2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee®

words of the champions

YOUR KEY TO THE BEE
GREETINGS, CHAMPIONS!

About this Study Guide
Do you dream of winning a school spelling bee, or even attending the Scripps National Spelling Bee National Competition? Words of the Champions is the official study resource of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, so you’ve found the perfect place to start. Prepare for a 2022 or 2023 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 (825 words), Two Bee (2,025 words) and Three Bee (1,150 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.

Follow 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. By inspiring the exploration of words, the Scripps National Spelling Bee illuminates pathways to lifelong curiosity, celebrates academic achievement and enriches communities. Visit spellingbee.com 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
School Spelling Bee Study List

adds, bill, harsh, bobbed, rare, peacock
sit, pants, porch, some, feedback, Ohio
cry, nets, crops, what, scared, elves
put, pod, order, few, lousy, uplift
look, cups, stomped, area, coop, everyone
drag, ten, chores, story, during, another
off, food, bottom, phone, faith, beetle
gle, five, busy, blast, quiet, sights
need, map, blast, sole, quiet, choose
poke, toys, shelf, files, minute, wonder
drag, ten, chores, wiggle, streak, belongs
off, food, bottom, baggy, freedom, model
long, five, busy, blame, stuttered, fasting
glass, tiny, copy, phone, fudge, until
bloom, nose, tales, skipped, damaged, nobody
came, meal, stairs, crafty, frantic, color
make, meal, stairs, scars, damaged, OR *colour
can, help, leave, roots, frizzy, curly
not, like, pace, stinky, heavy, build
plan, hot, party, only, gravity, growling
sink, feel, smell, bones, gravy, display
bath, ears, moon, marry, display
hint, cute, washing, swept, growling
rice, barked, two, chunks, visit
doll, sway, trash, forget, blessings

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

*chiefly British spelling
**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE**

Words of the Champions

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</table>

**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
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE
Words of the Champions

- groom
- trice
- brick
- privat
- debunk
- ballad
- chide
- atonement
- citation
- hardtack
- rabid
- teenagers
- peat
- harrowing
- hobble
- pedal
- effortless
- moped
- groats
- Highlands
- retriever
- anime
- regiment
- sterling
- bootless
- forgeable
- transmissibility
- gridiron
- summoned
- applicable
- isms
- tentacled
- exude
- Bermudas
- amusement
- baptismal
- postural
- refrigerant
- surly
- scornfully
- leaven
- blurb
- elasticity
- quantify
- redemption
- zygote
- lithium
- docket
- rubric
- Hawaiian
- pendragon
- eggcorn
- tabulate
- cider
- puritan
- caboodle
- Godspeed
- Thailand
- pepita
- lithophone
- tai chi
- parasol
- screeno
- provenance
- ouster
- Dudley
- dicey
- turken
- riddance
- repentant
- manacle
- Amish
- unremitting
- condiments
- vaccination
- floridly
- obsolete
- kodak
- 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
- nitrate
- joinery
- literally
- medusa
- unchristened
- buzzworthy
- recumbent
- tiffany
- musketeers
- windbaggery
- proposal
- weaponry
- deceitful
- cinderella
- league
- repercussion
- astounding
- hijab
- donatee
- parvo
- apparel
- squeamish
- Oceanian
- charitable
- physical
- punily
- Bengal
- evacuees
- linguistics
- pulpit
- plummet
- addle
- wriggling
- unfazed
- castor
- farkleberry
- churchianity
- scaff
- baronetcy
- lossy
- risposta
- tosh
- toey
- Isle Royale
- adjure
- cockles
- sodden
- grievful
- aspish
- daft
- alpestrine
- metrical
- likelier
- livid
- caustic
- scanty
- Oceanian
- corkscrew
- palpebral
- spry
- awry
- truly
- definitely
- mano a mano
- con forza
- fie
- ozone
- derby
- sister
- canoe
- tango
- goober
- knoll
- bango
- cornel
- gist
- homester
- loxage
- agave
- loch
- locavore
- specificity
- thorn
- sequel
- row
- cribble
- sprue
- cambio
- gab

Back in D.C.
Mark your calendar! The Scripps National Spelling Bee will take place May 28 - June 2, 2023, 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 2023 version of Words of the Champions.
**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE**

**Words of the Champions**

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**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.

*chiefly British spelling*
DIFFICULTY LEVEL

TWO BEE
**Our Mission**

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

**preferred spelling**

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<th>railings</th>
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DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE
Words of the Champions

hexagonal  unabated
litmus  beaufort
seethe  seething
antiquarian  seething
phalanges  seething
bachelorette  bachelor
frontier  fringing
unctuous  uctuous
fluoride  fluoride
acerola  acerola
Minotaur  Minotaur
intermezzo  intermezzo
edification  construction
vacuousness  vacuousness
epilepsy  epilepsy
importunate  importunate
recuperation  recuperation
citronella  citronella
palliative  palliative
abhorrence  abhorrence
personnel  personnel
vexatious  vexatious
fau  faux
sophisticated  sophisticated
nebulous  nebulous
genus  genus
legionnaire  legionnaire
sternutation  sternutation
subcutaneous  subcutaneous
alacrity  alacrity
choreographer  choreographer
leguminous  leguminous
ceramics  ceramics
mimetic  mimetic

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

*chiefly British spelling
**preferred spelling
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE
Words of the Champions

luminance  adjective  defendant  resuscitate  ingenious  chancellor  trefoil
lupine  resipicate  approbatory  phonician  pauper  designer
ingenuous  phonetician  macular  dumbwaiter  epoch
mandarin  leisur  allergenic  vassal
farcical  cutis  sobriety  rennet  panary
ghastly  fulginous  attributive  cadge  tangerine
parkour  edgocand  platonimy  philosphere  persuasive
perilous  lomentomy  assumption  philosophize  reggae
fimbriated  bariatria  entrepreneur  transference  uveal
chancellor  bariatrics  besieged  canadelbrum  candelabrum
pauper  throughout  placoederm  vacillate  pessigual
epoch  dumbwaiter  allevation  molar  vassal

did you know?
Word meaning questions were first introduced as part of the Bee on the written test in 2013. Oral word meaning questions were given at the National Competition for the first time in 2021.
### From Around the World

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

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

**preferred spelling

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**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE**

Words of the Champions

The first national spelling bee was 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

nautilus
thievery
dragoon
yuzu
ritziness
gazette
continuum
pachyderm
symposium
floribunda
salience
molasses
classical
fungible
Gothamite
affable
dopamine
pitiful
ammunition
pariah
prodigious
denominator
prorogue
fecund
laceration
nexus
decor
duchy
pagoda
establishment
ruminate
sympathy
puniness
lingua franca
triforium
submersible
poblano
blarney
commissioner

**déjà vu
OR déjà vue
calabash
**chute
impermeable
collision
scarab
veganism
humersus
vagabonds
variegated
volition
gossamer
vincible
factitious
sculpture
annuity
quid pro quo
curmudgeon
cushion
tutelage
domicled
theorem
accrual
grandeur
ottoman
logographic
armistice
cryogenic
catalyst
thespian

rebuff
taverna
illicitly
cribbage
Namibian
grandiloquent

ungetatable
unilaterally
ordinance
ursine
arduous
carnitas
bulgogi
parley
Vatican

triser
triste
interred
legerity

terrier
donus

lucy

mochi

feign
dementia
dandle

maitre

prespinous

malapropism

vexillum

serrated

Zamboni

**preferred spelling

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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**The Bee's Bookshelf**

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

**preferred spelling**

***Beginning at this point, all the words remaining in the Two Bee section are new to the 2023 version of Words of the Champions.***
**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE**

**Words of the Champions**

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**Did You Know?**


**preferred spelling**
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.

**preferred spelling

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

School Spelling Bee Study List

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Give light and the people will find their own way
DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE
Words of the Champions

imaret   allelopathy    hieroglyphic
cornichon capoeira    polemic
devastavit agnolotti   paladin
Mediterranean ballabili   totipotency
longeuous draegerman   agnomen
digerati prescient    Bauhaus
solecism Fribourg    sacerdotal
hypertrophy proselytizer OR *proselytiser
ravigote tenon
inchoate nubilous
judoka iatrogenic
vaccary onychitis
Adelaide rox
unwonted tuatara
tazza chicle
damson sulcus
pelisse thalamus
succade gytta
Valetudinary jibboom
Dorsiflexor jibboom
profiterole jibboom
valetudinary aristo
vireo OR gimballed
cabaretta
rococo hapaceta
lachsschinken hesped
wakame umami
bathos persiflage
nihilism toreador
ustion vermicelli
sumpsimus frangipane
morel reseau
abeyance moulage
rongeur interpellate
tongue
mountebank gnenflect

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

sepulchral
sangfroid
pasilla
maringouin
argot
vicenary
ajimez
pompeii
oviparous
manganel
coalescence
Plantagenet
bauxite
kakapo
pelagial
ague
largesses
fulgent
olecranon
toreutics
mascarpone
rissole
seneschal
pinniped
wahine
grissino
coterie
sylph
Cincinnati
diastole
mediobrome
demurrage
tristeza
trigeminal
bruja
upsilon
sakura
buccal
zocalo
**aficionado
vicenary
ajimez
pompeii
oviparous
manganel
coalescence
Plantagenet
bauxite
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wahine
grissino
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sylph
Cincinnati
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mediobrome
demurrage
tristeza
trigeminal
niveau
rouille
rescissible
Jungian
Groenendael
facile
chrysolite
execrable
hangul
cartouches
Nicose
julienne
moiety
pastitsio
modiste
deuterium
Icarian
pappardelle
Sahel
bibelot
telegnosis
loupe
oleiculature
**loess
OR löss
ruelle
Ushuaia
redingote
adscititious
hummock
internece
duxelles
mesial
Feldenkrais
bailiwick
bozzetto
coiffure
repartee
chimera
OR *chimaera
teneramente
styptic
sopapilla
nictitate
boujade	
towhee
escritoire
affenpinscher
gudgeon
beaumontage
galoot
desiccate
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moraine
hirsute
shubunkin
hepatectomy
bloviate
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galapago
au courant
crepuscular
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croustade
kipuka
noumenon
chicanery
vilipend
vitiate
agelicism
subrident
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flaneur
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leberwurst
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pejorate
Aitutakian
parterre
rondeau
atlal
allochroous
ennui
caisson
cheongsam
graticule
gyascutus
cygnet
supercilious
dysphasia
kugel
topazolite
trompe l’oeil
aillette
fetticus
rocaille
couverture
lemniscus
ad nauseam
ganache
sauger
kanban
toccata
pertinacity
gasthaus
transmontane

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

*chiefly British spelling
**preferred spelling
laterigrade
hyssop
naumachia
focaccia
pahoeoe
Kjeldahl
rubefacient
halcyon
corrigenda
Zanni
nonage
beurre
jicama
sturnine
octonocular
parallax
antenatus
trouvaille
glazier
kinesiology
exogenous
aniseikonia
guayabera
realgar
anaphylaxis
bobolink
diluent
urushiol
andouille
otiose
megacephalic
souchong
poltroon
Freudian
floruit
Bunyanesque
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panjandrum
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attaché
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ranunculus
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scintillation
Bolognese
farrago
coup de grace
tourelle
deleterious
philom
transhumance
lacustrine
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pillor
breviloquence
Kjeldahl
rubefacient
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lacustrine
ageusia
pillor
breviloquence
Home Sweet Home
While many people think the Bee is headquartered in Washington, D.C., our hive is actually located in Cincinnati, Ohio.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Words of the Champions</strong></td>
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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.

It's All Greek to Me
**DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE**

Words of the Champions

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**One Dictionary to Rule them All**

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

***Beginning at this point, all the words remaining in the Three Bee section are new to the 2023 version of Words of the Champions.***
About Scripps

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