammon | panacea |

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.

*chiefly British spelling



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| cabaret | tempestuous | trillium | ignominious | stroganoff | obstreperous |
| froufrou | univocal | Dalmatian | auction | procrastinate | frabjous |
| eschew | avarice | ufology | assiduous | purification | spiracle |
| ventricle | bouclé | cholera | diligence | plantain | Formica |
| inducement | OR boucle | **minuscule | bodega | aperture | Mylar |
| vanguard | thoroughbred | OR miniscule | bona fide | rhythmically | rustication |
| portrait | potassium | jeepney | gustatory | dovecote | globular |
| tepidity | peculate | volucrine | obliterate | bountiful | stellular |
| meridian | treatise | populace | legalese | pantheon | akimbo |
| spontaneity | undergird | vetiver | rudiments | marimba | derisive |
| platinum | oompah | parameters | monitory | conduit | ineluctable |
| nonnegotiable | adulation | inflammable | equilibrium | bravado | eerily |
| disparate | minutia | pyrotechnics | roustabout | beneficent | funambulist |
| artifice | anticipatory | mollify | trifle | indict | apotheosis |
| cymbals | chinook | cohesive | ambrosial | epitome | entrée |
| nucleated | indigent | stigmata | simultaneity | annulment | homeostasis |
| exorbitant | merganser | prolix | gastronome | vegetarian | calamari |
| reparations | sternum | mitochondria | epithet | surimi | prehensile |
| constabulary | par excellence | onomatopoeia | encroach | besmirch | somatotype |
| speculate | thwartwise | lavender | acacia | trespass | bizarro |
| stratosphere | tae kwon do | tensile | tetanus | commandeer | dissemble |
| noxious | fenestrated | gaudery | scarlatina | bonsai | gallant |
| arbitrary | lugubrious | luxuriate | ciao | university | intensify |
| quasar | isosceles | cavalcade | genome | celestial | hurriedly |
| Podunk | hoity-toity | gladiatorial | inviolable | preposterous | corrosive |
| seize | Mesopotamian | machination | contrite | extant | afghan |
| pathos | Muzak | pugnacious | patrician | cogently | odontiasis |
| equinox | vicinity | peruse | enervate | auricular | stratification |
| prosperous | merely | alluvial | turophile | settee | tomahawk |
| sclerosis | abominable | epicurean | Patagonia | legitimately | artesian |
| ablaut | procedure | derelict | vanquish | inoculate | mendacious |
| anabolic | limpid | revelation | ectoplasm | heleoplankton | gubernatorial |
| jimberjawed | syllabus | arithmetic | olfactory | pliant | pungent |
| toilsome | animus | depredation | en masse | billiards | mandrill |

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



| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| gibbous | ruminare | armistice | viscount | dishevel | quotient |
| extracurricular | sympathy | cryogenic | plague | Limburger | ricotta |
| punctuation | puniness | catalyst | preferential | tuffet | guttural |
| nautilus | lingua franca | thespian | bazooka | epact | atrocious |
| thievery | triforium | submersible | complacency | abstruse | vivacious |
| dragoon | **déjà vu | extemporaneous | kraken | nephrolith | xenoglossy |
| yuzu | OR déjà vue | ungetatable | stanzaic | adipose | smorgasbord |
| ritziness | calabash | unilaterally | putrescent | quorum | electrode |
| gazette | **chute | ordinance | nostalgia | pharynx | sporadically |
| continuum | OR shute | ursine | dechlorinate | epistolary | sudation |
| pachyderm | impermeable | arduous | unconscionable | pursuit | cytoplasm |
| symposium | trepidation | carnitas | Pembroke | esoteric | affectionately |
| floribunda | collision | bulgogi | liquefaction | grapheme | Pulitzer |
| salience | scarab | fibromyalgia | palazzo | trigonometry | vitreous |
| molasses | veganism | terrier | miasma | alloy | wraith |
| classical | humerus | captivated | concoct | Belgium | insulin |
| fungible | vagabonds | onus | modicum | audacious | phlegmatic |
| Gothamite | variegated | precursor | javelin | exasperate | spasmodic |
| affable | volition | mochi | spoonerism | Mandarin | bouquet |
| dopamine | gossamer | feign | complicit | Kelvin | denizen |
| pitiful | vincible | dementia | gyrocopter | vellum | duopoly |
| ammunition | factitious | voilà | **medieval | enunciate | alpinist |
| pariah | sculpture | OR voila | OR mediaeval | tarsier | abracadabra |
| prodigious | annuity | habanero | licensure | autodidact | plethora |
| denominator | quid pro quo | Francophone | Herculean | parable | rappelled |
| prorogue | curmudgeon | convivium | pilgrimages | rowan | conceit |
| fecund | cushion | atrium | oriel | tripartite | tapas |
| laceration | tutelage | italicization | preeminent | Bohemian | sediment |
| nexus | domiciled | preliminary | alfresco | succinct | emulate |
| decor | theorem | echoed | loquacious | inquietude | caveat |
| OR décor | accrual | reticulated | prosthetic | compunction | doubloons |
| duchy | grandeur | authenticate | latency | decumbiture | oscillation |
| pagoda | ottoman | fiscal | epitaphs | multivalent | enzyme |
| establishment | logographic | oblige | solitaire | artillery | dinero |

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.

**preferred spelling



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| comestibles | thermos | pessimum | infarction | interim | cardiopathy |
| stenographer | acrylics | amateurish | cedar | definiendum | vanity |
| mezzanine | imminent | **intransigent | udon | rhubarb | nymphal |
| lozenge | hieroglyphics | OR intransigent | gourd | neutron | grammarian |
| tedious | oculus | tyrannical | verbatim | epigram | empirical |
| resonate | dubiously | pearlescent | joule | marmoset | havoc |
| suspicion | mariposa | tautology | niacin | panache | figurative |
| repudiate | teleology | misconstrue | courage | lucrative | malacology |
| emporium | bowyer | sagacious | arabesque | bardolatry | saskatoon |
| Victorian | infatuation | mammalian | cylindrical | scrimshaw | enmity |
| forestallment | abysmal | tranquil | tephra | pterodactyl | undulating |
| Iberian | chambray | behemoth | lackadaisical | inculcate | circumscribe |
| fluency | rhombus | equestrian | silhouette | nimbostratus | ensemble |
| invective | revendicate | nominal | dismal | vertebral | bassoon |
| occur | jonquil | draconian | consortium | racial | preamble |
| claustrophobia | pensive | trebuchet | tuition | acrimony | feasibility |
| idyllic | quarantine | ransom | multifarious | certitude | jurisdiction |
| coralline | schnitzel | iambic | unanimous | mimeograph | mycology |
| abhenry | rialto | monocle | soporific | territory | antelope |
| chromosome | delphinium | apocalypse | tupelo | ultimatum | mansard |
| braggart | obelisk | cemetery | cadaverous | ambidexterity | Stilton |
| relentlessly | diurnal | anticoagulant | prowess | mortgage | barracks |
| opalescence | prejudice | euro | dromedary | exhaust | rendition |
| polyglot | bombastic | Gouda | squalid | baroque | calories |
| velociraptor | cistern | endocrine | tracheotomy | gonzo | sortition |
| puree | exquisite | presumptuous | firmament | strengthen | ballistic |
| manticore | epsilon | doubt | paramountcy | ostracism | nattily |
| chronometer | petroglyphs | unkempt | sultana | hasten | tincture |
| cherubic | specious | cursive | agrarian | bossa nova | gosling |
| wherewithal | pumice | binoculars | collapsar | rationale | optometry |
| inquisitor | zodiac | apportion | exhibition | betrothal | niche |
| chemistry | artery | gurney | ministrations | laminare | paragon |
| quandary | ornithology | sanctimonious | racketeer | laborious | foliage |
| equanimity | apropos | peremptory | solder | sententious | tribunal |

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/bookshelf to learn more.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

Words of the Champions

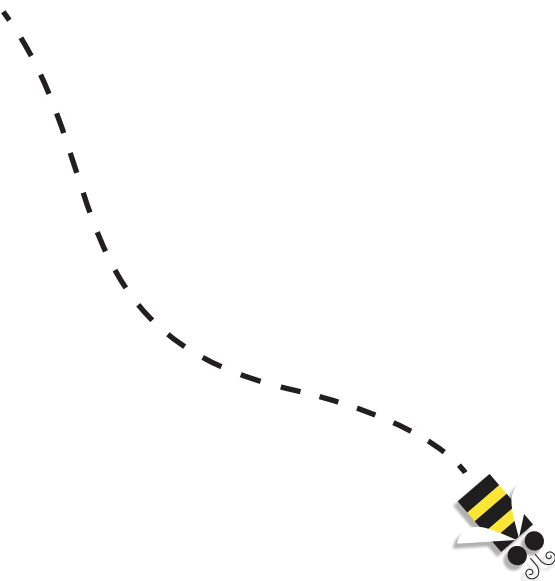


| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| apostate | brazenness | zealous | analogize | concomitant | |
| plundered | beautician | portcullis | guineas | sundry | |
| multitude | covetous | urbanely | conglomerate | salutary | |
| enthalpy | flippancy | lanai | **baklava | indubitable | Beefalo |
| truculence | sequester | hyacinth | OR baklawa | obituary | pavlova |
| quagmire | sufficiency | segmentate | ipso facto | obsidian | malleable |
| masseuse | wayward | convalesce | coupon | bidialectal | idiolect |
| Hippocratic | yeoman | vagary | signatory | officiant | irascible |
| warrior | Websterian | devoid | aspirate | annexation | |
| brachiopods | grievance | promulgate | senator | animalier | |
| macaroon | solemn | salinity | angular | endogenous | |

Did You Know?

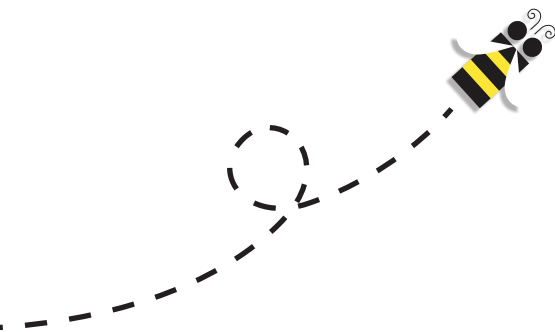
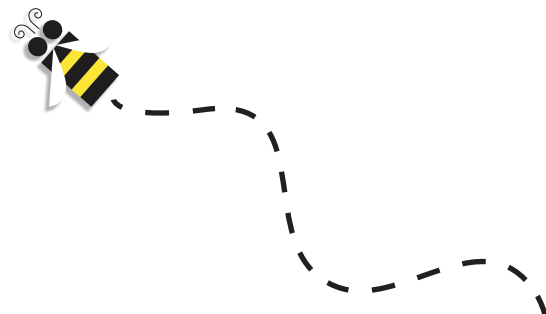
The Scripps National Spelling Bee has declared co-champions in 1950, 1957, 1962, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2019. Diana Reynard and Colquitt Dean were the first co-champs in 1950.

**preferred spelling



**DIFFICULTY
LEVEL**

THREE BEE





DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **THREE BEE**

School Spelling Bee Study List

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| lacrosse | calamitous | apprentice | badminton | Madagascar | commodore |
| McIntosh | dropsonde | reluctant | bayonet | exposure | playwright |
| ignoble | proclamation | heritage | currycomb | parachuted | senile |
| diaphoresis | hokum | sojourner | haughty | periodically | laryngitis |
| kurta | colossal | derogatory | hesitate | intriguing | proximo |
| Hyperion | coltan | palsy | opportunity | absorptive | **guerrilla |
| Geiger | squadron | Lascaux | Apollo | incomprehensible | OR guerilla |
| thermohaline | marinate | synesthesia | accordance | Merrimack | Giza |
| gannet | anagrams | OR synaesthesia | atmospheric | Sinai | fixity |
| palladium | verandas | nefarious | levees | asparagus | jodhpurs |
| brevet | OR verandahs | halogens | precariously | solace | hydrargyrum |
| pamphlet | Himalayan | gallium | proportionate | argyria | carborane |
| palindrome | aspersions | smelters | suffused | guanine | denouncement |
| visite | culminate | hymnal | accelerates | xylyl | Columbia |
| satsuma | helium | tartaric | coincidence | therapeutic | misdemeanor |
| stirrups | steeplechasing | bindi | prestigious | tumultuous | OR |
| Connemara | Teflon | Haitian | emphatic | | *misdemeanour |
| abundance | bantam | divan | contaminated | | |

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 | polemic | adumbrate | cyrillic | dauerlauf |
| cornichon | capoeira | paladin | depilatory | Adélie | emanant |
| devastavit | agnolotti | totipotency | bucolic | manteau | carte blanche |
| Mediterranean | ballabile | agnomen | milieu | framboise | bodhran |
| longevous | draegerman | Bauhaus | woad | littoral | seiche |
| digerati | prescient | sacerdotal | terpsichore | jacana | carmagnole |
| solecism | Fribourg | skeuomorph | strychnine | sommelier | encina |
| hypertrophy | proselytizer | binturong | pissaladière | pikas | encephalitis |
| ravigote | OR *proselytiser | mamushi | nilpotent | examen | ritenuto |
| inchoate | tenon | lipophilic | latitudinarian | plumassier | effrontery |
| judoka | nubilous | codicil | voltammetry | maxillae | pastiche |
| vaccary | iatrogenic | coulomb | rathskeller | pseudonymous | almoner |
| Adelaide | onychitis | violaceous | asphyxiate | gentian | caldera |
| unwonted | roux | Rorschach | spondylitis | synod | querulous |
| tazza | tuatara | arthralgia | sequoia | pompadour | hircine |
| damson | chicle | desman | immure | quatrefoil | rheumatic |
| pelisse | sulcus | jacaranda | theodicy | pasquinade | risibility |
| succade | thalamus | huapango | politeia | Valkyrian | Daliesque |
| tumulus | gyttja | predilection | canard | zymurgy | prognosticate |
| dorsiflexor | jibboom | entomophagy | Lisztian | histolysis | gorgon |
| profiterole | vestigial | paronomasia | gerundial | penurious | polydactyly |
| valetudinary | Orwellian | facsimile | ensilage | Magellan | bireme |
| aristoi | gimbaled | renminbi | cabal | Reykjavík | aposematic |
| vireo | cabaletta | interferon | sotto voce | moussaka | bijouterie |
| rococo | hesped | sedulous | inesculent | serricorn | inveighed |
| lachsschinken | umami | velouté | cicerone | Nereid | mostaccioli |
| wakame | persiflage | Aesopian | pusillanimous | oyez | azedarach |
| bathos | toreador | frigate | quidnunc | Huguenot | elision |
| nihilism | vermicelli | enoptromancy | genoise | acequia | danseur |
| ustion | frangipane | satiety | arachnophagous | adrenergic | chevalier |
| sumpsimus | reseau | perorate | pirouetted | habitué | taurine |
| morel | moulage | **imbroglio | bestial | OR habitue | hierurgical |
| abeyance | interpellate | OR embroglio | hallux | kalanchoe | melee |
| rongeur | genuflect | ochlocracy | jabot | warison | emolument |
| mountebank | cinerarium | brioche | saponaceous | carapace | ikebana |

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

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| exaugural | myeloma | vigneron | phulkari | bialy | euripus |
| gaillardia | lebensraum | tanned | garrulous | appurtenances | samarium |
| caryatid | mufti | spiedini | paroxysm | corsair | variscite |
| heliacal | dirigible | anhinga | communiqué | zabaglione | bolide |
| schefflera | surcease | jai alai | Chantilly | velamen | vervain |
| contrapposto | ascetic | Rastafarian | jacquard | sporrán | chanoyu |
| temblor | oolite | succussion | sorghum | clematis | hamadryad |
| insouciance | revanche | avifauna | guilloche | kente | calumny |
| catarrh | megrims | yoropo | appositive | ranine | escabeche |
| quattrocento | podagra | toxicosis | dirndl | riparian | ad hominem |
| millegrain | palaver | colporteur | latke | **accoutrement | oubliette |
| canaille | luthier | OR colporter | martinet | OR accouterment | béchamel |
| verisimilitude | yttriferous | agitprop | asterion | radicchio | repoussage |
| Keynesian | vermeil | Achernar | hypallage | dudgeon | otacoustic |
| akaryote | Ouagadougou | cassock | solenoid | nitid | naranjilla |
| azulejo | bibliopegist | meringue | veridical | Basenji | elegiac |
| hauberk | plagiarism | mackinaw | threnody | concinna | pâtissier |
| bouillon | holobenthic | sambal | Jacobean | Stradivarius | OR patissier |
| tarpaulin | boutonniere | yuloh | ballotage | synecdoche | Yeatsian |
| cephalopod | anodyne | hermeneutics | ocotillo | tulsi | surfeit |
| pulchritude | saccharide | tikkun | dubitante | sebaceous | limicolous |
| pekoe | boulevardier | macaque | disciform | papeterie | girandole |
| patois | quokka | lassitude | mizuna | litigious | googol |
| Rubicon | lidocaine | oeuvre | trichotillomania | phytophilous | étagère |
| bourgeois | contretemps | altazimuth | huipil | meunière | anechoic |
| aerophilatelic | a posteriori | Castilian | mustelid | hilum | leonine |
| ankh | scaberulous | trichinosis | prestidigitation | fanfaronade | laulau |
| contumelious | anaglyphy | ecclesiology | soupçon | malachite | Gruyère |
| vicissitudes | reconnoiter | teppanyaki | diphtheria | urticaria | proprioceptive |
| lilliputian | OR reconnoitre | cicatrise | bdelloid | capsaicin | oppugn |
| Sbrinz | realpolitik | somnolent | nugatory | ptosis | macropterous |
| kathakali | colloque | intonaco | commorients | pejerrey | euphonious |
| cozen | onychorrhaxis | realia | immiscible | horologist | retinoscopy |
| oxalis | paraffin | grison | toroidal | speleothem | sepulchral |

Word Club

Want a new way to study? The Word Club app, launching in October 2019 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.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **THREE BEE**

Words of the Champions

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| sangfroid | sakura | Jungian | repartee | flaneur | pejorate |
| pasilla | buccal | Groenendael | chimera | Ponzi | Aitutakian |
| maringouin | zocalo | facile | OR *chimaera | teneramente | parterre |
| argot | **aficionado | chrysolite | avgolemono | styptic | rondeau |
| vicenary | OR aficionado | execrable | exiguous | sopapilla | atlatl |
| ajimez | piscivorous | hangul | presentient | nictitate | allochroous |
| pompeii | benison | cartouches | renvoi | boutade | ennui |
| oviparous | gagaku | Nicoise | kichel | towhee | caisson |
| mangonel | amygdala | OR Niçoise | semaphore | escritoire | cheongsam |
| coalescence | scurrilous | julienne | gambol | affenpinscher | graticule |
| Plantagenet | flèche | moiety | angiitis | gudgeon | gyascutus |
| bauxite | tetrachoric | pastitsio | Teutonic | beaumontage | cygnet |
| kakapo | sforzando | modiste | Conestoga | galoot | supercilious |
| pelagial | thalassic | deuterium | zeitgeist | desiccate | dysphasia |
| ague | frazil | Icarian | heinousness | aporia | kugel |
| largesses | rapprochement | pappardelle | nacelle | moraine | topazolite |
| fulgent | glacis | Sahel | ruplicolous | hirsute | trompe l'oeil |
| olecranon | ahimsa | bibelot | Pythagorean | shubunkin | aillette |
| toreutics | kanji | telegnosis | kepi | hepatectomy | feticus |
| mascarpone | weltschmerz | loupe | **bulgur | bloviate | rocaille |
| rissole | jealousie | oleiculture | OR bulghur | seine | couverture |
| seneschal | ichthyology | **loess | ushabti | galapago | lemniscus |
| pinniped | pruritus | OR löss | puchero | au courant | ad nauseam |
| wahine | dactylic | ruelle | nival | crepuscular | ganache |
| grissino | affogato | Ushuaia | ascites | theca | sauger |
| coterie | scrivener | redingote | Véronique | croustade | kanban |
| syolph | dysrhythmia | adscititious | OR Veronique | kipuka | toccata |
| katsura | dragée | hummock | planetesimal | noumenon | pertinacity |
| diastole | choucroute | internecine | taoiseach | chicanery | gasthaus |
| mediobrome | hsaing-waing | duxelles | obeisant | vilipend | transmontane |
| demurrage | stevedore | mesial | whippoorwill | vitiate | laterigrade |
| tristeza | harangue | Feldenkrais | Ficus | spodumene | hysop |
| trigeminal | niveau | bailiwick | agelicism | leberwurst | naumachia |
| bruja | rouille | bozzetto | subrident | daguerreotype | focaccia |
| upsilon | rescissible | coiffure | ethylene | yakitori | pahoehoe |

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



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **THREE BEE**

Words of the Champions



| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Kjeldahl | catachresis | attaché | nidicolous | ardoise | neophyte |
| rubefacient | tiffin | rafflesia | oxyacetylene | farouche | buffa |
| halcyon | colcannon | ranunculus | queue | farfalle | clavichord |
| corrigenda | tournedos | pistou | hellebore | ogival | de rigueur |
| Zanni | ormolu | scintillation | transhumance | stretto | secant |
| nonage | blottesque | Bolognese | phloem | coccygeal | comanchero |
| beurre | consommé | farrago | lacustrine | Diplodocus | meiosis |
| jicama | OR consomme | coup de grace | ageusia | tachyon | gules |
| sturnine | ullage | tourelle | pillor | piccata | nimiety |
| octonocular | zortzico | notturmo | deleterious | isagoge | lokelani |
| parallax | teratism | ginglymus | ikat | élan | psoriasis |
| antenatus | flagellum | hemorrhage | pylorus | breviloquence | bavardage |
| trouvaille | panegyric | tapetum | erythroblast | kalimba | coulibiac |
| glazier | hoi polloi | golem | maillot | illative | xyloglyphy |
| kinesiology | sirenian | krewe | epenthesis | betony | Aramaic |
| exogenous | nescience | toque | hinoki | bêtise | anathema |
| aniseikonia | blatherskite | avuncular | nonpareil | transience | basilica |
| guayabera | consigliere | habiliments | nyctinasty | frison | rajpramukh |
| realgar | adiabatic | rubato | pointelle | flavedo | Chalcolithic |
| anaphylaxis | camembert | gentilitial | vinaigrette | maquillage | rinceau |
| bobolink | ecchymosis | obnebulate | tinnient | mortadella | filar |
| diluent | oppidan | allonym | aioli | stanchion | bhangra |
| urushiol | decastich | croquembouche | pochoir | spirulina | risorgimento |
| andouille | Naugahyde | kobold | glyceraldehyde | eleemosynary | agalma |
| otiose | lefse | mendicity | hagiographer | force majeure | analgesia |
| megacephalic | beccafico | castellated | syncope | ossicle | dengue |
| souchong | amphistylar | toponymic | icosahedron | anemone | cantatrice |
| poltroon | saturnine | boudin | goanna | alpargata | emollient |
| Freudian | zaibatsu | bucatini | wassail | disembogue | parquet |
| floruit | titian | reboation | ammonite | luculent | dhurrie |
| Bunyanesque | tokonoma | haupia | tanager | expatiate | lapidary |
| exsect | unguiculate | Keplerian | pneumatocyst | xerogel | cachexia |
| champignon | amaryllis | codswallop | fortissimo | vizierial | connoisseur |
| bahuvrihi | reveille | hauteur | portmanteau | crescive | ferruginous |
| panjandrum | regnal | camarilla | coaxation | tryptophan | gendarme |

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.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **THREE BEE**



Words of the Champions

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| demulcent | embolus | cabochon | syzygy | diamanté | |
| goosander | caveola | après | Beethovenian | sphygmometer | |
| kwashiorkor | farina | zydeco | tatterdemalion | **kibitzer | |
| lecithin | heuristic | consanguine | susurrus | OR kibbitzer | |
| cetology | nudibranch | bibimbap | **bienvenue | auteur | |
| plenipotentiary | triquetra | aquiclude | OR bienvenu | labefaction | |
| foudroyant | paramahansa | demitasse | potwalloper | ibidem | |
| sesquipedalian | duello | tomalley | kaffeeklatsch | estival | |
| expugnable | fjeld | bouffant | peregrination | OR aestival | dulcinea |
| profligacy | tomography | bas-relief | paraquat | loup-garou | nainsook |
| yosenabe | effleurage | rhizome | prana | empennage | querida |
| funori | chastushka | Wensleydale | sinciput | lysozyme | paillard |
| pilocillo | bergère | erubescence | abattoir | grimthorpe | gazoz |
| xiphias | Erewhonian | estovers | glossopetrae | thaumaturge | Glaswegian |
| étouffée | rhyton | rembrandt | diktat | pinioned | stannum |
| OR etouffee | orogeny | bonspiel | llanero | fouetté | putsch |
| degauss | Pepysian | hackamore | Machiavellian | venenate | tralatitious |
| tussock | esplanade | blancmange | glaucomatous | badinage | denouement |
| lanolated | gesellschaft | simulacrum | haori | saccadic | hortatory |
| linnet | tamari | cnidarian | rheostat | mignonette | maquette |
| embouchure | arenaceous | capotasto | hariolation | coadjutor | obliviscence |
| plangency | panettone | Panagia | thylacine | chiffonade | autophagy |
| apocryphal | tmesis | nockerl | cenote | haricot | Airedale |
| tamarack | clerihew | rhabdoid | griffonage | Luddite | potager |
| puerilely | tsukupin | apodyterium | fossiliferous | wickiup | malleolus |
| obloquy | katakana | apoplexy | calefacient | nisse | |
| dhole | Parmentier | verdure | obdurate | impugn | |
| **budgerigar | rugose | fait accompli | nunchaku | brouillon | |
| OR budgereegah | brume | dreikanter | senryu | derecho | |
| OR budgerygah | hiortdahlite | penicillin | cormorant | solipsist | |
| outré | extravasate | pendeloque | gnomon | sinophile | |
| ululate | incunabula | beelzebub | pinetum | harmattan | |
| sororal | cordillera | rhinorrhagia | brucellosis | **incarnadine | |
| epideictic | zazen | Foley | wasteweir | OR encarnadine | |

One Dictionary to Rule them All

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