



# WORDS OF THE CHAMPIONS

YOUR KEY TO THE BEE



# CHAMPIONS OF THE WORDS!



258 Blake  
West Charter Academy

274 Melodie  
The Holy Spirit  
Ontario, New York

73 Nidhi  
Sunset Hills  
Riverside, California

298 Benjamin  
Franklin Elementary  
Franklin, Michigan

65 Simone  
The Holy Spirit  
Franklin, Ohio

407 Abhijay  
Dallas Sports Council  
Dallas, Texas

527 Akash  
The Holy Spirit  
Dallas, Texas

65 Simone  
The Holy Spirit  
Franklin, Ohio

424 Nilla  
Owen Elementary School  
District of Columbia  
Washington, D.C.

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# 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](http://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](http://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.

\*chiefly British spelling



# 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	<b>OR</b> imposter	methodology	gander
caterpillar	criminal	<b>OR</b> *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	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> marvellous	wholehearted	functionary	joyful	delicacy
skedaddle	evince	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	<b>OR</b> sombre
earthquake	dainty	comfort	trifecta	Antarctic	tampered
tapestry	buckle	caroling	shingle	perfume	loyal
delivery	vividly	<b>OR</b> 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: “Octo champs!” 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	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> naiveté	muchacha	pedicure	okapi	Plumeria
scenographer	cadence	steppe	**caftan	welterweight	perpetrator
neuroticism	fido	palpitant	<b>OR</b> 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	astrigent	thyme
probative	tapioca	dietetic	turmeric	mademoiselle	phlebotomy
oblique	festooned	homage	zoolatry	nouveau	anemic
buoyancy	tectonic	cumulus	ricochet	heterochromia	<b>OR</b> anaemic
situation	wizened	essential	hackneyed	consul	depravity
lumbar	tomfoolery	seraphic	vespertine	hermetically	effervescent
topiary	harrumph	cameist	**brusque	excursion	soirée
reverberant	embezzlement	scrumptiously	<b>OR</b> brusq	dreadlocks	<b>OR</b> soiree
yeanling	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	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> naissant	hydrophobia
veracity	vignette	facade	remorseful	adieu	ingot
marionette	adjudicate	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> *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
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	<b>OR</b> boucle	**minuscule	bodega	aperture	Mylar
vanguard	thoroughbred	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> déjà vue	ungetatable	stanzaic	adipose	smorgasbord
ritziness	calabash	unilaterally	putrescent	quorum	electrode
gazette	**chute	ordinance	nostalgia	pharynx	sporadically
continuum	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> voila	<b>OR</b> 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
<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> 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	laminated	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](http://spellingbee.com/bookshelf) to learn more.

\*\*preferred spelling



## DIFFICULTY LEVEL: **TWO BEE**

### Words of the Champions



apostate  
plundered  
multitude  
enthalpy  
truculence  
quagmire  
masseuse  
Hippocratic  
warrior  
brachiopods  
macaroon

brazenness  
beautician  
covetous  
flippancy  
sequester  
sufficiency  
wayward  
yeoman  
Websterian  
grievance  
solemn

zealous  
portcullis  
urbanely  
lanai  
hyacinth  
segmentate  
convalesce  
vagary  
devoid  
promulgate  
salinity

analogize  
guineas  
conglomerate  
\*\*baklava  
**OR** baklawa  
ipso facto  
coupon  
signatory  
aspirate  
senator  
angular

concomitant  
sundry  
salutary  
indubitable  
obituary  
obsidian  
bidialectal  
officiant  
annexation  
animalier  
endogenous

Beefalo  
pavlova  
malleable  
idiolect  
irascible



### 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

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	<b>OR</b> guerilla
thermohaline	marinate	synesthesia	accordance	Merrimack	Giza
gannet	anagrams	<b>OR</b> synaesthesia	atmospheric	Sinai	fixity
palladium	verandas	nefarious	levees	asparagus	jodhpurs
brevet	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b>
Connemara	Teflon	Haitian	emphatic		*misdemeanour
abundance	bantam	divan	contaminated		

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	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	<b>OR</b> *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	mouflage	**imbroglio	bestial	<b>OR</b> habitue	hierurgical
abeyance	interpellate	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> colporter	martinet	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> 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	souçon	malachite	Gruyère
vicissitudes	reconnoiter	teppanyaki	diphtheria	urticaria	proprioceptive
lilliputian	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> *chimaera	teneramente	parterre
argot	**aficionado	chrysolite	avgolemono	styptic	rondeau
vicenary	<b>OR</b> aficionado	execrable	exiguous	sopapilla	atlatl
ajimez	piscivorous	hangul	presentient	nictitate	allochrous
pompeii	benison	cartouches	renvoi	boutade	ennui
oviparous	gagaku	Nicoise	kichel	towhee	caisson
mangonel	amygdala	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> bulghur	seine	couverture
seneschal	ichthyology	**loess	ushabti	galapago	lemniscus
pinniped	pruritus	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> 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	<b>OR</b> consomme	coup de grace	ageusia	tachyon	gules
sturnine	ullage	tourelle	pillor	piccata	nimiety
oconocular	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	flavido	Chalcolithic
anaphylaxis	camembert	gentilial	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	veille	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	<b>OR</b> kibbitzer	
cetology	nudibranch	bibimbap	**bienvenue	auteur	
plenipotentiary	triquetra	aquiclude	<b>OR</b> bienvenu	labefaction	
foudroyant	paramahansa	demitasse	potwalloper	ibidem	
sesquipedalian	duello	tomalley	kaffeeklatsch	estival	
expugnable	fjeld	bouffant	peregrination	<b>OR</b> 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
<b>OR</b> 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	
<b>OR</b> budgereegah	brume	dreikanter	senryu	derecho	
<b>OR</b> budgerygah	hiortdahlite	penicillin	cormorant	solipsist	
outré	extravasate	pendeloque	gnomon	sinophile	
ululate	incunabula	beelzebub	pinetum	harmattan	
sororal	cordillera	rhinorrhagia	brucellosis	**incarnadine	
epideictic	zazen	Foley	wasteweir	<b>OR</b> 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/>)



### About Scripps

The EW Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP) serves audiences and businesses through a growing portfolio of local and national media brands. With 52 television stations in 36 markets, Scripps is one of the nation's largest independent TV station owners. Scripps runs a collection of national journalism and content businesses, including Newsy, the next-generation national news network; podcast industry leader Stitcher; the fast-growing national broadcast networks Bounce, Grit, Escape, Laff and Court TV; and Triton, the global leader in digital audio technology and measurement services. Scripps runs an award-winning investigative reporting newsroom in Washington, D.C., and is the longtime steward of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Founded in 1878, Scripps has held for decades to the motto, "Give light and the people will find their own way."