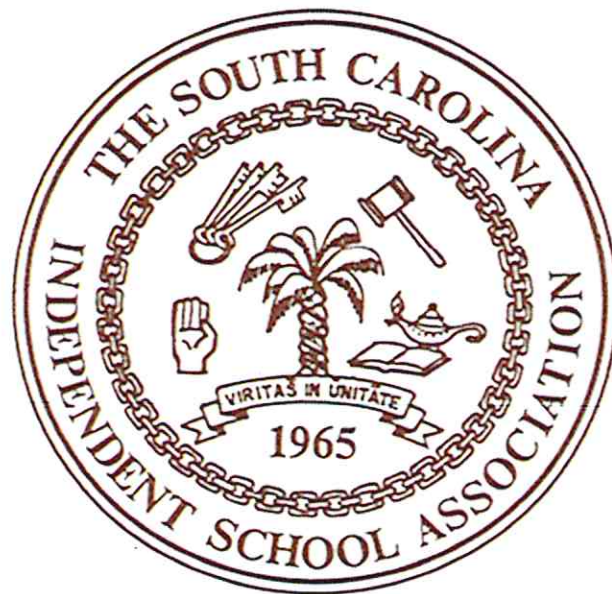


# South Carolina Independent School Association



2016  
Spelling Bee Packet

## REMINDERS FOR:

### Spellers, Sponsors, Coaches and Parents

- Word list is included and may be duplicated as needed.
- There are NO graded lists.
- Every speller is to study all words including “Challenge Words.”
- Encourage your spellers to study the “Spelling Tips” (when supplied.) They are valuable tools in teaching spelling as opposed to memorizing words on a given list.
- Any and all words on the list may be used at any point during any grade level spelldown.
- Rule #4 states: “In the event that all words on the pronouncer’s list have been used, words at random from Webster’s Third New International Dictionary may be called.”
- You will be asked by your Host School for the names and grade level of each of your regional spellers.
- Regional assignments will be made after the December 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline.

# SPELLING BEE RULES

1. The official rules of the SCISA regional and state spelling bees are BELOW. No other competition rules, newspaper bee rules, study guide, suggestion, notation, or practice book shall apply to the SCISA bees.
2. The South Carolina Independent School Association will sponsor regional spelling bees in January and the state final spelling bee in February. Competition in the regional bees is open to students in grades 3-8. Each school may send two students per grade (3-8) to the regional bee. Regional finalists in grades 3-8 become eligible to compete in the state final bee. Individual winners and the overall school champion are determined by points earned in both the regional and state final bees. An explanation of the point accumulation is as follows:
  - a. During the Regional Spelling Bee, a finalist earns 6 points, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place earns 4 points, and the 4<sup>th</sup> place earns 2 points. Also, each school earns 1 point for each contestant they bring. Total points won by contestants in all grades (3-8) are added and these totals will serve as a departure point to determine school champions at the State Bee.
  - b. If for any reason one of the two finalists is unable to attend the State Bee, the third place finisher takes his or her place. However, the total points earned by each school at the Regional Bee remains firm and are not affected by a third place finisher who later becomes a finalist.
  - c. During the State Bee, the points earned are different. The 1st place contestant earns 10 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place earns 8 points, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place earns 6 points. These points are then added to the Regional points to determine the overall State Spelling Bee Champion School. A 1<sup>st</sup> place champion and a runner-up trophy will be awarded.

## **Students competing in the SCISA Spelling Bee must qualify under two basic requirements:**

- A student must not have passed beyond the grade in which they are competing at the time of the regional finals in the respective regions.
  - A student may not compete in the same grade for two consecutive years.
3. Contests at region and state level will be conducted in ORAL spelling. In preparation for the classroom elimination, teachers may use a combination of written and oral spelling. At some point during practice it is advisable to use oral spelling only, have contestants stand, enunciate SLOWLY, AUDIBLY, and in general practice good spelling bee manners which will be required at the finals. All contests should be held in an area that is conducive to concentration, have "no-entry" signs posted, and other possible distractions monitored.
  4. At the regional and state finals, words to be spelled by contestants will be selected at random before the contest by the officials. Words selected will be pronounced in a pre-planned sequence, not in alphabetical order, and in increasing order of difficulty. Normally, easier words will be assigned for the first two or three rounds to establish the pattern of the spelloff and reduce contestant nervousness. In the event that all words on the pronouncer's list have been used, words at random from Webster's Third New International Dictionary may be called.
  5. The final authority on all words will be Webster's Third New International Dictionary from which words will be pronounced according to the diacritical markings and definitions selected. If a word has two or more accepted spellings, only the spellings set in bold face type at the beginning of the descriptive matter will be accepted as correct. Spellings having archaic, obsolete, or regional labels (such as North, Midland, South, British, Irish) that are different from those at the main entry will not be accepted as correct.
  6. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant may pronounce the word before spelling it, after spelling it, or if he chooses, not at all. However, it is recommended that the contestant pronounce the word before spelling in order to give the officials a chance to hear that the contestant has properly identified the word.
  7. Before commencing spelling, a contestant may request the pronouncer to repronounce the word, define it, reveal the language of origin, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant the request/s until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. OFFICIALS MAY DISQUALIFY A CONTESTANT WHO IGNORES A REQUEST TO START SPELLING.
  8. If a contestant is given a homonym, it is the responsibility of the student contestant to determine the proper spelling of the word by asking for a definition, use in a sentence, or other help as allowed in the rules. [Refer to rule 7.] He or she must correctly spell the word defined.

## OFFICIALS

9. Contests at the regional and state level will have three officials: one pronouncer and three judges. They are in complete control of the contest and their decision will be final on all questions.
10. Words spelled by contestants will be written by the judges as they are spelled, letter by letter, and compared with the master list. The judges must agree on the spelling (or misspelling) of an assigned word before any decision is made to pass, eliminate, or disqualify a contestant. A ring of a bell will signal that the word has been misspelled and the contestant will be seated.
11. The pronouncer will ensure a noise-free environment for the contestants and as the right to have anyone removed from the audience.

## COMPETITION

12. Contestants in both the REGIONAL & STATE FINAL competition must draw for order of competition during designated registration time and be aligned in numerical sequence. The student contestant must present him or herself at the registration table during the designated time, sign in, and draw a number for competition. A teacher or parent may NOT do this for the student. THE REGIONAL HOST SCHOOLS WILL INFORM THE SCHOOLS IN THEIR REGION OF THE REGISTRATION TIME. Any school or individual student that does not arrive to register on time will be disqualified. Any student who does not register during the appointed time will not be allowed to compete. It is not required that grade contests be held in numerical order.
13. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in the retracing there can be no change of letters and/or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters and their sequence are changed in the respelling, the officials will rule that the speller has misspelled the word by the ring of the bell.
14. If there are more than two contestants, upon missing the spelling of a word, the contestant immediately drops out of the contest. In REGIONAL competition, when the contest has been reduced to the last two spellers, the spelldown competition is over and the last two spellers are declared REGIONAL FINALISTS.
15. In the STATE FINAL competition, when the contestants have been reduced to two spellers, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one of the contestants misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, plus the next words on the pronouncer's list, then the second contestant shall be declared the champion.
16. In the STATE FINAL competition, if one of the last two spellers misses, and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the next word submitted to him, then the misspelled new word shall be referred to the first speller. If the first speller succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he shall be declared the champion.
17. In the STATE FINAL competition, if both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell. The contest shall continue under rules 16 and 17.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

18. It is expected that everyone who attends a regional or state spelling bee shall display courteous behavior and sportsmanship at all times. The SCISA Student Activities Committee approves the rules and format, and host schools who conduct the regional and state spelling bees are following an exact script from which they may not vary. Any person who wishes to make comments regarding any aspect of the spelling bee must address them in writing to the SCISA State Office in Orangeburg. School heads should make all spelling bee observers aware of the rules, format, instructions, sportsmanship expectations, and protest procedures. An individual or a school may be disqualified for any display of unsportsmanlike conduct.

**The judges have sole responsibility for disqualifications.**

## Words from Spanish

### Study Words

burrito	embargo [1]	chimichanga
gazpacho	mariachi [2]	sombrero
alligator	canasta	bonanza
chinchilla	machismo	enchilada
pueblo	hacienda	fandango
quesadilla [3]	flotilla	tomado
flamenco [4]	vigilante	adios
cabana	gordita	peccadillo
filibuster	tortilla	vanilla
cilantro	fiesta	anchovy
mesa [5]	ramada	junco
cafeteria	bongo	castanets
mantilla [6]	oregano	lariat
chalupa	buffalo [7]	renegade
langosta	alamo	barrio
cedilla	Argentine	bolivar
amarillo	cordovan	desperado
empanada	tomatillo	diablo
pochismo	sierra	olio
bolero	junta	duenna

### Challenge Words

sassafras	punctilio	sarsaparilla
comandante	embarcadero	rejoneador
novillero	picaresque	conquistador
rasgado	vaquero	caballero

### Spelling Tips

- 1 A long o sound (ō) at the end of a word is often a mark of Spanish origin, and it is nearly always spelled simply with o as in embargo and many other words on this list.
- 2 A long e sound (ē) at the end of a word of Spanish origin is usually spelled with i as in mariachi.
- 3 The ʎ sound is sometimes spelled with qu in words of Spanish origin. This is especially true when the vowel sound that follows is long a (ā), long e (ē), or short i (i). Quesadilla and conquistador (in its pronunciations with and without the ʎ sound) are examples from our list.
- 4 It is much more common for the ʎ sound to be spelled with c in words of Spanish origin. This is almost invariable when the vowel sound that follows is a schwa ə as in canasta and embarcadero; short a (a) as in castanets and caballero; or long o (ō) as in flamenco and flamenco and junco.
- 5 A schwa at the end of a word from Spanish is very common and is usually spelled with a as in mesa, bonanza, and several other words on the list.
- 6 The combination ll in Spanish words is traditionally treated as a single letter and is pronounced as consonant ʎ in American Spanish. When such words enter English, sometimes that sound persists. At other times it is pronounced just like ll would be in an English word: that is, as ʎ. Some words—such as mantilla, tomatillo, amarillo, and caballero—even have two pronunciations in English. Quesadilla, tortilla, and novillero always have the ʎ pronunciation in English; chinchilla, flotilla, vanilla, peccadillo, cedilla, and sarsaparilla always have the ʎ pronunciation. Be on the lookout!
- 7 Note that, except for ll, double consonants in words from Spanish are not very common. Buffalo and peccadillo represent exceptions. In Spanish, buffalo has only one f and peccadillo has only one c. English spelling rules prefer two consonants as a signal that the previous vowel is short, as is the case in these words.

## Study Words

staccato	ballot	confetti [1]
semolina	influenza	cavalry
piazza	cadenza	pistachio
spinet	cantata	incognito [2]
vendetta	contraband	maschera
graffiti	credenza	parapet
falsetto	ditto	provolone [3]
extravaganza	scampi	belladonna
gondola	rotunda	cauliflower
galleria	regatta	crescendo [4]
balcony	portfolio	antipasto
libretto	virtuoso	harmonica
maestro	bravura	fresco
stucco [5]	inferno	ballerina
malaria	grotto	harpsichord
allegro	virtuosa	spaghetti
piccolo	ravioli	vibrato
pesto	aria	bambino
salami	Parmesan	oratorio
finale	scenari	contrapuntal
illuminati	concerto	macaroni
palmetto	bandit	fiasco
cameo	sonata	coloratura

## Challenge Words

scherzo [6]	adagio	segue
zucchini [7]	capricious	archipelago
charlatan	maraschino	paparazzo [8]
fantoccini	mozzarella	garibaldi
ocarina	prosciutto	trattoria
vivace	cappelletti	pizzicato
intaglio		

## Spelling Tips

1 Long e (è) at the end of a word from Italian is usually spelled with i as in confetti, graffiti, zucchini, fantoccini, cappelletti, and many other words on the list. In Italian, a final i usually indicates a plural form. This is not always true, however, of Italian words in English.

2 Long o (ò) at the end of an Italian word is spelled with o as in incognito, stucco, virtuoso, concerto, prosciutto, pizzicato, vibrato and many other words on the list.

3 A long e sound (è) at the end of a word from Italian can be spelled with e as in provolone, finale, and one pronunciation of vivace, although this spelling of the sound is less common than i.

4 The \sh\ sound has various spellings in words from Italian; a spelling it usually doesn't have is sh! It can be spelled sc as in crescendo and prosciutto or ch as in charlatan and pistachio. The spelling of the \sh\ sound in capricious is also seen in words that come from Latin—the ancestral language of Italian.

5 The \k\ sound can be spelled cc when it comes before long o (ò) as in stucco or when it comes before à as in staccato.

6 Another Italian spelling of \k\ is ch as in scherzo.

7 The sound \ë-në\, common at the end of Italian words (it forms diminutives), is usually spelled ini (as in zucchini and fantoccini).

8 The double consonant zz is typically pronounced \ts\ in words from Italian, as in paparazzo, mozzarella, pizzicato, and one pronunciation of piazza.

## Words from Japanese

### Study Words

ninja	sushi [1]	tofu
shogun	honcho	karate [2]
samurai	teriyaki	sashimi
tsunami	haiku [3]	futon
mikado [4]	hibachi	origami
geisha [5]	wasabi	ramen
kudzu	banzai	tycoon
sumo	koan	satori
tatami	kami	sukiyaki
kuruma	Meiji	Romaji
odori	miso	Kabuki
geta	sayonara	

### Challenge Words

karaoke	nisei	sansei
issei	kibeí	

### Spelling Tips

1 A long e sound (ě) is very common at the end of Japanese words and is usually spelled with i as in sushi, teriyaki, wasabi, Meiji, odori, and several other words on the list.

2 In some Japanese words, long e is spelled simply with e (not i) as in karate and karaoke.

3 An ũ sound is also a common way to end Japanese words and is spelled with u as in haiku, tofu, and kudzu.

4 Long o (õ) at the end of a word from Japanese is spelled with o as in honcho, mikado, sumo and miso.

5 A long a sound (ã) heard in geisha is spelled ei in some words from Japanese. Four of the challenge words have this spelling of the long a sound and contain the word element sei, which means "generation."

## Words from New World Languages

### Study Words

condor	iguana	hurricane [1]
kahuna	hogan	jerky
muskrat	hominy	wigwam
pampas	caribou [2]	toboggan
persimmon	quinine	powwow
bayou	coyote [3]	tamale
poi	cashew	luau
totem	mahimahi	hickory
cacao	kona	malihini
wikiwiki	Tuckahoe	pecan
chipotle	skunk	woodchuck [4]
chocolate	muumuu	puma
tomato	maraca	petunia
jaguar	buccaneer	llama
succotash	caucus	wampum
mole	toucan	

### Challenge Words

opossum	terrapiin	ocelot
hoomalimali	coati	jacamar
ipecac	menhaden	sachem

### Spelling Tips

1 Remember that words settling down in English are often spelled according to English word patterns. If you're completely unsure of how to spell a word from a New World language, you can try just "sounding it out." This strategy would work for hurricane, muskrat, wigwam, and several other words on the list.

2 Take note of the language(s) a word may have traveled through on its way to English, for the path to English often gives a clue about spelling. For example, if it had been up to an English speaker, the *u* sound at the end of caribou would probably have been spelled *oo*; but the influence of French gives us the current spelling because French usually spells this sound *ou*.

3 Coyote shows evidence of having passed through Spanish on its way to English: The voiced final *e* is often seen in Spanish words. Two other examples on this list are tamale and mole.

4 Remember what folk etymology is? Words that entered English from New World languages were prime candidates for this process. If parts of a native word sounded familiar, they were often spelled by the settlers in a familiar way, as in woodchuck. Muskrat is also probably a result of folk etymology.



## Words from Dutch

### Study Words

cockatoo  
furlough  
holster  
trawl  
cruiser  
brackish  
buckwheat  
crimp  
floss  
klompen  
catkin  
grabble  
ravel  
trek  
gruff  
blister  
muddle  
staple  
screen  
Netherlander  
ticket  
boodle  
loiter  
wintergreen  
bruin  
spoor  
pickle

keelhaul  
bowery  
freebooter  
uproar  
yacht  
decoy  
walrus  
bluff  
cruiser  
polder  
splice  
huckster  
tattle  
scrabble  
isinglass  
rabbit  
handsome  
gulden  
guilder  
dune  
buckwagon  
guy  
potash  
trigger  
skipper  
mizzie  
snuff

harpoon  
easel  
waffle  
beleaguer  
wiseacre  
caboose  
howitzer  
stipple  
hustle  
bundle  
Flemish  
frolic  
scum  
clapboard  
excise  
package  
foist  
mart  
etch  
croon  
hock  
daffodil  
scow  
stripe  
waywiser  
school

### Challenge Words

mynheer  
muishond  
maelstrom  
voortrekker  
gaijoen  
hartebeest  
roodebok

waterzooi  
witloof  
bobbejaan  
uitlander  
schipperke  
keest

flense  
springbok  
keeshond  
hollandaise  
apartheid  
wainscot

## Words from Slavic Languages

### Study Words

gulag

robot

troika

Siberian

kishke

sable

polka

sputnik

babushka

gopak

trepak

baba

kovsh

barabara

### Challenge Words

balalaika

barukhzy

commissar

taiga

parka

samovar

slave

tundra

glasnost

kasha

Bolshevik

knish

Soviet

cheka

babka

cossack

lokshen

aul

Slav

kremlin

mammoth

Permian

paprika

nebbish

vampire

cravat

Borzoi

sevruga

purga

nelma

feldsher

tchotchke

apparatchik

pogrom

kielbasa

perestroika

tokamak

Beetewk

**Study Words**

angst [1]	pretzel	waltz
haversack	nosh	sauerbraten
hinterland	verboten	liverwurst
streusel	umlaut	wanderlust
eiderdown	schnauzer	lederhosen
kohlrabi	sitzmark	langlauf
autobahn	Backstein	inselberg
gestalt	einkorn	kitsch [2]
gestapo	schloss	rucksack
echt	bratwurst	knapsack
feldspar	poltergeist	noodle
spareribs	Meistersinger [3]	pumpernickel
Bildungsroman	strudel	bagel
hamster	cobalt	nachtmusik
vorlage [4]	graupel	Wagnerian
cringle	fife	glitz
homburg	kuchen	pitchblende
spritz [5]	prattle	zwinger
spitz	realschule	panzer
stollen	dachshund	seltzer

**Challenge Words**

schadenfreude [6]	dreidel	weimaraner
ersatz	fräulein	blitzkrieg [7]
gesundheit	pfeffernuss	edelweiss [8]
glockenspiel	rottweiler	schottische
anschluss	wedel	springerle
zeitgeber	pickelhaube	schnecke
Weissnichtwo		

**Spelling Tips**

1 Don't shy away from consonant clusters! German words often have combinations of three or more consonants that don't occur in thoroughly English words. Examples include ngst in angst, sch in schadenfreude, schn in schnauzer, and nschl in anschluss.

2 A \k\ sound in a word from German is usually spelled with k at the beginning of a word or syllable (as in kitsch and einkorn) and often with ck at the end of a word or syllable (as in knapsack and glockenspiel).

3 A long i sound (i:~) usually has the spelling ei in words from German, as in fräulein, Meistersinger, zeitgeber, and several other words on the list.

4 The \ʃ\ sound, especially at the beginning of a word, is sometimes spelled with v in German words as in vorlage. Other examples include the non-study-list words volkslied and herrenvolk.

5 The letter z is far more common in German than in English. Note that its pronunciation is not usually the same as English \z\. When it follows a t, which is common, the pronunciation is \s\ as in spritz, pretzel, blitzkrieg, and several other words on the list.

6 The \sh\ sound in words of German origin is usually spelled sch as in schadenfreude, whether at the beginning or end of a word or syllable. In schottische, you get it in both places!

7 A long e sound (ē~) usually has the spelling ie in words from German, as in blitzkrieg and glockenspiel.

8 The letter w is properly pronounced as \v\ in German, as you hear in one pronunciation of edelweiss and in wedel and Weissnichtwo. Many German words, however, have become so anglicized that this pronunciation has vanished. Most Americans, for example, say "bratwurst," not "bratvurst."

## Words from Asian Languages

### Study Words

dugong	guru	cushy
seersucker	jungle	oolong
nirvana	bangle	cummerbund
juggernaut	pangolin	mahatma
rupee	mongoose	shampoo
typhoon	bamboo	jackal
dungaree	bungalow	gunnysack
chutney	karma	jute
yamen	raj	kama
pundit	loot	kavya
jiva	pandit	chintz
patel		

### Challenge Words

gymkhana	basmati	gingham
mandir	bhalu	gourami
masala	raita	asana
batik	charpoy	durwan
mahout	prabhu	Buddha
topeng	tanha	lahar
jnana	Holi	

## Words from Arabic

### Study Words

azure	Islamic	sultan
artichoke	mummy [1]	tarragon
adobe	mohair	borax
talc	arsenal	lemon
tuna	admiral	hazard
apricot	carmine	monsoon
average	gazelle [2]	crimson
orange	sequin	macrame
algebra	guitar	nabob
giraffe	mattress	elixir
saffron	cotton	albatross [3]
zero	safari [4]	magazine
zenith	alfalfa	imam
mosque	alcohol	tariff
lilac	alcove	massage
henna [5]	alchemy	sugar
taj	mahal	khan
ghoul		

### Challenge Words

muslin	camphor	algorithm
minaret	tamarind	carafe
julep	marzipan	nenuphar
alcazar	tahini	Qatari
alkali	serendipity	nadir
douane	fennec	hafiz
azimuth	bezoar	halal
alim	Swahili	serdab
mihrab	salaam	mukhtar
khor	foggara	diffa
coffle		

### Spelling Tips

1 Double consonants are often seen in words from Arabic. More often than not, they occur in the middle of a word as in mummy, cotton, henna, foggara, coffle, tarragon, and several other words on the list. Their appearance at the end of a word (as in albatross and tariff) is usually because of the spelling conventions of English or some other language that the word passed through to get here.

2 A typical word from Arabic has three consonant sounds, with or without vowels between them. Gazelle, safari, talc, carafe, mahal, tahini, alkali, hafiz, and salaam are typical examples.

3 Note how many words on this list begin with al. This spelling can be traced to the definite article al ("the") in Arabic, which sometimes gets borrowed along with a word. Most of the time the spelling is al in English, but note el in elixir.

4 A long e sound (ē) at the end of a word from Arabic is often spelled with i as in safari and several other words on the list but may also be spelled with y as in mummy and alchemy.

5 The schwa sound (ə) at the end of a word from Arabic is usually spelled with a as in henna, tuna, algebra, alfalfa, foggara, and diffa.

## Eponyms

### Study Words

praline  
hosta  
salmonella  
tortoni  
gardenia  
zinnia  
samaritan  
jeremiad  
shrapnel  
Boswell  
Fletcherism  
bandersnatch  
Dracula

### Challenge Words

forsythia  
mercerize  
dahlia  
guillotine  
gnathonic  
braggadocio

magnolia  
poinsettia  
newton  
greengage  
melba  
quisling  
Panglossian  
hector  
vulcanize  
ampere  
yahoo  
Crusoe

madeleine  
Fahrenheit  
Baedeker  
Bobadil  
pasteurize

boysenberry  
macadamia  
saxophone  
angstrom  
tantalize  
begonia  
quixote  
Geronimo  
Frankenstein  
cupid  
diesel  
mentor

bromeliad  
narcissistic  
philippic  
mesmerize  
Croesus

## Words from Latin

### Study Words

inane  
 ambivalent  
 incriminate  
 interrupt [1]  
 amicable  
 meticulous  
 animosity  
 curriculum  
 electoral  
 transect  
 condolences [4]  
 bugle  
 subterfuge  
 carnivore [5]  
 prosaic [6]  
 magnanimous  
 simile  
 innate  
 mediocre  
 precipitate  
 intractable  
 retrospective  
 omnipotent  
 alleviate  
 capitulation  
 necessary  
 conjecture  
 corporal  
 participant  
 primal  
 ventilate  
 reptile  
 foliate  
 renovate  
 canine  
 femininity  
 popularity  
 vivisection  
 contiguous  
 current  
 incorruptible

### Challenge Words

soliloquy  
 efficacy  
 indigenous  
 infinitesimal  
 precocious  
 facetious

relevant  
 dejected  
 access  
 alliteration  
 lucid [2]  
 fastidious  
 implement  
 omnivorous  
 crescent [3]  
 precipice  
 benefactor  
 formidable  
 abdicate  
 gregarious  
 herbivore  
 benevolent  
 jovial  
 obstinate  
 insidious  
 erudite  
 exuberant [7]  
 ominous  
 consensus  
 spectrum  
 incredulous  
 adjacent  
 imperative  
 patina  
 library  
 filament  
 aquatic  
 providence  
 nasal  
 credentials  
 measure  
 confidence  
 diary  
 strict  
 ductile  
 perfidy

accommodate  
 visceral  
 belligerent  
 recalcitrant  
 ameliorate  
 prerogative

impetuous  
 postmortem  
 plausible  
 refugee  
 percolate  
 trajectory  
 ambiguity  
 bellicose  
 obsequious  
 susceptible  
 candidate  
 canary  
 lunatic  
 ostentatious  
 prodigal  
 mercurial  
 ridiculous  
 discern  
 rupture  
 colloquial  
 ingenious  
 vulnerable  
 discipline  
 prescription  
 affinity  
 dissect  
 predicate  
 Capricorn  
 cognition  
 unity  
 igneous  
 message  
 opera  
 temporal  
 credible  
 triumvirate  
 humble  
 prosecute  
 gradient  
 fidelity

pernicious [8]  
 exacerbate  
 vernacular  
 innocuous  
 commensurate  
 ubiquitous

egregious  
corpuscle

aggregate  
perennial

tertiary

### Spelling Tips

- 1 One of the hardest things to remember about words from Latin is whether an internal consonant (like *r* in *interrupt*) is doubled. To reinforce your memory of the correct spelling, try to remember related words all together (like *interrupt* along with *interruption* or *necessary* along with *necessity*).
- 2 The *u* sound (as in *ooze*) is nearly always spelled with *u* in words from Latin. It typically follows a *ld*, *lj*, *ll*, *lr*, or *ls* sound. After other consonants, this sound normally becomes *yu* (as in *bugle*, *subterfuge*, *ambiguity*, and *prosecute* and in one pronunciation of *refugee*).
- 3 Beware of words like *crescent* in which the *ls* sound is spelled with *sc* in words from Latin. Other examples include *visceral*, *discern*, *discipline*, *susceptible*, and *corpuscle*.
- 4 When you hear within a word from Latin the *ls* sound followed by any of the sounds of *e* (long, short, or schwa), there's a possibility that the *ls* sound is spelled with *c* as in *exacerbate*, *access*, *adjacent*, *condolences*, *facetious*, and *necessary*.
- 5 The letter *i* is a vowel often used to connect two Latin word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (*ə*) and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter *i* might be a good guess: See *carnivore* and *herbivore*. Other examples include non-study-list words that end in *iform* such as *oviform* and *pediform*.
- 6 The letter *k* rarely appears in words from Latin, and its sound is nearly always represented by *c* as in *canary*, *prosaic*, *canine*, *mediocre*, *Capricorn*, *cognition*, *ductile*, *incorruptible*, *vernacular*, *innocuous*, and many other words on the list.
- 7 The letter *x* often gets the pronunciation *gz* in words from Latin (as in *exacerbate* and *exuberant*).
- 8 The combination *ious* ends many adjectives of Latin origin. When the consonant that precedes *ious* is *c* or *t*, the sound of the final syllable is *shəs* as in *facetious*, *ostentatious*, *pernicious*, and *precocious*. It is important to keep in mind that several adjectives from Latin ending with this sound end in *eous* rather than *ious*. In such instances, the definitions of the words usually contain phrases such as "consisting of," "resembling," or "having the characteristic of." Examples include non-study-list words *herbaceous*, *cetaceous*, and *lilaceous*.



## Words from French

### Study Words

peloton	barrage	chagrin [1]
pacifism	manicure	altruism
bureaucracy	mascot	parfait
mystique	layette [2]	boutique
dressage	croquet	gorgeous
denture	mirage	denim
cachet [3]	neologism	beige
diplomat	motif	suave
foyer [4]	clementine	ambulance
rehearse	leotard	prairie [5]
diorama	entourage	fuselage
boudoir	collage [6]	amenable
expertise	matinee	plateau
sortie	croquette	physique [7]
elite	deluxe	nougat
rouge [8]	escargot	crochet
regime	doctrinaire	tutu
bevel	menu	egalitarian
quiche [9]	fatigue	garage
morgue	stethoscope	vogue
musicale	palette	flamboyant
baton	souvenir	impasse
finesse	maladroit	

### Challenge Words

gauche	rapport	camouflage
genre	virgule	debacle
fusillade [10]	saboteur	renaissance
chauvinism	recidivist	chassis
détente	raconteur	mayonnaise [11]
surveillance	repertoire	dossier
taupe	poignant	garçon
croissant	ecru	lieutenant
protégé	mélange	blasé
fête	ingenue	rendezvous

### Spelling Tips

1 French nearly always spells the \sh\ sound with ch, and this spelling of the sound is very common in words from French. Chagrin, chauvinism, and crochet are examples.

2 A word from French ending with a stressed \et\ is usually spelled with ette as in layette and croquette.

3 A long a sound (ā) at the end of a word from French can be spelled a number of ways. One of the more common ways is with et as in cachet, croquet, and crochet.

4 One way to spell long a at the end of a word from French is with er as in dossier and in foyer. (Most Americans, however, do not pronounce the ending of foyer with a long a.)

5 A long e sound (ē) at the end of a word from French can be spelled with ie as in prairie and sortie. (But see exercise 4 under Now You Try for another spelling of the long e ending.)

6 Words ending with an  $\text{\`a}z\text{h}$  sound are common in French. This sound is spelled age as in collage, mirage, dressage, garage, barrage, camouflage, entourage, and fuselage.

7 A  $\text{\`k}$  sound at the end of a word from French is often spelled que as in physique, mystique, and boutique.

8 The  $\text{\`u}$  sound (as in rouge and many other words on the list) in words from French is usually spelled with ou. Sometimes, however, it is spelled with u as in tutu and ecru.

9 When the  $\text{\`sh}$  sound occurs at the end of a word from French, there is nearly always a silent e that follows it, as in quiche and gauche.

10 Words ending with an  $\text{\`ad}$  sound are common in French. This sound is spelled ade as in fusillade.

11 French speakers have a number of vowels that English speakers modify in pronunciation. Our way of pronouncing the French aise (pronounced  $\text{\`ez}$  in French) is usually  $\text{\`az}$ .

## Words from Old English

Print this page

### Study Words

quell [1]	barrow	dearth
bower	paddock	blithe
keen	mongrel	reckless
alderman	whirlpool	belay [2]
cleanser	dreary [3]	bequeath
sallow [4]	dross	lithe
gristle	earwig	fickle
nestle [5]	fennel	nostril
abide	behest	slaughter [6]
gospel	furlong	linseed
nether	fathom	nightingale
farthing	threshold	kith
wanton	loam [7]	yield
mattock	hawthorn	tithe
behoove	forlorn	quiver
hustings	aspen	mermaid
anvil	barley	linden
hassock	orchard	hearth [8]
watery	fiend	goatee
earthenware	windily	dealership
bookkeeping	fiery	learned
nosiest	creepy	errand
daily	gnat	broadleaf
stringy	dairy	workmanship
newfangled	timely	dogged
mootable	womanly	manhandle
folksiness	worrisome	roughhewn
knavery	hurdle	kipper
hundredth	icicle	pinafore
yieldable	hue	

### Challenge Words

heifer	mistletoe	salve
kirtle	Wiccan	shrieval
chary		

### Spelling Tips

1 Old English likes double consonants following short vowels, especially if the vowel is in a stressed syllable. Examples include quell, paddock, mattock, sallow, fennel, hassock, errand, barrow, kipper, and Wiccan.

2 A long a sound (ā) at the end of words from Old English is nearly always spelled ay as in belay.

3 Long e (ǣ) at the end of an adjective or adverb from Old English is nearly always spelled with y. Examples include dreary, watery, windily, fiery, creepy, daily, stringy, timely, womanly, and chary.

4 Long o (ō) at the end of words from Old English is typically spelled with ow as in sallow and barrow. By contrast, a long o at the end of a word in many languages that English has borrowed from is simply spelled with o.

5 When the syllable \sell ends words from Old English, it is nearly always spelled stle, with the t being silent (as in gristle and nestle).

6 Silent gh after a vowel is common in words from Old English, as in slaughter. Silent gh usually appears after i in words like plight (not on the study list) and nightingale, and it signals that the vowel is pronounced \i\.

7 The vowel combination oa in words from Old English is nearly always pronounced as long o (\ɔ\), as in loam and goatee. Examples not on the study list include shoal, boastful, and gloaming.

8 Silent e on the end or not? For words from Old English that end in either hard th (\th\), or soft th (\th\), remember this: More often than not, soft th will have a silent e at the end of the word. Consider, for example, bequeath, dearth, kith, hearth, and hundredth versus blithe, lithe, and tithe. Interestingly, the word blithe can be pronounced both ways.

## Words from Greek

### Study Words

lethargy  
 biopsy  
 enthusiasm  
 odyssey  
 synonym  
 calypso  
 character [2]  
 eclectic  
 chronology  
 cosmetic  
 cynical [3]  
 hypothesis  
 antibiotic  
 hydraulic [4]  
 semantics  
 cosmos  
 paradox  
 sarcasm  
 nemesis  
 topography  
 geranium  
 xylophone [6]  
 epiphany  
 amnesia  
 strategy [7]  
 matriarch  
 rhetoric  
 dogma  
 dyslexia  
 pragmatic  
 tragic  
 notochord  
 mathematics  
 rhinoceros  
 pyre  
 tritium  
 geode  
 geponics  
 amphibious  
 periphery

### Challenge Words

dichotomy  
 diphthong  
 zephyr  
 anachronism  
 arachnid  
 gynarchy  
 cynosure

philately

android  
 irony  
 synopsis  
 megalopolis  
 orthodox  
 patriarch  
 isobar  
 melancholy  
 eulogy  
 Spartan  
 homonym  
 academy  
 diatribe  
 trauma  
 thesaurus  
 protagonist  
 synchronous  
 ephemeral  
 syntax  
 panic  
 metaphor  
 dynamic  
 apathy  
 philanthropy  
 diagnosis  
 endemic  
 eponym  
 idiom  
 Olympian  
 adamant  
 hydrology  
 biblical  
 tachometer  
 hyphen  
 herpetology  
 androcentric  
 hedonism  
 asthmogenic  
 symbiosis

misogynist  
 mnemonic  
 hippopotamus  
 metamorphosis  
 paradigm  
 pneumatic  
 philhellenism

cacophony

chronic  
 automaton  
 homogeneous  
 acme [1]  
 aristocracy  
 hierarchy  
 asterisk  
 stoic  
 didactic  
 geothermal  
 cryptic  
 pentathlon  
 etymology  
 hygiene  
 phenomenon [5]  
 acronym  
 misanthropy  
 polygon  
 eureka  
 apostrophe  
 spherical  
 myriad  
 synergy  
 democracy  
 topical  
 analysis [8]  
 agnostic  
 thermal  
 allegory  
 protocol  
 polymer  
 ergonomic  
 protein  
 autopsy  
 angelic  
 demotic  
 periscope  
 monotonous  
 macron

hypocrisy  
 anomaly  
 euphemism  
 hyperbole  
 Eocene  
 Hemerocallis  
 euthanasia

### Spelling Tips

1 In a few words from Greek, e appears at the end of a word and has long e sound \ē\. Some examples are acme, apostrophe, and hyperbole.

2 A \k\ sound in English often represents a sound from Greek that we don't actually use, and the most common spelling of this sound in English is ch: See anachronism, arachnid, character, chronic, chronology, dichotomy, hierarchy, matriarch, melancholy, patriarch, synchronous, notochord, tachometer, and gynarchy.

3 The most frequent sound that y gets in words from Greek is short i (\i\) as in acronym, calypso, cryptic, cynical, dyslexia, eponym, homonym, myriad, Olympian, synchronous, synergy, synonym, synopsis, syntax, symbiosis and polymer.

4 A long i sound (\i: ) in a word that comes from Greek is sometimes represented by y, especially after h, as in hydraulic, hydrology, hygiene, hyperbole, hyphen, hypothesis, dynamic, cynosure, gynarchy, xylophone and pyre.

5 In ancient Greek, the letter phi (pronounced \fi) represented a breathy or "aspirated" version of the sound that is represented in English by f. Speakers of Roman-alphabet languages did not have this sound or a corresponding letter, so they substituted the \f\ sound but memorialized the original sound of phi by using ph to spell it. As a result, the English \fi\ sound almost always appears as ph in words of Greek origin. Consider, for example: amphibious, apostrophe, cacophony, diphthong, epiphany, euphemism, hyphen, metamorphosis, metaphor, periphery, phenomenon, philanthropy, philately, philhellenism, spherical, topography, xylophone, and zephyr. Hundreds of words in English derived from Greek show this spelling.

6 The letter o is the vowel most often used to connect two Greek word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\ə) as in xylophone, notochord, orthodox, ergonomic, geponics, and asthmogenic and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter o is a very good guess. The non-study-list words hypnotist, geometric, and electrolyte are among the many, many words made of Greek word elements connected by o.

7 The \j\ sound is always spelled with g in words from Greek. Why? When the \j\ sound appears in words of Greek origin, it does so as an anglicized pronunciation of a root originally pronounced with a hard g. Note that no j appears in any of the words on this list!

8 A schwa in words from Greek is occasionally spelled with y: See analysis, etymology, misogynist, odyssey, and zephyr.