

YOU BEEING



2 0 2 1

WORDS OF THE
CHAMPIONS

YOUR KEY TO THE BEE

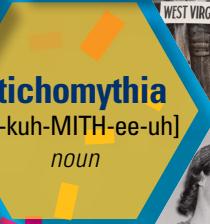
CELEBRATING CHAMPIONS OF THE WORDS!



eudaemonic
[yoo-dee-MAHN-ik]
adjective



stichomythia
[sti-kuh-MITH-ee-uh]
noun



gladiolus
[glad-ee-OHL-us]
noun



vouchsafe
[vauch-SAYF]
verb



bougainvillea
[boo-gun-VIL-yuh]
noun



staphylococci
[sta-fuh-loh-KAHK-sahy]
plural noun



chlorophyll
[KLOR-uh-fil]
noun



appoggiatura
[uh-pah-juh-TOO-ruh]
noun



cymotrichous
[sahy-MAH-tri-kus]
adjective



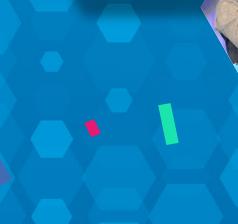
interlocutory
[in-tur-LAHK-yuh-tor-ee]
adjective



insouciant
[in-SOO-see-unt]
adjective



logorrhea
[lah-guh-REE-uh]
noun



smaragdine
[smuh-RAG-dun]
adjective



GREETINGS, CHAMPIONS!

About this Study Guide

Do you dream of winning a school spelling bee, or even attending the Scripps National Spelling Bee? *Words of the Champions* is the official study resource of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, so you've found the perfect place to start. Prepare for a 2020 or 2021 classroom, grade-level, school, district, county, regional or state spelling bee with this list of 4,000 words.

All words in this book have been selected by the Scripps National Spelling Bee from our official dictionary, *Merriam-Webster Unabridged* (<http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>).

Words of the Champions is divided into three difficulty levels, ranked One Bee (800 words), Two Bee (2,100 words) and Three Bee (1,200 words). These are great words to challenge you, whether you're just getting started in spelling bees or if you've already participated in several. At the beginning of each level, you'll find the *School Spelling Bee Study List* words. For any classroom, grade-level or school spelling bee, study the 150-word One Bee *School Spelling Bee Study List*, the 150-word Two Bee *School Spelling Bee Study List* and the 150-word Three Bee *School Spelling Bee Study List*: a total of 450 words.

Following the *School Spelling Bee Study List* in each level, you'll find pages marked "Words of the Champions." Are you a school spelling bee champion or a speller advancing to compete beyond the school level? Study these pages to make sure you're prepared to do your best when these words are asked in the early rounds of competition. And remember, although spelling bees will start with words from this guide, they often end with words you haven't studied.

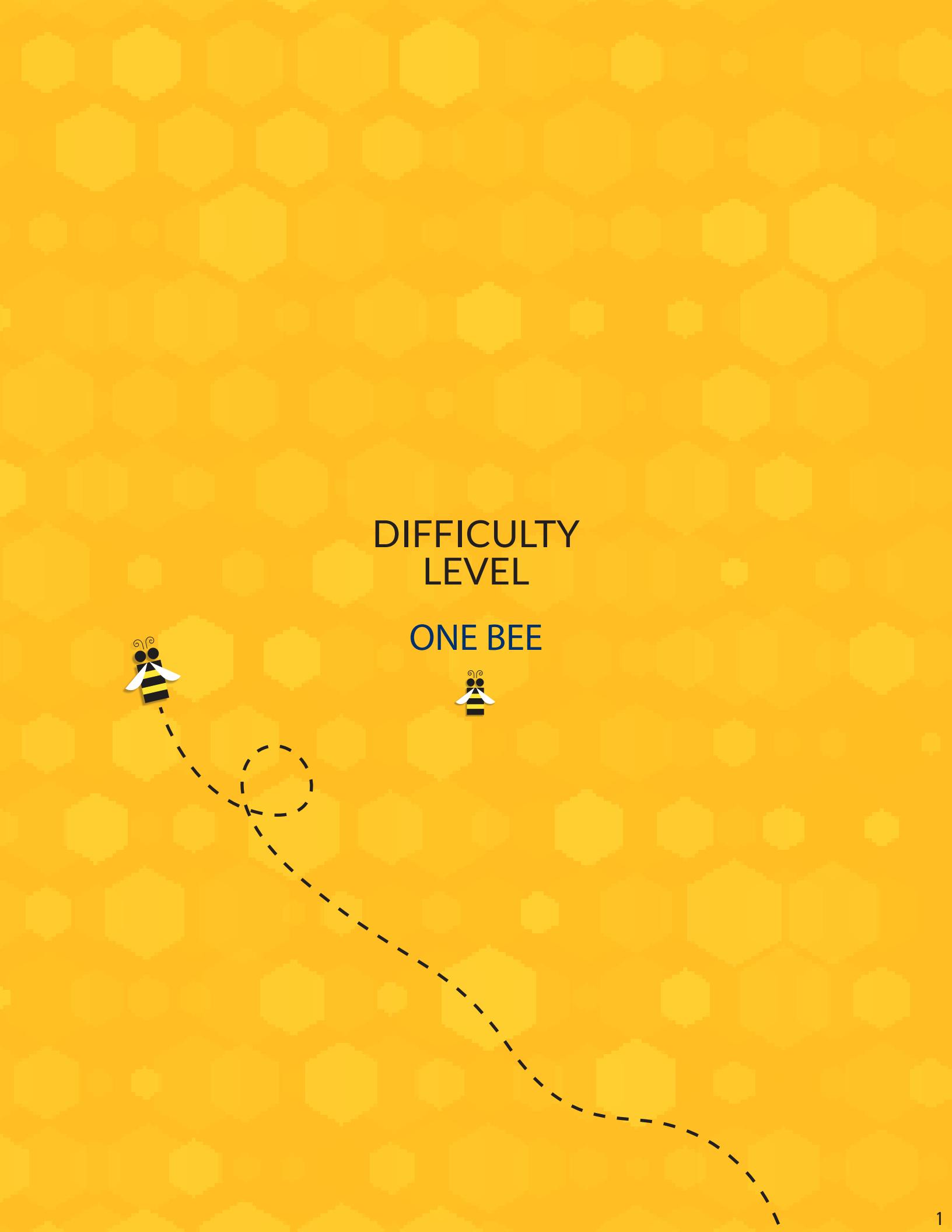
Each year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee will release a new version of *Words of the Champions* featuring 800 new words, including an all-new *School Spelling Bee Study List*.

Your spelling bee journey starts now, and taking the first step toward becoming a star athlete of the English language makes you a *Champion*. These *Words* are for you.

About the Scripps National Spelling Bee

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational program. The purpose of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives. Visit spellingbee.com for more information about the Bee and to check if your school is enrolled. The Scripps National Spelling Bee is administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company.





**DIFFICULTY
LEVEL**

ONE BEE





DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE

School Spelling Bee Study List



gel	day	scorch	hear	sizzle	jotted
train	upset	motor	sprint	hatchling	swirled
sport	father	talking	awe	razz	amount
rich	jam	money	afar	followed	sighed
eel	mugs	couch	bowl	purple	sheen
fans	fair	nibble	sweat	entire	worse
dome	dinner	strands	cost	December	sandwich
tall	rats	chapter	sleek	sudden	duo
better	fed	chess	bottle	slither	gleaming
hit	sir	slimy	smart	combed	repress
peanut	boom	squeak	stared	patrol	clothes
cake	wave	friend	plopped	epic	either
bite	trunk	laptop	darted	vital	rely
noon	sleepy	movie	angry	window	chose
gummy	full	known	sidekick	pocket	belle
sting	huge	suffer	stuff	project	else
ray	born	double	least	goofy	picture
dusk	jumping	watch	little	remember	prepare
mops	damp	ahoy	felt	travel	percent
thanks	from	dream	summer	cranky	afraid
dash	hunch	whine	carefully	career	rescue
skin	each	beans	would	disease	
star	shade	child	shambles	trophy	
began	ribs	space	taillight	theater	
grew	forever	princess	quicken	OR theatre	
fine	freeze	piper	presence	athlete	



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

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	parenthetical	pigeon	headdress	badger	nephew
rooster	listener	satellite	ludicrous	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	crumplet	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	vault
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 each year in qualifying spelling bees throughout the country and around the world.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE

Words of the Champions

thawed	mince	puzzles	lounge	gnash	calzone
uncle	bubbly	scumble	supper	knuckle	bawl
dawdle	graham	extinct	explosive	bribery	circle
mogul	headlong	jersey	cajole	glucose	respect
troll	timber	trapezoid	bauble	mower	introverted
kindred	medallion	dillydally	happenstance	campus	fuddy-duddy
tantrum	maximum	haggle	tussle	infant	pulley
science	clover	sword	inched	thunderbolt	Kodiak
cement	casino	mastiff	dimension	despicable	misinterpret
venomous	distinctive	cooperate	ugliness	elderly	twee
plaintiff	mister	merchandise	quack	amigo	holiday
mayhem	warning	gauntlet	spider	bestow	indigo
thicket	useful	apology	weather	gung ho	forage
gymnastics	difficult	carnival	twinge	umbrella	tooth
island	mischief	buffoonery	poncho	synthetic	dauntlessly
peacenik	talent	intellectual	hooligan	cloying	faucet
ounce	kiwi	tickled	decade	olive	scheme
memorandum	publish	domino	forbidden	truth	cough
bother	mutter	ignite	jumbo	balderdash	straw
missile	sedentary	legacy	mortal	infringe	hooves
munchkin	divine	splurge	bugaboo	interloper	shadow
banana	lexicon	neigh	standard	routine	meekness
furnace	bristle	cabbage	yearn	privacy	squall
foothills	daresay	erode	primatologist	decision	OR squawl
tongue	owlishly	formalize	voluntary	farfetched	omen
caterpillar	criminal	OR *formalise	furious	linen	militant
wasp	recipient	anyway	wombat	piratical	civics
kudos	strong	isolation	marginalize	pigsty	locker
alpha	canteen	measly	swipe	misery	jabberwocky
shebang	aviation	apprehensive	eternity	months	detention
tibia	lucky	zither	imagery	guffaw	sparkle
hazelnut	rocket	lamentable	pastel	caravan	calico
votive	reflect	brilliant	twice	culinary	theme
lantern	scent	competitive	megahertz	boycott	literacy

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



loathe	sofa	webisode	dough	tiger	selfie
axle	eggplant	kangaroo	emperor	romaine	skydiving
glimmer	kosher	Romeo	utterable	migraine	memes
vacation	minority	emerge	leniency	oasis	nuggets
napkin	default	twitchy	frivolous	navigator	frailty
overrun	heroic	arrogant	potato	humane	sweltering
yellowfin	bombard	normative	wholehearted	polenta	scrounge
clodhopper	furtive	homework	metadata	delicacy	praise
crayon	journal	mildew	farewell	noggin	scripture
bakery	tulip	pattern	hypnotic	background	ulna
porridge	myself	coffee	jewel	thistle	fellowship
eyelet	marine	botch	tangible	***alhorn	amass
yeti	cloudy	receptacle	nourish	Spaniel	missive
groove	cricket	bagpipe	vulpine	kilt	jitterbug
estimate	motto	bonfire	aloha	whirlybird	kennel
cattail	torch	abruptly	entrance	Hungary	heavenly
paraphrase	pamper	bushel	kindergarten	welding	shindig
heartthrob	pleasant	skedaddle	restaurant	aforesaid	melody
cheek	robin	toddler	functionary	varnish	membership
daughter	historical	everglades	dodge	spindle	oblong
laser	rules	pellet	iota	wheedle	yammer
invoke	geometric	klutz	gelato	whelp	whereas
upshot	villa	envoy	hankering	yonder	coercive
climate	midriff	postpone	esteem	riffraff	bailiff
Yankee	teaspoon	wafer	knack	restive	infiltrate
dim sum	worrywart	software	satisfactory	various	skirmish
moose	developer	factoid	barefoot	giggle	constituent
cuckoo	shopaholic	marvelous	trope	bowie	flounder
dilemma	magma	OR marvellous	knock	teemed	cleave
outrageous	briefcase	evince	whittle	soppiness	millionaire
silver	deputy	season	joyful	bask	concrete
fedora	mangrove	horizon	genuine	lateral	slurry
wildcat	enfranchise	arborio	recluse	usher	heiress
monstrosity	kiln	cartoon	shield	prone	reign

Guinness World Record Holders

Did you know the 2019 Octochamps hold a Guinness World Record for Most winners of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in a single competition? Prior to 2019, the most winners there had ever been at a single event was two – most recently in 2016.

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



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ONE BEE

Words of the Champions

spectral	tawny	contraction	camcorder	groom	peat
dialect	scalp	scooter	gossip	trice	harrowing
heist	scrapple	acceptance	version	brick	hobble
avenue	nominee	rugby	fluid	privet	peddle
pending	martial	shore	vlogging	debunk	effortless
ewe	acumen	yippee	diversity	ballad	moped
stagestruck	infirm	wand	spangled	chide	groats
standee	bleary	Merlin	barbie	atonement	Highlands
sailage	attitude	carnation	delta	citation	
yoo-hoo	beseech	neaten	handyman	hardtack	
profiteer	sunseeker	depose	stewardship	rabid	
kernel	cornily	frock	gruel	teenagers	



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



antsy	OR *humour	bracelet	cruel	dolce	ancestors
hover	mention	inwardly	schedule	opus	convulsive
billow	spoken	mobility	goblins	pedestrian	jasper
posh	record	eddy	splutter	snorkels	berth
Canada	bridge	fanged	convince	lullaby	deference
toga	pinpoint	bough	grateful	FORTRAN	detergent
bison	wisdom	listlessly	gesture	tangents	sheathed
strum	slate	cautioned	formation	expression	mantle
dangerous	drape	flurry	previous	violin	streamlet
pluck	countless	glisten	imposing	binary	strait
squid	hideout	accuse	complicated	semicolon	congratulate
Frisbee	ruins	drowsy	unnoticed	patent	fountain
teeter	Mexico	scoff	agreement	incantations	curlly
chives	glazed	opposite	dappled	treble	garish
rallies	scanner	instrument	rustle	Baltic	gilded
pastry	oncoming	blissfully	chef	ventured	contingent
coveralls	flimsy	coarse	crease	deities	swerve
ponytail	launch	activists	whales	feta	president
clatter	rubble	commute	mislead	proverb	depths
snout	tourists	cocoa	subtitles	indecipherable	Oregon
tumbling	laughter	nutrients	fragment	podium	purpose
cradle	window	scarcely	retreat	terraced	
firefly	meeting	stretcher	implore	Aztec	
serious	plush	lairs	lento	laboratory	
banners	helmet	hybrid	Scandinavia	sinister	
humor	whimper	mustard	haggis	runes	

Our Purpose

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

*chiefly British spelling



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



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

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	demographics	lupine	ingenuous	chancellor	trefoil
adjective	Jurassic	resuscitate	phonetician	pauper	designer
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

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



phosphorescent	beguile	temerity	impasto	bifurcate	deglaciation
anxiety	centenary	egress	antagonistic	drivel	recruit
conch	matrimony	geocaching	afront	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	ingratiate	morose	wallaby
platoon	sabbatical	realm	sousaphone	osmosis	contrivance
solstice	ermine	estuary	amalgam	flimflammer	suffrage
swannery	pugilist	technician	carnage	astringent	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 brusk	dreadlocks	OR soiree
yeanling	fallacy	toploftical	erstwhile	theriatrics	churros
homicide	asylum	noctambulist	lolled	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	fēng shui	**gaffe
talisman	perspicacious	pendulous	lousicide	acuity	OR gaff
impecunious	reimbursable	analepsis	ewer	subliminal	ostensibly
reciprocity	jambalaya	mitigative	curfew	charismatic	nervily
molecule	geriatric	pyrite	schism	phoenix	gingivitis
millennial	striation	sacrifice	dilapidated	bastion	patience
ineffable	Appaloosa	consternation	peony	edamame	quittance
abnegation	ramifications	escalator	urgency	porcelain	tenement

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



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



soothsayer	veracity	vignette	facade	remorseful	adieu
varicose	marionette	adjudicate	OR façade	cybernetics	tenaciously
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	phyiology	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

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



ingot	brethren	inclement	justiciable	pageantry	sandal
nubuck	tympanum	celery	vernal	vinegar	pashmina
jocularity	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	ferventily	credulity	hypotenuse	follicle	upbraid
declension	divestiture	dissonance	emancipatory	brochure	pancreas
berserk	roseola	shoji	supine	grotesqueness	expunge
cathedral	installation	auditorium	fracas	privatum	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

Did You Know?

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



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



equivocate	mahogany	documentary	capillary	flambé	clemency
fission	moribund	bromide	disposition	patronymic	backgammon
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	persuisable	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
wobbulator	indolent	clarinet	mawkish	mellifluous	corgi

There's a First Time for Everything

Hugh Tosteson was the first winner from outside of the fifty U.S. states. He lived in Puerto Rico and won in 1975.

*chiefly British spelling



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



caffeine	jimberjawed	syllabus	arithmetic	olfactory	pliant
panacea	toilsome	animus	depredation	en masse	billiards
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 minuscule	bona fide	rhythmically	rustication
portrait	potassium	jeepney	gustatory	shazam	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

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.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



pungent	pagoda	ottoman	fiscal	epitaphs	multivalent
mandrill	establishment	logographic	oblige	solitaire	artillery
gibbous	ruminant	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	unconsciousable	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	concot	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

Find the Bee on Social Media

Connect with us! If you're 13 or older, follow the Scripps National Spelling Bee on social media. You can find us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Use #spellingbee to join the conversation.

**preferred spelling



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE

Words of the Champions



enzyme	quandary	ornithology	sanctimonious	racketeer	Vatican
dinero	equanimity	apropos	peremptory	solder	fucoid
comestibles	thermos	pessimum	infarction	interim	parley
stenographer	acrylics	amateurish	cedar	definiendum	meningitis
mezzanine	imminent	**intransigent	udon	***dandle	nutation
lozenge	hieroglyphics	OR intransigeant	gourd	effete	nutria
tedious	oculus	tyrannical	verbatim	Antigua	sedge
resonate	dubiously	pearlescent	joule	vaudeville	capstan
suspicion	mariposa	tautology	niacin	frisket	vicarious
repudiate	teleology	misconstrue	courage	brockage	alate
emporium	bowyer	sagacious	arabesque	malapropism	victimology
Victorian	infatuation	mammalian	cylindrical	pelf	ibex
forestallment	abysmal	tranquil	tephra	aqueous	cudgel
Iberian	chambray	behemoth	lackadaisical	Dianthus	bicameral
fluency	rhombus	equestrian	silhouette	olingo	irrigation
invective	revendicate	nominal	dismal	Halifax	labradoodle
occur	jonquil	draconian	consortium	concordance	portico
claustrophobia	pensive	trebuchet	tuition	huerta	corsage
idyllic	quarantine	ransom	multifarious	vascular	smellfungus
coralline	schnitzel	iambic	unanimous	wentletrap	arboretum
abhenry	rialto	monocle	soporific	serrated	Zamboni
chromosome	delphinium	apocalypse	tupelo	poblano	blarney
braggart	obelisk	cemetery	cadaverous	conclave	diacritic
relentlessly	diurnal	anticoagulant	prowess	Gregorian	mephitic
opalescence	prejudice	euro	dromedary	rebuff	complementary
polyglot	bombastic	Gouda	squalid	taverna	Philistine
velociraptor	cistern	endocrine	tracheotomy	illicitly	dyspeptic
puree	exquisite	presumptuous	firmament	cribbage	inglorious
manticore	epsilon	doubt	paramountcy	critch	louche
chronometer	petroglyphs	unkempt	sultana	Namibian	avatar
cherubic	specious	cursive	agrarian	tricenary	grandiloquent
wherewithal	pumice	binoculars	collapsar	triste	armature
inquisitor	zodiac	apportion	exhibition	interred	maidenhair
chemistry	artery	gurney	ministrations	legerity	aureole

Bee's Bookshelf

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

**preferred spelling

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



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: TWO BEE Words of the Champions



spinosity	demerits	grande dame	domesticity	procurement	Acadians
prespinous	diaspora	verism	episcopal	cribo	Gippsland
cladistics	pious	dramatization	consecrate	colubrine	foward
gasiform	borough	nonconformist	trituration	immie	ensconced
valuator	volatile	château	neoterism	aretalogy	cattalo
deserter	gnocchi	erroneous	interregnum	sessile	OR catalo
jankers	surety	tam-o'-shanter	viaticum	du jour	hypogeous
Evactor	pileus	trillado	homiletics	lanceolate	
possessive	fez	per se	psalmody	bowsprit	
venial	glengarry	peradventure	omnilegent	Charon	
seton	commissioner	Ryeland	princeps	chupacabra	



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.

DIFFICULTY
LEVEL
THREE BEE



DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

School Spelling Bee Study List

cladding	rummages	astrologers	bipolar	politesse	arcane
scallion	constricting	devout	torpid	chanteuse	soleil
stealthily	inevitable	shrike	featherbrained	arrondissement	copse
warden	engrossed	Vancouver	immoderate	carabinieri	scabbard
copious	strife	conjure	arrayed	tamarisk	courtiers
hurtle	hindmost	stalagmite	countenance	liana	assuage
fester	eviction	traitorous	scepter	sibilant	adjutant
intoxicating	protruding	condominium	OR *sceptre	au revoir	inexorably
outlandish	substantial	impenetrable	scourge	bitumen	disgorged
porcupine	hooey	intercede	irreverent	sacristy	Algiers
lurching	blight	defector	apparition	Salzkammergut	primavera
ineffective	fronds	livery	dosages	frisson	souterrain
trough	authority	scuttlebutt	superintendent	Aachen	knickerbockers
parchment	minimize	battalion	exhalation	oriole	litany
leach	OR *minimise	chalet	discord	Ganges	unsullied
wrath	**flamingos	Lutheran	clamorous	niagara	Carthusian
corporate	OR flamingoes	roiling	grimaces	carrion	**maharaja
propane	mechanics	psychiatrist	inheritance	samosas	OR maharajah
dissuade	bankrupt	disconcerting	plumage	chalice	**Upanishads
profusion	insurance	Jesuit	epaulet	necromancer	OR Upanisads
appalling	dismayed	fodder	OR epaulette	proffered	arret
divulge	offspring	sinuously	propound	colonel	marquee
meditation	pillage	irreversible	chauffeurs	subaltern	
franchise	anguish	barricade	disconsolate	Etruscan	
pretentious	increments	moustache	testosterone	cloisters	
embellishes	Odin	OR mustache	minivets	redound	
appropriate	parishioner	unprepossessing	proscenium	Benedictine	

Give light  and the people will find their own way

SCRIPPS

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	hierurgical	kathakali	onychorrhesis
cornichon	capoeira	polemic	melee	cozen	paraffin
devastavit	agnolotti	paladin	emolument	oxalis	vignerons
Mediterranean	ballabile	totipotency	ikebana	myeloma	tannined
longevious	draegerman	agnomen	exaugural	lebensraum	spiedini
digerati	prescient	Bauhaus	gaillardia	mufti	anhinga
solecism	Fribourg	sacerdotal	caryatid	dirigible	jai alai
hypertrophy	proselytizer	skeuomorph	heliacal	surcease	Rastafarian
ravigote	OR *proselytiser	binturong	schefflera	ascetic	succussion
inchoate	tenon	mamushi	contrapposto	oolite	avifauna
judoka	nubilous	lipophilic	temblor	revanche	joropo
vaccary	iatrogenic	codicil	insouciance	megrim	toxicosis
Adelaide	onychitis	coulomb	catarrh	podagra	colporteur
unwonted	roux	violaceous	quattrocento	palaver	OR colporter
tazza	tuatara	Rorschach	millegrain	luthier	agitprop
damson	chicle	arthralgia	canaille	yttriferous	Achernar
pelisse	sulcus	desman	verisimilitude	vermeil	cassock
succade	thalamus	jacaranda	Keynesian	Ouagadougou	meringue
tumulus	gyttja	huapango	akaryote	biblioegist	mackinaw
dorsiflexor	jibboom	predilection	azulejo	plagiarism	sambal
profiterole	vestigial	entomophagy	hauberk	holobenthic	yuloh
valetudinary	Orwellian	paronomasia	bouillon	boutonniere	hermeneutics
aristoi	gimbaled	facsimile	tarpaulin	anodyne	tikkun
vireo	OR gimballed	renminbi	cephalopod	saccharide	macaque
rococo	caballetta	interferon	pulchritude	boulevardier	lassitude
Iachsschinken	hesped	sedulous	pekoe	quokka	oeuvre
wakame	umami	velouté	patois	lidocaine	altazimuth
bathos	persiflage	Aesopian	Rubicon	contretemps	Castilian
nihilism	toreador	frigate	bourgeois	a posteriori	trichinosis
ustion	vermicelli	enoptromancy	aerophilatelic	scaberulous	ecclesiology
sumpsimus	frangipane	satiety	ankh	anaglyphy	teppanyaki
morel	reseau	perorate	contumelious	reconnoiter	cicatrize
abeyance	moulage	danseur	vicissitudes	OR reconnoitre	sonnolent
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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

Words of the Champions

grison	toroidal	speleothem	sepulchral	bruja	niveau
phulkari	bialy	euripus	sangfroid	upsilon	rouille
garrulous	appurtenances	samarium	pasilla	sakura	rescissible
paroxysm	corsair	variscite	maringouin	buccal	Jungian
communiqué	zabaglione	bolide	argot	zocalo	Groenendael
Chantilly	velamen	vervain	vicenary	**aficionado	facile
jacquard	sporran	chanoyu	ajimez	OR aficionado	chrysolite
sorghum	clematis	hamadryad	pompeii	piscivorous	execrable
guilloche	kente	calumny	oviparous	benison	hangul
appositive	ranine	escabeche	mangonel	gagaku	cartouches
dirndl	riparian	ad hominem	coalescence	amygdala	Nicoise
latke	**accoutrement	oubliette	Plantagenet	scurrilous	OR Niçoise
martinet	OR accouterment	béchamel	bauxite	flèche	julienne
asterion	radicchio	repoussage	kakapo	tetrachoric	moiety
hypallage	dudgeon	otacoustic	pelagial	sforzando	pastitsio
solenoïd	nitid	naranjilla	ague	thalassic	modiste
veridical	Basenji	elegiac	largesses	frazil	deuterium
threnody	concinnate	pâtissier	fulgent	rapprochement	Icarian
Jacobean	Stradivarius	OR patissier	olecranon	glacis	pappardelle
ballottage	synecdoche	Yeatsian	toreutics	ahimsa	Sahel
ocotillo	tulsi	surfeit	mascarpone	kanji	bibelot
dubitante	sebaceous	limicolous	rissole	weltschmerz	telegnosis
disciform	papeterie	girandole	seneschal	jalouse	loupe
mizuna	litigious	googol	pinniped	ichthyology	oleiculture
trichotillomania	phytophilous	étagère	wahine	pruritus	**loess
huipil	meunière	anechoic	grissino	dactylic	OR löss
mustelid	hilum	leonine	coterie	affogato	ruelle
prestidigitation	fanfaronade	laulau	sylph	scrivener	Ushuaia
soupçon	malachite	Gruyère	katsura	dysrhythmia	redingote
diphtheria	urticaria	proprioceptive	diastole	dragée	adscititious
bdelloid	capsaicin	oppugn	mediobrome	choucroute	hummock
nugatory	ptosis	macropterous	demurrage	hsaing-waing	internecine
commorients	pejerrey	euphonious	tristeza	stevedore	duxelles
immiscible	horologist	retinoscopy	trigeminal	harangue	mesial

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.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

Words of the Champions

Feldenkrais	Ficus	spodumene	hyssop	exsect	unguiculate
bailiwick	agelicism	leberwurst	naumachia	champignon	amaryllis
bozzetto	subrident	daguerreotype	focaccia	bahuvrihi	reveille
coiffure	ethylene	yakitori	pahoehoe	panjandrum	regnal
repartee	flaneur	pejorate	Kjeldahl	catachresis	attaché
chimera	Ponzi	Aitutakian	rubefacient	tiffin	rafflesia
OR *chimaera	teneramente	parterre	halcyon	colcannon	ranunculus
avgolemono	styptic	rondeau	corrigenda	tournedos	pistou
exiguous	sopapilla	atlatl	Zanni	ormolu	scintillation
presentient	nictitate	allochroous	nonage	blottesque	Bolognese
renvoi	boutade	ennui	beurre	consommé	farrago
kichel	towhee	caisson	jicama	OR consomme	coup de grace
semaphore	escritoire	cheongsam	sturnine	ullage	tourelle
gambol	affenpinscher	graticule	octonocular	zortzico	notturno
angiitis	gudgeon	gyascutus	parallax	teratism	ginglymus
Teutonic	beaumontage	cygnet	antenatus	flagellum	hemorrhage
Conestoga	galoot	supercilious	trouvaille	panegyric	tapetum
zeitgeist	desiccate	dysphasia	glazier	hoi polloi	golem
heinousness	aporia	kugel	kinesiology	sirenian	krewe
nacelle	moraine	topazolite	exogenous	nescience	toque
rupicolous	hirsute	trompe l'oeil	aniseikonia	blatherskite	avuncular
Pythagorean	shubunkin	ailette	guayabera	consigliere	habiliments
kepi	hepatectomy	fetticus	realgar	adiabatic	rubato
**bulgur	bloviate	rocaille	anaphylaxis	camembert	gentilitial
OR bulghur	seine	couverture	bobolink	ecchymosis	obnebulate
ushabti	galapago	lemniscus	diluent	oppidan	allonym
puchero	au courant	ad nauseam	urushiol	decastich	croquembouche
nival	crepuscular	ganache	andouille	Naugahyde	kobold
ascites	theca	sauger	otiose	lefse	mendicity
Véronique	croustade	kanban	megacephalic	beccafico	castellated
OR Veronique	kipuka	toccata	souchong	amphistylar	toponymic
planetesimal	noumenon	pertinacity	poltroon	saturnine	boudin
taoiseach	chicanery	gasthaus	Freudian	zaibatsu	bucatini
obeisant	vilipend	transmontane	floruit	titian	reboation
whippoorwill	vitiate	laterigrade	Bunyanesque	tokonomia	haupia

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

Keplerian	pneumatocyst	xerogel	cachexia	ululate	cordillera
codswallop	fortissimo	vizierial	connoisseur	sororal	zazen
hauteur	portmanteau	crescive	ferruginous	epideictic	cabochon
camarilla	coaxation	tryptophan	gendarme	embolus	après
nidicolous	ardoise	neophyte	demulcent	caveola	zydeco
oxyacetylene	farouche	buffa	goosander	farina	consanguine
queue	farfalle	clavichord	kwashiorkor	heuristic	bibimbap
hellebore	ogival	de rigueur	lecithin	nudibranch	aquoclude
transhumance	stretto	secant	cetology	triquetra	demitasse
phloem	cocygeal	comanchero	plenipotentiary	paramahamsa	tomalley
lacustrine	Diplodocus	meiosis	foudroyant	duello	bouffant
ageusia	tachyon	gules	sesquipedalian	fjeld	bas-relief
pillor	piccata	nimietry	expugnable	tomography	rhizome
deleterious	isagogue	lokelani	profligacy	effleurage	Wensleydale
ikat	élan	psoriasis	yosenabe	chastushka	erubescence
pylorus	breviloquence	bavardage	funori	bergère	estovers
erythroblast	kalimba	coulibiac	pijoncillo	Erewhonian	rembrandt
maillot	illative	xyloglyphy	xiphias	rhyton	bonspiel
epenthesis	betony	Aramaic	étouffée	orogeny	hackamore
hinoki	bêtise	anathema	OR etouffee	Pepysian	blancmange
nonpareil	transience	basilica	degauss	esplanade	simulacrum
nyctinasty	frison	rajpramukh	tussock	gesellschaft	cnidarian
pointelle	flavedo	Chalcolithic	Ianolated	tamari	capotasto
vinaigrette	maquillage	rinceau	linnet	arenaceous	Panagia
tinnient	mortadella	filar	embouchure	panettone	nockerl
aioli	stanchion	bhangra	plangency	tmesis	rhabdoid
pochoir	spirulina	risorgimento	apocryphal	clerihew	apodyterium
glyceraldehyde	eleemosynary	agalma	tamarack	tsukupin	apoplexy
hagiographer	force majeure	analgesia	puerilely	katakana	verdure
syncope	ossicle	dengue	obloquy	Parmentier	fait accompli
icosahedron	anemone	cantatrice	dhole	rugose	dreikanter
goanna	alpargata	emollient	**budgerigar	brume	penicillin
wassail	disembogue	parquet	OR budgereegah	hiortdahlite	pendeloque
ammonite	luculent	dhurrie	OR budgerygah	extravasate	beelzebub
tanager	expatiate	lapidary	outré	incunabula	rhinorrhagia

It's All Greek to Me

We often get questions about why we use words that may not appear to be English. Most words in the English language are words that we borrowed from other languages. We borrowed them, used them, and now call them our own.

**preferred spelling

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: THREE BEE

Words of the Champions

foley	wastewair	OR encarnadine	Tchefuncke	cioppino	garabit
syzygy	diamanté	dulcinea	becquerel	inglenook	guerite
Beethovenian	sphygmometer	nainsook	darnel	efflux	gallivat
tatterdemalion	**kibitzer	querida	giallolino	frugivore	charcuterie
susurrus	OR kibitzer	paillard	krausen	lobscouse	zugzwang
**bienvenue	auteur	gazoz	Castalia	senecio	triskelion
OR bienvenu	labefaction	Glaswegian	nahcolite	jasmone	crokinole
potwalloper	ibidem	stannum	telamon	hawok	anicca
kaffeeklatsch	estival	putsch	uraeus	fructiferous	batamote
peregrination	OR aestival	tralatitious	teledu	martinoe	yabbies
paraquat	loup-garou	denouement	gattine	lierre	salmagundi
prana	empennage	hortatory	mele	porwigle	OR salmagundy
sinciput	lysozyme	maquette	Marathi	portugais	**hutia
abattoir	grimthorpe	obliviscence	nuciform	ligas	OR jutia
glossopetrae	thaumaturge	autophagy	grandrelle	Osloite	Deseret
diktat	pinioned	Airedale	bordereaux	sciolistic	Djibouti
llanero	fouetté	potager	rambla	seraya	Tegucigalpa
Machiavellian	venenate	malleolus	tullibee	janthina	Lullaillaco
glaucomatos	bardinage	*** marcel	guichet	Skeltonic	Pyxis
haori	saccadic	croquignole	Guarnerius	balata	
rheostat	mignonette	dolmen	unakite	balbriggan	
hariolation	coadjutor	griot	azotea	affeer	
thylacine	chiffonade	vexillologist	gabbro	pomology	
cenote	haricot	**halala	gegenschein	Svengali	
griffonage	Luddite	OR halalah	hebdomadal	escheator	
fossiliferous	wickiup	corybantic	gypsophila	dogana	
calefacient	nisse	chasuble	koh-i-noor	toorie	
obdurate	impugn	furuncle	nocive	exchequer	
nunchaku	brouillon	pongée	cataphora	habeas corpus	
senryu	derecho	acoel	blastema	kerril	
cormorant	solipsist	acral	trochée	pudibund	
gnomon	sinophile	Koine	diapason	toril	
pinetum	harmattan	weka	deliquesce	ryas	
brucellosis	**incarnadine	haplography	aperçu	terai	

One Dictionary to Rule them All

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

**preferred spelling

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



About Scripps

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