



**2020**

# **DISTRICT PRONOUNCER GUIDE**

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# Merriam-Webster Pronunciation Symbols

- ə** ..... banana, collect
- ʻə, ə** ..... humdrum
- ē** ..... as in one pronunciation used by *r*-droppers for *bird* (alternative \əɪ\)
- ĕ** ..... two-value symbol equivalent to the unstressed variants \ə, ɪ\, as in *habit*, *duchess* (\ˈhəbət\ = \ˈhəbət, -bit\)
- °** ..... immediately preceding \l, ɫ, ʌ, ɹ, ʃ, as in *battle*, *mitten*, and in one pronunciation of *cap* and *bells* \-ˈm-l, lock and key \-ˈŋ-l; immediately following \l, ʌ, ɹ, ʃ, as in one pronunciation of French *table*, *prisme*, *titre*
- ēɪ** ..... as in one pronunciation used by *r*-droppers for *bird* (alternative \əɪ\)
- ēr** ..... operation; stressed, as in *bird* as pronounced by speakers who do not drop *r*; stressed and with centered period after the *r*, as in one pronunciation of *burry* (alternative \ər\ ) and in one pronunciation of *hurry* (alternative \ər\ ); stressed and with centered period after \ər\ as in one pronunciation of *hurry* (alternative \ər\ )
- a** ..... mat, map
- ā** ..... day, fade, date, aorta
- ä** ..... bother, cot; most American speakers have the same vowel in *father*, *cart*
- â** ..... father as pronounced by speakers who do not rhyme it with *bother*; *farther* and *cart* as pronounced by *r*-droppers
- aa** ..... bad, bag, fan as often pronounced in an area having New York City and Washington, D.C., on its perimeter; in an emphatic syllable, as before a pause, often \aaə\
- ai** ..... as in some pronunciations of *bag*, *bang*, *pass*
- aï** ..... now, loud, some pronunciations of *talcum*
- b** ..... baby, rib
- ch** ..... chin, nature \ˈnāchə(r)\ (actually, this sound is \t\ + \ʃh\)
- d** ..... elder, undone
- ḏ** ..... as in the usual American pronunciation of *latter*, *ladder*
- e** ..... bet, bed
- ē, ē** ..... beat, nosebleed, evenly, sleepy
- ē** ..... as in one pronunciation of *evenly*, *sleepy*, *envious*, *igneous* (alternative \i\)
- ee** ..... (in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates a vowel with the quality of *e* in *bet* but long, not the sound of *ee* in *sleep*: *en arriere* \äˈnāryeer\
- eû** ..... as in one pronunciation of *elk*, *helm*
- f** ..... fifty, cuff
- g** ..... go, big
- h** ..... hat, ahead
- hw** ..... whale as pronounced by those who do not have the same pronunciation for both *whale* and *wail*
- i** ..... tip, one pronunciation of *banish* (alternative unstressed \ɛ\), one pronunciation of *habit* (alternative \ə\; see ə)
- ī** ..... site, side, buy (actually, this sound is \ä\ + \i\, or \ä\ + \i\)
- iû** ..... as in one pronunciation of *milk*, *film*
- j** ..... job, gem, edge, procedure \prəˈsējə(r)\ (actually, this sound is \d\ + \zh\)
- k** ..... kin, cook, ache
- ḱ** ..... as in one pronunciation of *loch* (alternative \k\), as in German *ich-laut*
- l** ..... lily, pool
- m** ..... murmur, dim, nymph
- n** ..... no, own
- ⁿ** ..... indicates that a preceding vowel is pronounced with the nasal passages open, as in French *un bon vin blanc* \œˈbɔ̃ˈvaˈblɑ̃\
- ŋ** ..... sing \ˈsɪŋ\, singer \ˈsɪŋə(r)\, finger \ˈfɪŋgə(r)\, ink \ˈɪŋk\
- ō** ..... bone, snow, beau; one pronunciation of *glory*
- ó** ..... saw, all, saurian; one pronunciation of *horrid*
- œ** ..... French *bœuf*, German *Hⁱlle*
- œ** ..... French *feu*, German *Hⁱhle*
- oi** ..... coin, destroy, strawy, sawing
- oo** ..... (in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates a vowel with the quality of *o* in *bone* but longer, not the sound of *oo* in *food*: *comte* \kɔ̃ˈt\
- p** ..... pepper, lip
- r** ..... rarity, one pronunciation of *tar*
- s** ..... source, less
- sh** ..... with nothing between, as in *shy*, *mission*, *machine*, *special* (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in *death* *'s-head* \ˈdeths.hed\
- t** ..... tie, attack; one pronunciation of *latter* (alternative \d\)
- th** ..... with nothing between, as in *thin*, *ether* (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in *knighthood* \nɪt.hud\
- th** ..... then, either (actually, this is a single sound, not two)
- ü** ..... rule, fool, youth, union \yünyən\, few \fyü\
- û** ..... pull, wood, curable \kyürəbəl\
- ue** ..... German *füllen*, *hübsch*
- ŷ** ..... French *rue*, German *fühlen*
- v** ..... vivid, give
- w** ..... we, away
- y** ..... yard, cue \kyü\, union \yünyən\
- ʸ** ..... (in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates that during articulation of the sound represented by the preceding character the tip of the tongue has substantially the position it has for the articulation of the first sound of *yard*, as in French *digne* \dɛ̃ˈn\
- yü** ..... youth, union, cue, few
- yû** ..... curable
- z** ..... zone, raise
- zh** ..... with nothing between, as in *vision*, *azure* \ˈazhə(r)\ (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in *rosehill* \ˈrōz.hɪl\
- ˈ** ..... mark preceding a syllable with primary (strongest) stress: \pen.mən.ʃɪp\
- ˌ** ..... mark preceding a syllable with secondary (next-strongest) stress: \pen.mən.ʃɪp\
- ( )** ..... indicate that what is symbolized between is present in some utterances but not in others: *factory* \ˈfakt(ə)rē\

# Guidelines Regarding Pronunciation and Language of Origin

## Pronunciation

For many words in Merriam-Webster Unabridged, copyright 2019, Merriam-Webster (<http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>), more than one pronunciation is offered. In this district pronouncer guide, the chief pronunciation for a word is most often the first pronunciation given in this dictionary. Occasionally, however, the Bee has chosen to assign the dictionary's second or third pronunciation as the chief pronunciation. This decision has been made whenever the Bee has reason to think that a certain pronunciation has become the most prevalent one.

Many of the variations in pronunciation listed in Merriam-Webster Unabridged are included in this publication as alternate pronunciations and are listed in square brackets under the chief pronunciation. These alternate pronunciations are all the variants in the dictionary's pronunciation data that differ phonemically from the chief pronunciation. Minor phonetic variations that are described in the dictionary are not included here, however, such as pronunciations that differ only in the level of stress on given syllables. In addition, this publication has not included the voluminous treatment of *r*-dropping and vowel variations before /r/ such as those that are found in certain geographical dialects of American English. Experience has shown that this information about nuances of phonetic variation in pronunciation can be the cause for confusion for spellers and pronouncers alike.

Nevertheless, every pronunciation in Merriam-Webster Unabridged that can offer any clues about spelling is listed as an alternate pronunciation herein. The phrase *no alternate pronunciations* means simply that, while the dictionary entry may or may not contain further details about phonetic differences in different dialects, the word in question has no other pronunciations that differ phonemically from the chief pronunciation that is provided.

## Language of Origin

Information in this guide regarding language of origin is a simplification of that provided in Merriam-Webster Unabridged. For example, Merriam-Webster Unabridged gives Old English, Middle English, and English, but we give only English.

With New Latin and International Scientific Vocabulary, however, we tend to provide information that supplements that provided in Merriam-Webster Unabridged. Where Merriam-Webster Unabridged lists New Latin as the language of origin, we attempt to list the origin of the roots used to form the new word. We list International Scientific Vocabulary only when it is difficult to determine instead the languages from which the International Scientific Vocabulary element came.

We do not always list all of the languages a word passed through before it entered modern English. Only those languages that significantly altered the word are listed, generally with the earliest language listed first followed by the subsequent language(s). We give the separate etymologies of each word element regularly used in Merriam-Webster Unabridged, with one exception: combining form(s). Combining forms are word elements regularly used in English or another language to make a new word, but they do not by themselves constitute words. Examples include *-ly*, *-ing*, *-ment*, *-en*, *-o-*, *en-*, *non-*, etc. .

# Tips for Conducting Your District Spelling Bee

## 1. Help your students prepare by:

- giving your students the 2020 School Spelling Bee Study List from the log-in section of spellingbee.com, *and*
- providing *2020 Words of the Champions* from the log-in section of spellingbee.com.

## 2. Familiarize yourself with the *2020 District Pronouncer Guide*, in which:

- words 1-75 were selected from the 2020 School Spelling Bee Study List,
- words 76-300 were selected from *2020 Words of the Champions*,
- words 301-400 were selected from Merriam-Webster Unabridged,
- the 50 questions in the Intermediate Oral Vocabulary Round are based on words from the 2020 School Spelling Bee Study List,
- the 50 questions in the Advanced Oral Vocabulary Round are based on words from *2020 Words of the Champions*,
- the 25 questions on the Intermediate Written Vocabulary Test are based on words from the 2020 School Spelling Bee Study List, *and*
- the 25 questions on the Advanced Written Vocabulary Test are based on words from *2020 Words of the Champions*.

## 3. Acquaint yourself with the *Rules for Local Spelling Bees* (available beginning on page 6 of the *2020 District Pronouncer Guide*).

## 4. Pronouncers, please note:

- Before the spelling bee gets under way, review the *2020 District Pronouncer Guide* and familiarize yourself with the correct pronunciations of the words.
- One pronunciation is listed alongside each word in the *2020 District Pronouncer Guide*. If the speller requests an alternate pronunciation, consult the additional pronunciation information provided in square brackets. Please refer to the guidelines regarding pronunciation provided on page 3 of the *2020 District Pronouncer Guide*. Vocabulary sections list only the first pronunciation.
- The *2020 District Pronouncer Guide* provides language of origin information. Please refer to the guidelines regarding language of origin on page 3. Consult your dictionary if you desire additional information or clarity regarding a word's language of origin.
- Although some words can be more than one part of speech, only one part of speech per word is provided in the *2020 District Pronouncer Guide*. The part of speech provided matches that of the definition listed and coincides with the word's use in the illustrative sentence.
- Several words have homonyms or near-homonyms. If you think a word is a homonym and yet a homonym is not listed, check your dictionary or skip the word. It is possible that we did not note the fact that the word is a homonym. For the final word in handling homonyms, see the portions of Rules 5, 7 and 11 that refer to homonyms.

## 5. Judges, please note:

- Ensure that you are completely familiar with the *Rules for Local Spelling Bees*. Pay particular attention to Rule 6 (Judges' role), Rule 10 (End-of-bee procedure) and Rule 11 (Appeals).
- You may customize the word list in the *2020 District Pronouncer Guide* for the circumstances of your spelling bee. You may omit words. You may place words elsewhere on the list. However, if you choose to place words elsewhere on the list, avoid placing a word from one section of the list — words from the School Spelling Bee Study List (any word with a number between 1 and 75), words from *2020 Words of the Champions* (any word with a number between 76 and 300), or additional words (any word with a number greater than 300) — in another section of the list. Also avoid mixing spelling words and vocabulary questions in a single round.
- Integration of vocabulary (oral or written) in your competition is at the discretion of contest organizers.
- Preserve fairness by ensuring that all spellers spelling or answering vocabulary questions in the same round receive words from the same section of the *2020 District Pronouncer Guide*.
- Merriam-Webster Unabridged is the final authority for the spelling of all words that appear on Scripps National Spelling Bee word lists. We suggest that you have Merriam-Webster Unabridged open and available during your spelling bee. If you cannot subscribe to Merriam-Webster Unabridged for whatever reason, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, eleventh edition, copyright 2003, Merriam-Webster, Inc., is the preferred alternative.

## 2020 Rules for Local Spelling Bees

### Preface

The Scripps National Spelling Bee (SNSB) encourages spellers, parents, teachers and spelling bee officials to read these rules prior to any local spelling bee. The SNSB defines a local spelling bee as any spelling bee other than the May 25-28, 2020 championship spelling bee in Oxon Hill, Maryland (“national finals”).

Spellers and spellers’ parents and teachers should check with their local spelling bee officials for the rules in effect in their area, as local spelling bee officials are encouraged but not required to use these rules. Spelling bee officials include the pronouncer, judges, coordinator and sponsor.

While local spelling bee officials have the prerogative to amend Rules 2 through 11, amendment(s) — particularly any amendment(s) to the end-of-bee procedure — should be undertaken only with careful consideration of the various outcomes that may result from the amendment(s).

The SNSB has no authority over the conduct of local spelling bees and will not render judgments relating to their conduct or outcomes. Individuals bearing complaints about local spelling bees should register their concerns with local spelling bee officials. **DECISIONS OF LOCAL SPELLING BEE OFFICIALS ARE FINAL.**

These *Rules for Local Spelling Bees* are not the rules in effect at the national finals. When a local spelling bee official says, “We use the national rules,” he or she is probably indicating that the *Rules for Local Spelling Bees* are in effect.

The national finals operate under a significantly different set of rules called the *Contest Rules of the 2020 Scripps National Spelling Bee*. These rules contain provisions that are specific to unique conditions at the national finals. The successful implementation of many national finals rules at the local level is considered impossible and therefore is not recommended.

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### Rules

**1. Eligibility:** A speller qualifying for the 2020 SNSB national finals must meet these requirements:

- (1) The speller must not have won a SNSB national finals.
- (2) The speller must attend a school that is officially enrolled with the SNSB.
- (3) The speller must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before August 31, 2019.
- (4) The speller must not have repeated any grade for the purpose of extending spelling bee eligibility. If the speller has repeated any grade, the speller must notify the SNSB of the circumstances of grade repetition by March 31, 2020; and the SNSB will, at its sole discretion, determine the speller’s eligibility status on or before April 30, 2020.
- (5) The speller — or the speller’s parent, legal guardian or school official acting on the speller’s behalf — must not have declared to another entity an academic classification higher than eighth grade for any purpose, including high school graduation equivalency or proficiency examinations and/or examinations such as the PSAT, SAT or ACT.
- (6) The speller must not have earned the legal equivalent of a high school diploma.
- (7) The speller must not eschew normal school activity to study for spelling bees. The SNSB defines normal school activity as adherence to at least four courses of study other than language arts, spelling, Latin, Greek, vocabulary and etymology for at least four hours per

weekday for 34 of the 38 weeks between August 26, 2019, and May 18, 2020.

(8) The speller must not have reached his/her 15th birthday on or before August 31, 2019.

(9) The speller must have been declared a champion of an SNSB-sanctioned final local spelling bee taking place on or after February 1, 2020, or be a spelling champion whose application for participation in the SNSB’s self-sponsorship program has received final approval by the SNSB.

(10) The speller, upon qualifying for the 2020 SNSB national finals, must submit to the SNSB a completed Champion Bio Form, a Certification of Eligibility Form, a signed Appearance Consent and Release Form, and a photo. The speller will notify the SNSB — at least 24 hours prior to the first day of the SNSB national finals — if any of the statements made on the Certification of Eligibility Form are no longer true or require updating. The speller’s sponsor will provide access to the necessary forms.

(11) The speller must not have any first-, second- or third-degree relatives (i.e., sibling, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, half-sibling, first cousin or great-grandparent) who are current employees of The E.W. Scripps Company.

The SNSB may disqualify prior to or during competition any speller who is not in compliance with any of its eligibility requirements; and it may — at any time between the conclusion of the 2020 SNSB national finals and April 30,

2021 — require any speller who is found to have not been in compliance with any of the eligibility requirements to forfeit the prizes, rank and other benefits accorded to the speller as a result of participation in the 2020 SNSB national finals.

**2. Format:** A local spelling bee is conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells one word or answers one vocabulary item in each round — except in the case of a written, multiple choice or online test. The spelling bee may be conducted orally or in writing or in a manner that is a combination of the two. If, however, the spelling bee officials specify an oral format, the speller may request a written format only as specified in the term of Rule 4: Special needs.

**3. Word list:** Local spelling bee officials are responsible for selecting the word lists for use in their spelling bees and are encouraged to select word lists generated by the SNSB that are dated 2020. These word lists include many words that appear in the current edition of two study resources — the School Spelling Bee Study List and Words of the Champions. Also, these word lists end with a section of words that do not appear in the aforementioned study resources and are for use near the end of a local spelling bee, if the local bee officials determine that their use in the spelling bee is warranted. All words appearing on 2020 SNSB word lists are entries in Merriam-Webster Unabridged, the official dictionary of the SNSB, available at <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com/>. Merriam-Webster Unabridged is the final authority and sole source for the spelling of words; the primary source used to craft the pronunciations, definitions and language origins for the SNSB word lists; and the only authority to be consulted by spelling bee officials, as well as the sole source used during the spelling bee to verify the information in 2020 SNSB word lists. Some alternate pronunciations appearing in 2020 SNSB word lists may have been drawn from Merriam-Webster print publications because the SNSB deemed the information helpful to the speller.

**4. Special needs:** Local spelling bee officials will strive to provide accommodation for spellers who have physical challenges. All requests for spelling bee officials to accommodate special needs involving sight, hearing, speech or movement should be directed to spelling bee officials well in advance of the spelling bee date. The spelling bee judges have discretionary power to amend oral and/or written spelling requirements on a case-by-case basis for spellers with diagnosed medical conditions involving sight, hearing, speech or movement.

**5. Pronouncer's role:** The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in 2020 SNSB word lists.

#### In Oral Spelling Rounds:

**Homonyms:** If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word.

**Speller's requests:** The pronouncer responds to the speller's requests for a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin and alternate pronunciation(s) as listed in the competition word list produced by the SNSB. The pronouncer does not entertain root word questions, requests for alternate definitions or requests for slower pronunciation.

**Pronouncer's sense of helpfulness:** The pronouncer may offer word information — without the speller having requested the information — if the pronouncer senses that the information is helpful and the information is presented in the entry for the word in a 2020 SNSB word list.

#### In Oral Vocabulary Rounds:

**Procedure:** The pronouncer reads aloud the vocabulary item and both options (A) and (B), but does not indicate which is correct.

**Homonyms:** If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is in question by spelling the word aloud.

**Speller's requests:** The pronouncer responds to the speller's requests for the question and/or answer options to be repeated. The pronouncer may also provide the spelling of the word in question.

**6. Judges' role:** The judges uphold the rules and determine whether or not words are spelled correctly or vocabulary items are answered correctly. They also render final decisions on appeals in accordance with Rule 11. They are in complete control of the competition and their decision is final on all questions.

**Interaction with the speller:** Because seeing the speller's lip movements may be critical in detecting misunderstandings or misspellings, the judges encourage spellers to face them when pronouncing and spelling the word.

**Notice of rules:** The judges ensure that all spellers and audience members are given an opportunity to receive a complete copy of the rules prior to the start of the spelling bee.

**Misunderstandings:** The judges participate in the exchange of information between the speller and pronouncer if they feel that clarification is needed. Also, the judges listen carefully to the speller's pronunciation of the word; and, if they sense that the speller has misunderstood the word, the judges work with the speller and pronouncer until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word. While the judges are responsible for attempting to detect a speller's misunderstanding, it is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until

an error has been made. The judges are not responsible for the speller's misunderstanding.

Pronouncer errors: The judges compare the pronouncer's pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the judges feel that the pronouncer's pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the diacritical markings, the judges direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.

Disqualifications for reasons other than error: The judges will disqualify a speller (1) who refuses a request to start spelling or to provide an answer to a vocabulary item; (2) who does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word or question; (3) who does not comply with the eligibility requirements; (4) who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct; (5) who, in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered; (6) who, in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds; or (7) who, in the process of providing an answer in an oral vocabulary round, provides a blend of correct and incorrect information. (For example: If in answering the question, "What is porridge made from? A. fur, or B. grain," the speller provides as an answer either "A. grain" or "B. fur.").

Speller activities that do not merit disqualification: The judges may not disqualify a speller (1) for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it; (2) for asking a question; or (3) for noting or failing to note the capitalization of a word, the presence of a diacritical mark, the presence of a hyphen or other form of punctuation, or spacing between words in an open compound.

**7. Speller's role:** In a spelling round, the speller makes an effort to face the judges and pronounce the word for the judges before spelling it and after spelling it. The speller *while facing the judges* makes an effort to utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, provide the language(s) of origin, and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations as listed on the pronouncer's competition word list produced by the SNSB.

In an oral vocabulary round, a speller may answer the item by providing (1) the letter associated with the chosen answer, (2) the chosen answer or (3) both. If the correct answer is identified by (1) associated letter alone *or* (2) by answer alone *or* (3) by both correct letter and correct answer, the speller is correct.

For example: If the speller is offered the question, "What is porridge made from? A. fur, or B. grain," each of the following methods of answering is correct: "B," "grain," or "B. grain."

**8. Correction of a misspelling:** The pronouncer and judges will not ask the speller to correct another speller's misspelling, even in end-of-bee circumstances.

**9. Errors:** Upon providing an incorrect spelling of a word or an incorrect answer to a vocabulary item, the speller immediately drops out of the competition, except as provided in Rule 10.

#### **10. End-of-bee procedure:**

If all spellers in a round misspell or answer vocabulary items incorrectly: If none of the spellers remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly or answers a vocabulary item correctly during that round, all remain in the competition and a new spelling round begins.

Ties: All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place. After the champion has been determined, spelling bee officials may opt to conduct tiebreakers (of their own design) if tiebreakers are necessary for the awarding of prizes or the determination of qualifying spellers for the next level of competition.

If only one speller in a round spells correctly or answers a vocabulary item correctly:

If only one speller spells correctly in a round, a new one-word spelling round begins and the speller is given an opportunity to spell a word on the list (anticipated championship word). If the speller succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated championship word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion.

Example: In Round 12 there are four spellers. Spellers 6 and 21 misspell. Speller 30 spells correctly. Speller 42 misspells. So, Speller 30 is the only speller in the round to spell correctly. Speller 30 begins Round 13 — a one-word round — and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 30 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.

Example: Two spellers spell in Round 10. Speller 14 misspells. Speller 25 spells correctly. Speller 25 begins Round 11 — a one-word round — and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 25 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.

Example: Two spellers spell in Round 16. Speller 3 spells correctly. Speller 9 misspells. Speller 3 begins Round 17 — a one-word round — and is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 3 correctly spells the anticipated championship word and is declared champion.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** If a speller misspells the anticipated championship word in a one-word round: A *new* spelling round begins with ALL the spellers who participated in the previous round. These spellers spell in their original order.

Example: In Round 8 there are three spellers. Speller 12 spells correctly and Spellers 23 and 37 misspell. Round 9 — a one-word round — begins, and Speller 12 is offered the anticipated championship word. Speller 12 misspells the anticipated championship word. Round 10 begins and includes Spellers 12, 23 and 37. The rules prescribe that spellers 12, 23 and 37 spell in their original order; so Speller 12 gets the next word on the list even though Speller 12 misspelled the previous word on the list. Round 10 is not complete until all three spellers have spelled.

**Tip:** Spelling bee officials are encouraged to designate a record keeper or judge to track the progress of spellers throughout the rounds. The record keeper's information will be helpful in preventing end-of-bee confusion. Teachers may access a recordkeeping sheet by logging into [spellingbee.com](http://spellingbee.com) and selecting Classroom or School Spelling Bee, then Competition Guides.

**11. Appeals:** Provided that the appellant adheres to the Time and Manner Requirements specified herein, the judges will review appeals and render decisions on the following five grounds:

A. The speller correctly spelled the word but was eliminated for misspelling it; failing to say the word before or after spelling it; failing to indicate capitalization, hyphen, spaces or diacritical marks; or incorrectly indicating capitalization, hyphen, spaces or diacritical marks.

Judges: Do your records or an audio or video recording indicate that the speller offered the correct letters in the correct order and never changed the order of letters?

If yes, reinstate the speller even if the speller failed to say the word before or after spelling, or failed to indicate or incorrectly indicated capitalization, hyphen, spaces or diacritical marks.

If no, deny the appeal.

B. The speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word in question.

Judges: Did the pronouncer provide a definition? Refer to Rule 5.

If no, reinstate the speller.

If yes, deny the appeal.

C. In an oral vocabulary round, the speller correctly identified an answer matching the definition of a homonym of the word.

Judges: Did the pronouncer fail to spell the word? Refer to Rule 5.

If yes, reinstate the speller.

If no, deny the appeal.

D. The speller correctly spelled an alternate spelling of the word as listed in Merriam-Webster Unabridged (1) whose pronunciation is identical to the word in question, (2) whose definition is identical to the word in question, and (3) that is clearly identified as a standard variant of the word in question.

Judges: Check Merriam-Webster Unabridged online.

If all three criteria are met, reinstate the speller.

If fewer than three criteria are met, deny the appeal.

Also, note that spellings having temporal labels (such as archaic, obsolete), stylistic labels (such as substandard, nonstandard), or regional labels (such as North, Midland, Irish) will not be accepted as correct.

E. The officials did not adhere to Rule 10, the End-of-Bee procedure, or Rule 8.

Judges: Carefully examine Rules 8 and 10.

If you erred and the competition is still under way, reinstate the speller.

If you erred and the competition has concluded, contact the spelling bee coordinator for the next level of spelling bee for authorization to send both your declared champion and the speller (or spellers) affected by the error to the next level of competition.

If you did not err, deny the appeal.

**Invalid grounds for reinstatement:** The judges will not entertain appeals on the following grounds:

- The pronouncer allegedly mispronounced the word.
- The pronouncer offered pronunciations and/or word information that the speller did not request, and the unrequested information contributed to the misspelling.
- One or all Bee officials indicated to the speller that the speller was pronouncing the word correctly, but the speller's spelling indicates that the speller wasn't pronouncing it correctly.
- One or all Bee officials did not inform the speller before spelling that the speller's pronunciation was incorrect and/or that the speller was misunderstanding the word, and this inaction contributed to the misspelling.
- The speller offered a correct spelling as indicated in a dictionary other than Merriam-Webster Unabridged or other online or print sources.
- The pronouncer did not answer a root word question or provide the correct root word.
- The pronouncer did not honor the speller's request to slow down the pronunciation of the word, break the word's pronunciation into syllables, or provide an alternate definition or sentence.

**Time and Manner Requirements:** A written appeal must be hand-delivered to the designated official (usually the spelling bee coordinator/director) indicating the speller's name, the name and contact information of the person filing the appeal, the relationship of the person filing the appeal to the speller (must be a parent, guardian, teacher or principal of the speller), the word in question, and the grounds for reinstatement. (See Grounds A-E herein.) The deadline for delivering an appeal is before the speller affected would have received their next word had they stayed in the spelling bee. To minimize disruptions, however, effort should be made to deliver an appeal by the end of the round in which the speller was eliminated. When five or fewer spellers remain, the written appeal requirement is suspended, and an oral appeal must be made before the speller would have received their next word had they stayed in the spelling bee. While the competition is in session, individuals who have filed appeals may not directly approach the judges unless explicit permission to approach the judges has been given. The judges will contact the speller if they decide to reinstate the speller. To minimize disruption to the pace of the spelling bee and the concentration of the spellers, the judges are under no obligation to stop the spelling bee to discuss with the speller's parent(s), legal guardian or teacher a denied appeal.











28. **ramparts**            \ 'ram.pɑ:rts \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word was formed in French from a Latin-derived element and an element that passed from Latin to Old Provençal to French.
- plural noun
- things that fortify, defend or secure against attack or intrusion : protective barriers.
- The baron's castle was protected from the invading army by strong **ramparts**.*
29. *Say to the speller "This word has a homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- garnet**                    \ 'gɑ:rnət \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from a Latin-derived French word that then became English.
- noun
- [Has homonym: garnett.]
- a brittle mineral usually red in color and occurring mainly in crystals and used as a semiprecious stone and as an abrasive.
- Arabella asked the jeweler to suggest a setting for the **garnet** she inherited from her great-aunt.*
30. *Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- amino**                    \ ə'mi:ni(,)nə \  
                                  [ \ 'amə.nə \; nonstandard pron(s):  
                                  \ ə'mi(,)nə \ ]
- This word is from a word that consists of a part that went from Egyptian to Greek to Latin plus a combining form that went from Latin to French to English.
- adjective
- [Could be confused with imino.]
- relating to or containing the group NH<sub>2</sub> or a substituted group NHR or NR<sub>2</sub> united to a radical other than an acid radical.
- The **amino** groups present in a compound determine what type of protein is formed.*
31. *Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- barograph**            \ 'bɑ:rə.graf \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word consists of a Greek part plus a part that went from Greek to Latin to French.
- noun
- [Could be confused with paragraph.]
- an automatic instrument for recording variations of atmospheric pressure : a self-registering barometer.
- The weather station in Antarctica was supplied with a thermometer, a weather vane and a **barograph**.*

32. *Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- teak**                    \ 'tēk \
- [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from a Malayalam word that passed to Portuguese.
- noun
- [Could be confused with deke.]
- the hard, strong, durable, yellowish brown wood of a tall East Indian timber tree now planted in West Africa and tropical America for its wood, which is highly resistant to insect attack and to warping and is used especially for shipbuilding.
- Andrea bought a table and chairs for her patio that were made of aged **teak**.*
33. **luggage**            \ 'læɡɪj \
- [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word consists of a part that probably went from Scandinavian to English plus a combining form that went from Greek-derived Latin to French to English.
- noun
- suitcases, traveling bags and other articles containing a traveler’s belongings : baggage.
- Harriet works as part of the airport’s security team that checks **luggage**.*
34. *Say to the speller “This word has a homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- tarry**                    \ 'tarē \
- [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is originally English.
- verb
- [Has homonym: terry.]
- to delay or be tardy in acting or doing : procrastinate, dawdle.
- Martha reminded Daisy not to **tarry** on her way to school.*
35. **throttle**            \ 'θrätl \
- [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is originally English.
- verb
- to impede or check the breathing of by any means : choke.
- After he cheated at Go Fish for the ninth time in a row, Natsu valiantly fought the urge to **throttle** her little brother.*
36. *Say to the speller “This word has a homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- brayed**                    \ 'brād \
- [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- Originally of Celtic origin, this word passed from Latin to French to English.
- verb
- [Has homonym: braid.]
- uttered a characteristic loud harsh cry — used of a donkey.
- When the donkey **brayed**, it sounded like it was saying “eeyore” — hence the name of the donkey from Winnie-the-Pooh.*



43. **barrier**            \ 'bær̩ər \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word went from French to English.  
noun  
a material object or set of objects that separates, keeps apart or demarcates.  
*When Cecily had to share a bed with her little sister while on vacation, she set up a pillow **barrier** down the middle to avoid any stray kicks.*
44. **gratingly**            \ 'grāɪŋl̩ \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word consists of a part that went from Germanic-derived French to English plus an English combining form.  
adverb  
with a harsh or irritating sound or effect.  
*The sound of the fingernails being scraped down the board fell **gratingly** on our ears.*
45. *Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- sheriff**                    \ 'sher̩əf \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is originally English.  
noun  
[Could be confused with sharif/sherif/shereef/shareef.]  
an important county officer in the United States who is usually elected by the people of the county as the chief executive officer of the courts of superior jurisdiction therein.  
*Heading for the county line at top speed, Joe tried to get out of the jurisdiction of the **sheriff** who was tailing his car.*
46. *Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- Angus**                    \ 'aŋgəs \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from a Scottish geographical name.  
noun  
[Could be confused with Anguis.]  
any of a breed of black or red hornless beef cattle originating in Scotland.  
*Black **Angus**, which originated in Scotland, is the most common breed of beef cattle in the United States.*
47. **scoundrel**            \ 'skaʊndrəl \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is of unknown origin.  
noun  
a bold selfish person who has very low ethical standards.  
*The actor said that he enjoyed playing a feisty, unscrupulous **scoundrel** in the movie.*
48. **Harlem**                \ 'hɑrləm \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is a U.S. geographical name.  
geographical entry  
section of New York City in northern Manhattan bordering on the Harlem and East rivers; a center of African American culture especially in the 1920s.  
*Originally a Dutch village, **Harlem** was formally organized in 1658 and named after a village in the Netherlands.*

49.	<b>pamphlet</b>	\ 'pam(p)flət \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from a Latin literary name plus an English combining form.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>an unbound publication other than a periodical having fewer than a fixed number (as 50, 80, 100) of pages.</p> <p><i>Mr. Nelson has published a <b>pamphlet</b> opposing the income tax.</i></p>
50.	<b>depot</b>	\ 'dē(,)pō \ [ \ 'de(,)pō \ ]	<p>This word came from French, which formed it from a Latin word.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>a bus station.</p> <p><i>Andrew took a bus to the <b>depot</b> and then walked the rest of the way to school.</i></p>
51.	<b>trifecta</b>	\ trī'fektə \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word consists of two originally Latin elements.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>a betting pool in which the bettor must pick the first, second and third finishers in a specified race or contest in the correct order.</p> <p><i>Grandmother likes to bet the <b>trifecta</b> on her weekly visit to the racetrack.</i></p>
52.	<b>hazmat</b>	\ 'haz.mat \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word consists of a part that went from Arabic to French to English plus a part that went from Latin to French to English.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>a shipped substance (as radioactive, flammable, explosive or poisonous substances) that would be a danger to life or to the environment if released without necessary precautions being taken.</p> <p><i>The truck bore the familiar symbol that indicated it was carrying a <b>hazmat</b>.</i></p>
53.	<b>Antarctic</b>	\ ant'ärktik \ [ \ ant'ärtik \ ]	<p>This word is from a Greek word that passed through Latin before becoming English.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>relating to the South Pole or the region near it.</p> <p><i>Amiyah's stamp collection included a complete collection of the stamps of the French <b>Antarctic</b> Territory.</i></p>

At the end of your round, would you like to include a round of oral vocabulary questions in your competition? Turn to page 84 to begin an intermediate vocabulary round. Prior to beginning a vocabulary round, note the spelling word last offered so that you may return to the next spelling word on the list when you conclude the vocabulary round.

54. **turbulent** \ 'tɜrbjələnt \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word is from Latin.  
 adjective  
 characterized by great agitation or tumult : stormy, tempestuous.  
*Faith's stomach turned as the jetliner she was flying on went straight through some **turbulent** air.*
55. *Say to the speller "This word has a homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*  
**appetite** \ 'apɹətīt \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word is from a Latin word that passed to French and then English.  
 noun  
 [Has homonym: apatite.]  
 one of the instinctive desires necessary to keep up organic life; especially : the immediate desire to eat when food is present.  
*The smell of apple pie baking in the oven whetted Gevonte's **appetite**.*
56. **ignoble** \ ig'nōbəl \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word is from Latin.  
 adjective  
 displaying, motivated by or characterized by baseness or meanness : despicable.  
*Someone snapped a picture of the pop quiz and posted it online for the **ignoble** purpose of cheating.*
57. *Say to the speller "This word has a near-homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*  
**vortices** \ 'vɔrtəsēz \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word is from Latin.  
 plural noun  
 [Has near-homonym: vertices.]  
 rapidly spiraling columns of air : tornadoes.  
*The **vortices** lined up, almost as if in a column formation, as they barreled across the corn fields of southern Nebraska.*
58. *Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*  
**archives** \ 'är.kīvz \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word went from Greek to Latin to French.  
 plural noun  
 [Could be confused with Argives.]  
 repositories for any documents or other materials especially of historical value (as diaries, photographs, private correspondence).  
*The National **Archives** in Washington, D.C., houses many significant documents such as the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.*
59. **palindrome** \ 'palən.drōm \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word is from Greek.  
 noun  
 a word, verse or sentence that reads the same backward or forward.  
*Ada struggled to contrive a **palindrome** centered around her own name.*



66. **sojourner**      \ 'sɔːjərnər \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from a Latin-derived French word that then became English.
- noun
- one that stays as a temporary resident.
- Even though he had lived there for 25 years, Russell knew he was regarded as a **sojourner** by the neighbors.*
67. **colossal**      \ kə'ləsəl \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from an originally Greek word that passed into Latin and then French.
- adjective
- characterized by extremely great bulk, extent, force, strength, power or effect, approaching the stupendous or incredible.
- The new stadium is a **colossal** building seating about a hundred thousand people.*
68. **Himalayan**      \ .hɪm'elāən \  
[ \ hi'mälēən \ ]
- This word is from an Asian geographical name plus an English combining form.
- noun
- any of a breed of domestic cats developed by crossing the Persian and Siamese.
- A **Himalayan** won “Best of Show” in the local cat competition this winter.*
69. **diaphoresis**      \ .dɪəfə'rēsəs \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from Greek.
- noun
- perspiration; especially : profuse perspiration.
- The patient’s fever was followed by respiratory distress and **diaphoresis**.*
70. **calamitous**      \ kə'lamətəs \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word went from Latin to French to English.
- adjective
- marked by distress, affliction or disaster.
- Dean tried to forget the **calamitous** events of the day and get some much-needed sleep.*
71. *Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- kurta**      \ 'kɜrtə \  
[ \ 'kürtä \ ]
- This word came to English from Hindi and Urdu, which both took it from an originally Persian word.
- noun
- [Could be confused with kurti (not in Merriam-Webster Unabridged). Has uncommon variant not in Merriam-Webster Unabridged: khurta.]
- a long, loose-fitting, collarless shirt of a style originating in India.
- Prakash wore a hand-embroidered **kurta** to the party.*







87. **golden**                    \ 'gōldən \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is originally English.  
adjective  
relating to or consisting of a very malleable, ductile, yellow metallic element that is sometimes used commercially (as in coins or jewelry) either alone or alloyed with other metals.  
*Amy's grandma gave her a **golden** locket for her 18th birthday.*
88. *Say to the speller "This word has a near-homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- savvy**                            \ 'savē \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from a word that went from Latin to Spanish.  
adjective  
[Has near-homonym: saphie/saffi.]  
characterized by shrewdness and practical grasp.  
*Rosario is a **savvy** shopper who never pays full price for anything.*
89. **eggplant**                    \ 'eg.plant \  
  [ \ 'āg.plant \ ]
- This word consists of a part that came from Old Norse to English plus a part that came from Latin to English.  
noun  
the usually smooth edible purple, white, or occasionally yellow or striped fruit of a perennial herb that is widely cultivated.  
*Zoe always orders **eggplant** Parmesan when she eats at an Italian restaurant.*
90. **relish**                        \ 'relish \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word went from Latin to French to English.  
noun  
a savory pickled or preserved food prepared from mixed chopped vegetables or fruits and usually served with meat.  
*Cameron put ketchup, onions and pickle **relish** on his hot dog.*
91. **shrimp**                        \ 'shrimp \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is originally English.  
noun  
any of numerous relatively small decapod crustaceans having a slender elongated body with a laterally compressed abdomen, long legs, and a long, more or less spiny rostrum.  
*Milo was dismayed there was just one fried **shrimp** left on his plate.*
92. *Say to the speller "This word has a near-homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- purse**                            \ 'pərs \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- Originally Greek, this word came to English from Latin.  
noun  
[Has near-homonym: purrs.]  
a receptacle (as a handbag, pocketbook or wallet) used to carry money and often other small objects about with one.  
*Kathleen tossed her sunglasses and keys into her **purse** and headed out the door.*







110. **treadmill** \ 'tred.mil \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is formed from an originally English word plus a word that went from Latin to Germanic to English.
- noun
- a device operated by walking on an endless belt for the purpose of exercise.
- Walking on a **treadmill** in his apartment was convenient, but Sam preferred to get his exercise outside, weather permitting.*
111. **crayon** \ 'krā.än \  
[ \ 'krāən \ ]
- This word came from French, which formed it from a Latin word.
- noun
- a stick of colored wax composition used for drawing and coloring.
- Charlotte selected a light blue **crayon** to color the sky in her drawing.*
112. *Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- cowlick** \ 'kaü.lik \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is made up of two originally English parts.
- noun
- [Could be confused with colic.]
- a lock or tuft of hair growing in a different direction from the rest of the hair and usually turned up or awry.
- Unless she used a lot of hair gel and coaxing, Queenie’s **cowlick** caused her bangs to stick straight up.*
113. *Say to the speller “This word has a near-homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- turnip** \ 'tərnəp \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is probably from a part that went from Greek to Latin to English plus a part that went from Latin to English.
- noun
- [Has near-homonym: turnup.]
- either of two biennial herbs having thick edible roots eaten as a vegetable or used for feeding stock.
- In his kitchen, James separated the **turnip** roots from the **turnip** greens so that he could use them in different dishes.*
114. **permafrost** \ 'pərməfröst \  
[ \ 'pərməfräst \ ]
- This word consists of a Latin-derived part plus an originally English part.
- noun
- a permanently frozen layer of soil, subsoil or other deposit sometimes including the bedrock and occurring at variable depth below the earth’s surface in arctic or subarctic regions.
- During the Alaska gold rush, miners had to dig through the **permafrost** to reach the gold.*
115. **abandon** \ ə'bandən \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- Before becoming English, this word was formed in French from Latin and Germanic elements.
- verb
- to give up by leaving, withdrawing, ceasing to inhabit, to keep or to operate often because unable to withstand threatening dangers or encroachments.
- The approaching army forced many people to **abandon** their homes.*











144.	<b>inclusion</b>	\ in'klüzhən \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from Latin. noun the state of being taken in as a part of a larger group, class or principle. <i>The <b>inclusion</b> of a written essay dismayed students who were hoping the test would be entirely multiple choice.</i>
145.	<b>balderdash</b>	\ 'böldər.dash \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is of unknown origin. noun nonsense : empty talk or discourse. <i>The diners, realizing that the people at the next table were eavesdropping, launched into <b>balderdash</b>.</i>
146.	<b>aromatherapy</b>	\ ə.rōmə'therəpē \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word was formed in French from originally Greek parts. noun inhalation or bodily application (as by massage) of fragrant essential oils (as from flowers and fruits) for therapeutic purposes. <i><b>Aromatherapy</b> is part of Miriam's nightly bedtime ritual.</i>
147.	<b>cattail</b>	\ 'kat.tāl \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from an English phrase formed from a word that came from perhaps Hamitic-derived Latin to French plus an English word. noun a tall marsh plant with long flat leaves used for making mats and chair seats. <i>Jasmine eyed the mats made of <b>cattail</b> leaves with admiration on her trip to the farmer's market.</i>
148.	<b>mangrove</b>	\ 'mɑŋ.grōv \ [ \ 'mɑn.grōv \ ]	The first part of this word is from a word that probably went from Taino to Spanish to Portuguese and the second part is originally English. noun a tropical maritime tree or shrub bearing fruit that germinates while still on the tree and having numerous prop roots that ultimately form an impenetrable mass and play an important role in land building. <i>Because of its sensitivity to cold temperatures, in the U.S. the <b>mangrove</b> is only found in parts of Florida, southern Louisiana and Texas.</i>
149.	<b>conductor</b>	\ kən'dəktər \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from Latin, but went through French before becoming English. noun a person that directs an orchestra, chorus or other group of musical performers. <i>The humble <b>conductor</b> was embarrassed by the standing ovation after the concert.</i>
150.	<b>prejudice</b>	\ 'prejdəs \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word passed from Latin to French to English. noun an irrational attitude of hostility directed against an individual, a group, a race or their supposed characteristics. <i>Clara is well-known in her city as a social activist who fights injustices and racial <b>prejudice</b>.</i>

151. **caravan** \ 'karə,van \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from a word that went from Persian to Italian.  
noun  
a group of vehicles proceeding or traveling together in a file.  
*The group will leave Los Angeles in a cross-country **caravan** to Washington, where they will rally for better treatment of immigrant workers.*
152. **flabbergast** \ 'flabər,gast \  
[ \ 'flabər,gäst \ ]  
This word's origin is unknown.  
verb  
to overwhelm with shock, surprise or wonder (as by extraordinary statements or unexpected news).  
*Barb expected that the news of her election win would **flabbergast** her parents.*
153. *Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*  
**arborio** \ är'börēō \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from an Italian geographical name.  
noun  
[Could be confused with arboreal.]  
a short-grain rice that has a creamy texture when cooked and is typically used in risotto.  
*The chef slowly added wine and broth to the **arborio** to make a simple risotto.*
154. *Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*  
**corgi** \ 'körgē \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Welsh.  
noun  
[Could be confused with corky.]  
a small dog of either of two breeds of Welsh origin that has short legs, a long back and a foxy head with upright ears.  
*The Pembroke Welsh **corgi** in the photo with Queen Elizabeth II is one of several such dogs she has owned.*
155. *Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*  
**fabulist** \ 'fabyələst \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word was formed in French from an originally Latin word and a French combining form.  
noun  
[Could be confused with fabulous.]  
a creator or writer of fables, especially those that carry a moral lesson.  
*Aesop is frequently called "history's greatest **fabulist**."*

At the end of your round, would you like to include a round of oral vocabulary questions in your competition? Turn to page 88 to begin an advanced vocabulary round. Prior to beginning a vocabulary round, note the spelling word last offered so that you may return to the next spelling word on the list when you conclude the vocabulary round.





168. **marooned** \ mə'ruːnd \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word comes to English from Spanish, which formed it from a Latin word.
- verb
- abandoned on the shore on a desolate island or coast and left to one's fate.
- The pirates **marooned** Jack and Elizabeth on a small desert island.*
169. *Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- turret** \ 'tʌrət \  
[ \ 'tʌrət \ ]
- Originally Greek, this word passed from Latin to French before becoming English.
- noun
- [Could be confused with turrid.]
- an ornamental tower at one of the angles of a larger structure.
- The princess escaped from the **turret** by sliding down a rope of knotted bed sheets.*
170. **marsupial** \ mɑː'sʊpiəl \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is formed from a Greek-derived Latin word plus an English combining form.
- noun
- any of an order of mammals having a pouch for carrying the young and including kangaroos, wombats, bandicoots and opossums.
- Perhaps the best-known example of a **marsupial** is a female kangaroo with a large joey in her pouch.*
171. **extinguish** \ ik'stiŋɡwɪʃ \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- The first part of this word is from an originally Latin word, and the second part is from English.
- verb
- to cause (as a fire or light) to cease burning.
- During the Fourth of July festivities, it was Georgia's responsibility to **extinguish** any embers or fires after the fireworks had been set off.*
172. *Say to the speller "This word has a homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- gauntlet** \ 'ɡɒntlət \  
[ \ 'ɡæntlət \ ]
- This word is from a French word formed from a Scandinavian word plus a French combining form.
- noun
- [Has homonym gantlet/gauntlet.]
- a reinforced glove used with armor during the Middle Ages and evolving with such armor to become in the 14th century a covering of small minutely articulated steel plates for the whole back of the hand, fingers and thumb.
- The museum added to its medieval armor display a 14th-century **gauntlet** bequeathed by Dr. Jefferson.*
173. **verbiage** \ 'vɜːbiːj \  
[ \ 'vɜːbij \ ]
- This word came from French, which formed it from Latin-derived elements.
- noun
- manner of expressing oneself in words.
- The captain taught the sergeants how to write messages and orders in concise military **verbiage**.*









198. **sapphire** \ 'sa.fīr \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from an originally Sanskrit word that went through Hebrew, Greek, Latin and French before becoming English.
- noun
- a precious stone of transparent rich blue corundum of great value.
- To celebrate her September birthday, Kate bought herself a necklace with two diamonds and a single **sapphire**.*
199. *Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- foosball** \ 'fūz.bəl \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word probably came from a German word which was based on an English word.
- noun
- [Could be confused with fuzz ball.]
- a table game resembling soccer in which the ball is moved by manipulating rods to which small figures of players are attached — called also “table soccer.”
- Gabe challenged Dmitri to a game of **foosball** at the arcade.*
200. **gladiatorial** \ ˌgladēə'tōrēəl \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is formed from a probably Celtic word that passed into Latin plus English and Latin combining forms.
- adjective
- of, relating to or suggestive of combatants equipped with some means of attack and defense and pitted against another or against a wild animal for the entertainment of the public (as in the arena of the ancient Roman amphitheater).
- Mona was amused when her brothers’ fight over the last pork chop at dinner began to resemble **gladiatorial** combat.*
201. **disproportionate** \ .disprō'pōrshənət \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word was formed in English from Latin-derived elements.
- adjective
- not properly or pleasingly regulated with respect to relative size.
- Gordon thought the new mansion looked **disproportionate** next to the older ranch houses in his neighborhood.*
202. **attributive** \ ə'tribyətiv \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from Latin-derived French.
- adjective
- functioning as an adjective.
- In the phrase “hair clip,” the word “hair” is **attributive**.*
203. **jeepney** \ 'jēpnē \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from an English word plus a part from an English word of unknown origin.
- noun
- a small Philippine passenger bus converted from a small multipurpose motor vehicle equipped with four-wheel drive.
- David found a job driving tourists to and from the airport in a **jeepney**.*





217. **rialto**                    \ rē'altō \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from an Italian geographical name.  
noun  
the theater district of a town.  
*Tracy and Eric strolled through the **rialto**, stopping to look at posters for several current productions.*
218. **tyrannical**                \ tər'ranikəl \  
  [ \ tī'ranikəl \ ]
- This word is from a word that went from Greek to Latin plus an English combining form.  
adjective  
given to oppressive, harsh, unjust or arbitrary behavior or exercise of power.  
*Ron's mother's behavior seems **tyrannical** to him at times.*
219. *Say to the speller "This word has a near-homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- duress**                        \ də'res \  
  [ \ dū'res, dyū'res, dyü'res \ ]
- Originally Latin, this word went through French before becoming English.  
noun  
[Has near-homonym: dress.]  
stringent compulsion by threat of danger, hardship or retribution.  
*Emily and Theo only clean their rooms under considerable **duress**.*
220. *The speller should not be disqualified based upon noting or failing to note punctuation or spacing within the following word. The speller should be judged based upon uttering the correct sequence of letters in the correct order.*
- ipso facto**                    \ ,ip(,)sō'fak(,)tō \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This phrase is from Latin.  
adverb  
by the fact or act itself : as the result of the mere act or fact : by the very nature of the case.  
*The prince is the oldest son and **ipso facto** will inherit the crown and become king.*
221. **barracks**                    \ 'barəks \  
  [ \ 'bariks \ ]
- This word is originally from Catalan and went through French before becoming English.  
plural noun  
an often permanent building or set of buildings used especially for lodging soldiers stationed at a military post.  
*Sebastian lived in the **barracks** while attending basic training.*
222. **rhinestone**                \ 'rɪn.stōn \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from a western European geographical name plus a word that is originally English.  
noun  
a colorless imitation stone of high luster made of glass, paste or gem quartz.  
*Tahani spent hours searching for the single **rhinestone** that had fallen out of her belt buckle.*

223. Say to the speller “This word has a near-homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.
- condemn**                    \ kən'dem \  
    [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word came to English from Latin through French.  
 verb  
 [Has near-homonym: contemn.]  
 to pronounce as ill-advised, reprehensible, wrong or evil typically after definitive judgment and without reservation or mitigation.  
*Often custom justifies an action that years later it will **condemn**.*
224. **vicinity**                    \ və'sinətē \  
    [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from French, which formed it from Latin.  
 noun  
 a surrounding area or district : the approximate area of the location or position of something : neighborhood.  
*In the **vicinity** of Wanda’s apartment there are four coffee shops and three bookstores.*
225. **umpirage**                    \ 'əm.pīrij \  
    [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is formed from a word that went from Latin to French to English plus an English combining form.  
 noun  
 an act or instance of deciding in the capacity of one having authority to arbitrate and make a final decision.  
*Daniel Webster disputed the **umpirage** of any state that tried to settle the validity of laws of Congress.*
226. Say to the speller “This word has a near-homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.
- consortium**                    \ kən'sōrshəm \  
    [ \ kən'sōrshēm, kən'sōrtēm \ ]
- This word is from Latin.  
 noun  
 [Has near-homonym: consortion.]  
 an organization of persons having a common interest : fellowship, club.  
*Several organizations joined the **consortium** that fosters inclusion of individuals with disabilities.*
227. **beguile**                    \ bi'gīl \  
    [ \ bē'gīl \ ]
- This word was formed in English from an English element plus an element that went from Germanic to French to English.  
 verb  
 to gain the notice of by the use of wiles : charm.  
*Students who thought they would **beguile** Mrs. Albert into giving them a good grade were grossly mistaken.*
228. **epistolary**                    \ ə'pīstə.lerē \  
    [ \ ē'pīstə.lerē \ ]
- This word is from a word that went from Latin to French.  
 adjective  
 written in the form of a series of letters.  
*Austen read four **epistolary** novels last summer.*

229.	<b>froufrou</b>	\ 'frü.frü \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from an imitative French word. noun abundant or excessive ornamentation (as ruffles, beading, flowers, veiling) in women's clothing. <i>While the slippers covered with <b>froufrou</b> were beautiful, they were too impractical for everyday wear.</i>
230.	<b>marionette</b>	\ .marēə'net \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from French, which probably formed it from a biblical name. noun a puppet moved by strings or by hand (as in a puppet show). <i>The performance with the <b>marionette</b> was the hit of the show.</i>
231.	<b>discomfiture</b>	\ də'skəmfə.chür \ [ \ də'skəmfəchər \ ]	This word is from Latin-derived French. noun the state of being disconcerted or abashed : confusion : embarrassment. <i>The bright lights added to Verne's <b>discomfiture</b> as he stood behind the lectern.</i>
232.	<b>erstwhile</b>	\ 'ərst.wīl \ [ \ 'ərst.hwīl \ ]	This word consists of two originally English elements. adjective having been at some past time : onetime, sometime or former. <i>Claude is suing his <b>erstwhile</b> friend and business partner for the collapse of their corporation.</i>
233.	<b>truncate</b>	\ 'trəŋ.kāt \ [ \ 'trən.kāt \ ]	This word is from Latin. verb to abbreviate by or as if by cutting off : lop. <i>Ella learned how to use JavaScript to <b>truncate</b> a text string to a fixed length.</i>
234.	<b>peacenik</b>	\ 'pē.snik \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is made up of one element that went from Latin to French to English and another that went from Ukrainian and Polish to Yiddish. noun an opponent of war; specifically : one who participates in antiwar demonstrations. <i>Brenna made Grandma promise to look for the scrapbook with pictures of her days as a <b>peacenik</b> in the 1970s.</i>
235.	<b>fiduciary</b>	\ fə'düshē.erē \ [ \ fə'dyüshē.erē, fɪ'düshē.erē, fə'düshərə \ ]	This word is from Latin. adjective of, having to do with or involving a confidence or trust. <i>A <b>fiduciary</b> relationship exists between a caregiver and the person receiving care.</i>







253. Say to the speller “This word has a homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.

**monocle** \ 'mānəkəl \      Formed in Latin from a Greek part and Latin part, this word passed into French before becoming English.

[no alternate pronunciation(s)]

noun

[Has homonyms: monacal, monachal.]

an eyeglass for one eye.

*The villain wore a tuxedo, a top hat and a **monocle**.*

254. **ebullience** \ ə'būlyən(t)s \

[ \ ē'būlyən(t)s, e'būlyən(t)s, ə'balyən(t)s, ə'būlēən(t)s \ ]

This word is from Latin.

noun

high spirits : enthusiasm, exuberance.

*Molly loved the **ebullience** with which her puppy greeted her every time she came home.*

255. **tapioca** \ .tapē'ōkə \

[no alternate pronunciation(s)]

This word is from an originally Tupi word that came to English from Portuguese and Spanish.

noun

a preparation of cassava starch processed into granular, flake, pellet or flour form and used as a thickening agent in liquid foods, as pudding, soups or juicy pies.

*Sam’s recipe for blueberry pie calls for two tablespoons of quick-cooking **tapioca**.*

256. The speller should not be disqualified based upon noting or failing to note punctuation or spacing within the following word. The speller should be judged based upon uttering the correct sequence of letters in the correct order.

**en masse** \ ən'mas \

[ \ ä'mas, en'mas, in'mas \ ]

This phrase is from French.

adverb

in a body or group.

*When the last bell rang students rushed **en masse** to their lockers.*

257. Say to the speller “This word has a near-homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.

**iridescent** \ irə'des'nt \

[no alternate pronunciation(s)]

This word is formed from a part that passed from Greek to Latin plus a Latin-derived English combining form.

adjective

[Has near-homonym: iridescence.]

showing colors like those of the rainbow especially in shifting patterns of hues and shades that vary with a change of light or point of view.

*Louis C. Tiffany developed a famous type of **iridescent** glass.*

258. **tupelo** \ 'tūpə.lō \

[ \ 'tyüpə.lō \ ]

This word is from Creek, a Native American language.

noun

a tree of a small genus of American and Asiatic trees having flowers with overlapping petals and a single or two-cleft style.

*Five species of **tupelo** are native to eastern North America.*

259.	<b>quadriceps</b>	\ 'kwädrəseps \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is formed from originally Latin elements. noun the great extensor muscle of the front of the thigh divided above into four parts which unite in a single tendon. <i>The soccer player was taken out of the game when he strained his right <b>quadriceps</b>.</i>
260.	<b>tableau</b>	\ ta'blō \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from French, which formed it from a Latin word. noun [Plural form can be pronounced identically.] a static depiction usually presented on a stage with participants in appropriate costume. <i>The second act of the play ended with a <b>tableau</b> featuring the cast gathered around a kitchen table.</i>
261.	<b>millivolt</b>	\ 'milə.vōlt \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	The first part of this word went from Latin to French, and the second part is from an Italian name. noun one thousandth of a volt. <i>Monique needed a conversion table to convert Celsius to <b>millivolt</b> and back again.</i>
262.	<b>thwartwise</b>	\ 'thwōrt.wīz \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	The first part of this word is from an originally Old Norse word that then passed into English, and the second part is originally English. adverb [Pronunciation is from m-w.com.] in a transverse manner : crosswise. <i>During the ice storm, a huge tree fell <b>thwartwise</b> across the path to the lake.</i>
263.	<b>quorum</b>	\ 'kwōrəm \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word came to English from Latin. noun the number of the members of an organized body of persons (as a legislature) that when duly assembled is legally competent to transact business in the absence of the other members. <i>There were not enough members present at the school board meeting to constitute a <b>quorum</b>, so no voting took place.</i>
264.	<b>irrevocable</b>	\ i'revəkəbəl \ [ \ i'rə'vekəbəl; nonstandard pron(s): i'rə'vōkəbəl, i.rē'vōkəbəl \ ]	This word came to English from Latin. adjective incapable of being recalled or taken back : unalterable. <i>The king pronounced an <b>irrevocable</b> sentence of exile on the traitorous knight.</i>
265.	<b>detritus</b>	\ də'trītəs \ [ \ də'etrītəs \ ]	This word came from French, which formed it from a Latin word. noun a product of disintegration or wearing away : fragment or fragmentary material. <i>The aerial photo of Don's ranch shows a fan of <b>detritus</b> at the mouth of the gulch.</i>

266.	<b>jambalaya</b>	\ ˌjæmbəˈliːə \ [ \ ˌjæmbəˈläyə \ ]	<p>This word is from a word that went from Provençal to Louisiana French.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>rice cooked with ham, sausage, chicken, shrimp, or oysters and usually tomato and seasoned with herbs.</p> <p><i>No trip to New Orleans would be complete without sampling a bowl of spicy <b>jambalaya</b>.</i></p>
267.	<b>turmeric</b>	\ ˈtɜrmərik \ [ \ ˈtʊmərik, ˈtyūmərik \ ]	<p>This word comes from French, which formed it from Latin elements.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>[Has similarly pronounced variant tumeric.]</p> <p>the cleaned, boiled, sun-dried and usually pulverized rhizome of an East Indian perennial herb used as a coloring agent or condiment.</p> <p><i><b>Turmeric</b> is used in preparing many savory dishes in South and Southeast Asian cuisine.</i></p>
268.	<b>irascible</b>	\ ɪˈrasəbəl \ [ \ ɪˈrasəbel \ ]	<p>This word came from French, which took it from Latin.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>marked by hot temper and resentful anger.</p> <p><i>After breaking his leg, Lennie became so <b>irascible</b> that his friends stopped visiting him.</i></p>
269.	<b>rutabaga</b>	\ ˌrʊtəˈbɑɡə \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from Swedish, which formed it from Old Norse.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>a turnip commonly with a very large yellowish root that is used as food both for stock and for human beings.</p> <p><i>Barbara prepared a side dish of <b>rutabaga</b> for Thanksgiving dinner, much to the delight of most of her family.</i></p>
270.	<b>sommelier</b>	\ ˌsɒməˈliːə \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from a word that went from Latin to Provençal to French.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>a waiter in a restaurant who has charge of wines and their service.</p> <p><i>The young <b>sommelier</b> is working to improve her knowledge of northern Italian wines.</i></p>
271.	<b>Yeatsian</b>	\ ˈjɑːtsiən \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from an Irish name plus an English combining form.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>of or relating to William Butler Yeats or his poetic style or influence.</p> <p><i>The young poet published a series of <b>Yeatsian</b> poems expressing the romance of history and nature.</i></p>
272.	<b>pseudonymous</b>	\ süˈdʌnəməs \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from Greek.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>bearing or using a false or fictitious name.</p> <p><i>The <b>pseudonymous</b> author of The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham is really named Theodor Geisel.</i></p>

273.	<b>fanfaronade</b>	\ .fan.farə'nād \ [ \ .fan.farə'nād \ ]	<p>This word is from an originally Spanish word that passed into French.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>empty boasting : ostentatious or gaudy display.</p> <p><i>Mr. Wilson's <b>fanfaronade</b> impressed no one.</i></p>
274.	<b>pruritus</b>	\ prū'rītəs \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from Latin.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>localized or generalized itching due to irritation of sensory nerve endings from organic or psychogenic causes.</p> <p><i>Alice rubbed an ointment on her arm to relieve her <b>pruritus</b>.</i></p>
275.	<b>clematis</b>	\ 'klemətəs \ [ \ klə'matəs, klə'mātəs, klə'mätəs \ ]	<p>This word is from a Greek word that passed into Latin.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>a plant of a genus of opposite-leaved slightly woody vines or upright herbs having elongate plumose styles.</p> <p><i>The <b>clematis</b> is cultivated in North America for its attractive flowers.</i></p>
276.	<b>damson</b>	\ 'damzən \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from a Syrian geographical name that went through Latin to English.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>the fruit of a rather small compact plum that has small dark purple fruits and is native to Asia Minor but now cultivated throughout much of the world.</p> <p><i>Becky added some <b>damson</b> to her fruit salad for a little exotic flair.</i></p>
277.	<b>dactylic</b>	\ dak'tilik \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from a word that went from Greek to Latin to English.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>of or consisting of a metrical foot of three syllables, the first stressed and the last two unstressed, or, in classical prosody, the first long and the last two short.</p> <p><i>Homer's two epics are written in <b>dactylic</b> hexameter.</i></p>
278.	<b>ecclesiology</b>	\ ə.klĕzĕ'äləjĕ \ [ \ e.klĕzĕ'äləjĕ \ ]	<p>This word consists of originally Greek elements.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>the study of the doctrine of the church.</p> <p><i>The ordination of women has been a controversial topic in <b>ecclesiology</b>.</i></p>
279.	<b>tarpaulin</b>	\ tär'pələn \ [ \ 'tärpələn \ ]	<p>This word was formed from an originally English part plus a part that went from Greek to Latin to English.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>[Merriam-Webster Unabridged has only audio pronunciation. Written pronunciations are from m-w.com.]</p> <p>a piece or sheet of waterproofed canvas or other waterproof material used for covering or protecting goods, vehicles, athletic fields or other exposed objects.</p> <p><i>When rain began during the second inning of the baseball game, the ground crew rolled out the <b>tarpaulin</b> to protect the field.</i></p>





292. **rubefacient** \ ˌrübəˈfāshənt \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word is from Latin.  
 noun  
 a substance for external application that produces redness of the skin.  
*Isopropyl alcohol is a well-known rubefacient found in many medicine cabinets.*
293. Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.
- escritoire** \ ˈɛskrət̩wäɹ \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word came from French, which formed it from a Latin word.  
 noun  
 [Could be confused with variant scrutoire.]  
 a piece of furniture resembling a bureau and providing a writing surface or desk area behind a hinged front that drops down.  
*Perry bought an 18th-century escritoire at the auction house.*
294. **vermicelli** \ ˌvɜrməˈcheɪl̩ \  
 [ \ ˌvɜrməˈsel̩ \ ]  
 This word came from Italian, which formed it from a Latin word.  
 noun  
 pasta made in long thin solid strings smaller in diameter than spaghetti.  
*The restaurant served its Cincinnati-style chili over vermicelli.*
295. Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.
- wickiup** \ ˈwik̩ē.əp \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 This word is from Sac, Fox and Kickapoo, which are North American dialects.  
 noun  
 [Could be confused with wickup.]  
 a hut used by nomadic American Indians of the arid regions of the western and southwestern United States that is typically elliptical in form and has a rough frame covered with reed mats, grass or brushwood.  
*As they constructed the wickiup, the reenactors were careful to leave a hole in the top for campfire smoke to escape.*
296. The following word has two correct spellings. Either one of the two spellings listed below should be accepted as correct; the speller only needs to provide one correct spelling.
- imbroglio or embroglio** \ imˈbrɔ̩ljō \  
 [no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
 Originally Latin, this word passed through French and Italian before becoming English.  
 noun  
 [Alternate spelling can be pronounced with em at start of word.]  
 an intricate or complicated situation.  
*A veteran ambassador was sent in to navigate the imbroglio of the international treaty negotiation.*

297. **rococo**                    \ rə'kɒ.kɒ \  
  [ \ rɒ'kɒ.kɒ, 'rɒkəkɒ \ ]
- This word is from Latin-derived French.  
adjective  
excessively ornate or intricate.  
*The **rococo** decor of Griselda's new house attracts sightseers who want to take pictures.*
298. **wakame**                    \ wə'kɑme \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from Japanese.  
noun  
an edible brown seaweed native to Asia.  
*Most **wakame** sold commercially in Japan is cultivated on seaweed farms.*
299. **ichthyology**                \ ,ɪkθē'æləjē \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is formed from Greek parts.  
noun  
a branch of zoology that deals with fishes.  
*Mr. Pout didn't need a degree in **ichthyology** to see that he had caught a dead branch.*
300. *The speller should not be disqualified based upon noting or failing to note punctuation or spacing within the following word. The speller should be judged based upon uttering the correct sequence of letters in the correct order.*
- Reykjavík**                    \ 'rækyə.vɪk \  
  [ \ 'rækyə.vēk \ ]
- This word is an Icelandic geographical name.  
geographical entry  
a city, port on the Atlantic and capital of Iceland.  
***Reykjavík** is the world's northernmost capital city of a sovereign state.*



305. **magpie**                    \ 'mæg.pī \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from an English name plus a part that went from Latin to French to English.
- noun
- any of numerous birds that are closely related to the jays but have a long graduated tail and usually black-and-white plumage.
- The **magpie** was so big and screeched so loudly that the cat scurried under the porch.*
306. **haven**                    \ 'hāvən \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is originally English.
- noun
- a place of safety : shelter, asylum.
- Rick enjoyed the library as a quiet **haven** away from the noise of the classroom.*
307. *Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- fizzled**                    \ 'fɪzəld \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is probably from an alteration of an English word plus an English combining form.
- verb
- [Could be confused with fissled, fistled.]
- failed or petered out especially after a promising start.
- Karen thought the big present under the tree might be the bike she asked for, but her hopes **fizzled** when she saw that it was actually for her dog, Petunia.*
308. *Say to the speller “This word has a homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- tangy**                    \ 'tɑŋē \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- The first part of this word is from a Scandinavian word that came into English, and the second part is an English combining form.
- adjective
- [Has homonym: tangi.]
- having or suggestive of a sharp distinctive flavor that lingers on the tongue.
- Terence puckered his lips in reaction to the bite of **tangy** frozen yogurt.*
309. **saltine**                    \ sɒl'tēn \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is originally English.
- noun
- a thin crisp cracker sprinkled with salt.
- Symphony placed a slice of cheese on the **saltine** and took a bite.*
310. *Say to the speller “This word has a homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- plural**                    \ 'plʊərəl \  
  [ \ 'plʊərəl \ ]
- This word is from a Latin word that became French and then English.
- adjective
- [Has homonyms: plurel, pleural.]
- belonging to a class of grammatical forms used to denote more than one.
- “Geese” is the **plural** form of the word “goose.”*

311. **reclining**            \ ri'klīniŋ \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from Latin.  
adjective  
bending or curving gradually back from the perpendicular.  
*The **reclining** figure in the painting bore a resemblance to Elmer Fudd.*
312. **worthwhile**            \ 'wɜrth'wīl \  
                                  [ \ 'wɜrth'hwīl \ ]
- This word consists of two originally English parts.  
adjective  
of sufficient value to repay the effort.  
*Volunteering is a **worthwhile** and much-appreciated activity.*
313. **elsewhere**            \ 'el(t)s.wer \  
                                  [ \ 'el(t)s.hwɜr \ ]
- This word is originally English.  
adverb  
[Merriam-Webster Unabridged has audio pronunciation only. Written pronunciation is from m-w.com.]  
in or to some or any other place.  
*Because the service was bad at the restaurant, Loubna and her mother went **elsewhere** for dinner.*
314. **ability**                \ ə'bilətē \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word went from Latin to French to English.  
noun  
physical, mental or legal power to perform : skill.  
*The performer at the Renaissance Festival dazzled the audience with her **ability** to balance on a stack of seven chairs while juggling lit torches.*
315. **eventual**              \ ə'venchəwəl \  
                                  [ \ ə'venchəwəl \ ]
- This word is made up of an originally Latin part plus an English combining form.  
adjective  
taking place, arising or becoming something at an unspecified later time : ultimately resulting.  
*The **eventual** champion of the spelling bee paved the way for her victory with hours and hours of hard work.*
316. *Say to the speller “This word has a homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- vial**                        \ 'vī(ə)l \  
                                  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is originally English.  
noun  
[Has homonym: vile.]  
a small vessel for liquids.  
*Tamika keeps a **vial** of fragrant essential oil at her desk.*
317. *Say to the speller “This word has a homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- gala**                        \ 'gālə \  
                                  [ \ 'galə, 'gālə \ ]
- This word is originally French but passed through Italian before becoming English.  
adjective  
[Has homonym: galla/Galla.]  
belonging to, deserving or attended by festivities.  
*The king declared that there would be parades through every city in the land and a **gala** carnival of three days’ duration.*

318.	<b>impunity</b>	\ ɒm'pyünətē \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from Latin. noun exemption or freedom from punishment, harm or loss. <i>Mr. Starks allowed anglers to trespass on his land with <b>impunity</b>.</i>
319.	<b>permit</b>	\ pər'mit \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	The first part of this word is from a Spanish word, and the second part is an originally English word. verb to consent to expressly or formally. <i>Talia's mom does not <b>permit</b> her to stay out past eight on school nights.</i>
320.	<b>rugby</b>	\ 'rəgbē \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from an English name. noun an amateur football game which is played with an oval ball by teams of 15 players each and in which kicking, dribbling, lateral passing, tackling and the scrum are featured. <i>Trevor's favorite sport to watch is <b>rugby</b>, but he's never actually played it.</i>
321.	<b>confirm</b>	\ kən'fɔrm \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word went from Latin to French to English. verb to make valid by formal assent. <i>The office of the President of the United States presents choices for members of the Cabinet for the Senate to <b>confirm</b>.</i>
322.	<b>fortress</b>	\ 'fɔrtɹəs \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	Originally Latin, this word went through French before becoming English. noun a fortified place : a stronghold. <i>The soldiers began to feel safe once they were deep within the <b>fortress</b>.</i>
323.	<i>Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.</i>		
	<b>derive</b>	\ dɛ'rɪv \ [ \ dē'rɪv \ ]	This word went from Latin to French to English. verb [Could be confused with deride.] to take or receive especially from a source. <i>Claudia was surprised to learn that both rivers that flow through her town <b>derive</b> from the same mountain stream.</i>
324.	<b>curable</b>	\ 'kyūrəbəl \ [ \ 'kyərəbəl \ ]	This word is from Latin. adjective capable of being remedied. <i>Jenna's disease, though rare, is <b>curable</b> and she will be healthy soon.</i>





337. **supersonic** \.süpər'sänik\  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Latin.  
adjective  
moving or capable of moving at speeds from one to five times the speed of sound in air.  
*Myrna says that when she grows up, she wants to fly **supersonic** aircraft.*
338. **digit** \'dijət\  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Latin.  
noun  
one of the divisions in which the limbs of amphibians and all higher vertebrates terminate numbering typically five on each limb but often reduced : a finger or toe.  
*Greta pointed to each of her digits as she counted to 20 and then to each **digit** on her dolls to count higher.*
339. *Say to the speller “This word has a near-homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- flamingo** \flə'mɪŋgō\  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Portuguese, which took it from Spanish, which probably took it from Provençal, which formed it from originally Latin and Germanic elements.  
noun  
[Has near-homonym: flamenco.]  
any of several aquatic birds that have remarkably long legs and neck, webbed feet, and usually rosy-white plumage.  
*Tom and his buddies placed a giant plastic pink **flamingo** on the roof of the school.*
340. **television** \'telə.vɪzhən\  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
The first part of this word is originally Greek, and the second part is originally Latin.  
noun  
[Merriam-Webster Unabridged has only audio pronunciation. Written pronunciation is from m-w.com.]  
a medium of communication whereby images and sounds are transmitted.  
*Due to the quality of programming, many critics have argued that we are currently in the “Golden Age” of **television**.*
341. *Say to the speller “This word has a homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*
- radius** \'rædēəs\  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Latin.  
noun  
[Has homonym: radious.]  
a line segment extending from the center of a circle or sphere to the curve or surface.  
*The diameter of a circle is twice as long as the **radius**.*



348.	<b>Nordic</b>	\ 'nɔrdɪk \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word came to English from French, which formed it from an originally English word and an originally Latin part.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>of or relating to the Germanic peoples of northern Europe.</p> <p><i>The <b>Nordic</b> languages, especially Old Norse, borrowed important words from Anglo-Saxon.</i></p>
349.	<b>economics</b>	\ ˌekə'nämɪks \ [ \ ˌɛkə'nämɪks \ ]	<p>This word is from an originally Greek word that passed into Latin.</p> <p>plural noun</p> <p>a social science that studies the production, distribution and consumption of commodities.</p> <p><i>Melissa signed up for <b>economics</b> in hopes that she would learn more about what causes a recession.</i></p>
350.	<p><i>Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.</i></p>		
	<b>aggressive</b>	\ ə'grɛsɪv \ [ \ ə'grɛsɪv \ ]	<p>The first part of this word is from an originally Latin word, and the second part is an English combining form.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>[Could be confused with egressive.]</p> <p>marked by combative readiness or bold determination.</p> <p><i>Tired of being tailgated by the <b>aggressive</b> driver, Mindy pulled over to let him pass.</i></p>
351.	<b>irregular</b>	\ ɪ'regylər \ [ \ ɪ'regylər \ ]	<p>This word went from Latin to French before becoming English.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>failing to accord with what is usual, proper, accepted or right.</p> <p><i>The cardiologist’s evaluation failed to explain Sara’s <b>irregular</b> heartbeat.</i></p>
352.	<b>chieftain</b>	\ 'tʃiːftən \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from a Latin word that became French and then English.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>the leader of a group of people.</p> <p><i>After a decisive battle, the Gallic <b>chieftain</b> surrendered to Caesar.</i></p>
353.	<b>watercress</b>	\ 'wɔtər.kres \ [ \ 'wätər.kres \ ]	<p>This word is originally English.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>[Merriam-Webster Unabridged has audio pronunciation only. Written pronunciations are from m-w.com.]</p> <p>a white-flowered plant growing in water with leaves that are used in salads.</p> <p><i>Jesse added some <b>watercress</b> and carrots to the tossed salad.</i></p>
354.	<b>barbaric</b>	\ bär'barɪk \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from an originally Greek word that passed into Latin and then English.</p> <p>adjective</p> <p>of, relating to or characteristic of individuals who lack culture or refinement.</p> <p><i>Harold was embarrassed by his little brother’s <b>barbaric</b> table manners.</i></p>

355. **serfdom**                    \ 'sɜːfdəm \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- The first part of the word is from Latin-derived French and the second part is originally English.
- noun
- the quality, state or fact of being a person belonging to the lower class especially in different feudal systems, bound to the soil and separable from the lord's land by manumission only.
- Mom quickly corrected Elliot, explaining that having to do his chores was not, in fact, tantamount to **serfdom**.*
356. Say to the speller "This word has a near-homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.
- revelry**                        \ 'revəlriː \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word consists of a part that went from Latin to French to English plus an English combining form.
- noun
- [Has near-homonym: reveille.]
- boisterous merrymaking.
- The **revelry** at campaign headquarters began after the arrival of the winning candidate.*
357. Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.
- voracious**                    \ vó'rāshəs \  
  [ \ və'rāshəs \ ]
- The first part of this word is from Latin and the second part is an English combining form.
- adjective
- [Could be confused with feracious.]
- excessively eager : avid, insatiable.
- Chloe was a **voracious** reader who visited her local library nearly every day in the summer.*
358. **marinara**                    \ .marə'narə \  
  [ \ .merə'nerə, .merə'närə \ ]
- This word is from Italian.
- adjective
- made with tomatoes, onion, garlic and spices.
- Taylor served fresh linguine with homemade **marinara** sauce to his grateful dinner guests.*
359. **profiteer**                    \ ,prəfə'ti(ə)r \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word consists of a part that went from Latin to French to English plus an English combining form.
- noun
- one who makes what is considered an unreasonable gain especially on the sale of essential goods during times of emergency.
- When the price of bottled water skyrocketed after the hurricane, many accused the grocer of being a **profiteer**.*
360. **reputable**                    \ .repyətəbəl \  
  [no alternate pronunciation(s)]
- This word is from two originally Latin elements.
- adjective
- enjoying the state of being widely and favorably known, spoken of or esteemed.
- Kunal wanted to find a **reputable** lawyer to handle his claim.*

361.	<b>abdomen</b>	\ 'abdəmən \ [ \ ab'dōmən \ ]	This word is from an originally Latin word that then became French.  noun the part of the body, excepting the back, between the thorax and the pelvis : the belly. <i>Clara's workout included exercises to strengthen the muscles of her <b>abdomen</b>.</i>
362.	<b>compulsory</b>	\ kəm'pəlsərē \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from Latin.  adjective demanded, directed or designated by authority. <i>Attending an orientation weekend is <b>compulsory</b> for all new students at the boarding school.</i>
363.	<i>The following word has two correct spellings. Either one of the two spellings listed below should be accepted as correct; the speller only needs to provide one correct spelling.</i>		
	<b>papaya or</b>	\ pə'pīyə \	This word is from Spanish, which took it from a Native American language.
	<b>papaia</b>	[ \ pə'päyə \ ]	noun the large oblong yellow fruit of a tree native to tropical America that has a pulpy flesh and thick rind and is eaten raw, boiled, pickled or preserved. <i>Christopher Columbus reportedly called the <b>papaya</b> the "Fruit of the Angels."</i>
364.	<b>tantamount</b>	\ 'tantə.maunt \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from a Latin word that became French and then Anglo-French before becoming English.  adjective equivalent in value, significance or effect. <i>Because of the country's inflation rate, Jamie's meager raise was <b>tantamount</b> to a pay reduction.</i>
365.	<b>obnoxious</b>	\ əb'näkshəs \ [ \ əb'näkshəs \ ]	This word is from Latin.  adjective odiously or disgustingly objectionable : highly offensive. <i>Tim's behavior at the birthday party was so <b>obnoxious</b> that no one wanted to associate with him.</i>
366.	<b>contagion</b>	\ kən'tājən \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from Latin.  noun the process by which disease is transmitted from one person to another by direct or indirect means. <i>Frequent hand washing has been found to be effective in disrupting the <b>contagion</b> of the common cold.</i>
367.	<b>utterance</b>	\ 'ətərən(t)s \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from a French word that then became English.  noun something that is spoken. <i>Smoke and clamor accompanied every <b>utterance</b> of the Great Oz.</i>

368. Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.

368.	<b>netizen</b>	\ 'netəzən \ [ \ 'netəsən \ ]	<p>This word is a blend of an English word and an Anglo-French word.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>[Could be confused with medicine.]</p> <p>an active participant in the online community.</p> <p><i>An outspoken <b>netizen</b>, Kelly never went more than 20 minutes without updating her Facebook status.</i></p>
369.	<b>tablature</b>	\ 'tablə.chù(ə)r \ [ \ 'tablə.chər \ ]	<p>This word came from French, which formed it from a Latin word.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>an early instrumental musical notation indicating by letters and other signs the string, fret, key or finger to be used instead of the tone to be sounded.</p> <p><i>David, who could not read <b>tablature</b>, had to convert the finger chart to staff notation.</i></p>
370.	<b>memoir</b>	\ 'mem.wär \ [ \ 'mem.wör \ ]	<p>This word came from French, which formed it from a Latin word.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>[Merriam-Webster Unabridged provides only an audio pronunciation. Written pronunciation is from m-w.com.]</p> <p>a history or narrative composed from or stressing personal experience and acquaintance with the events, scenes or persons described.</p> <p><i>In his <b>memoir</b>, the general related many details of the decisive battle.</i></p>
371.	<b>haggis</b>	\ 'hagəs \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is originally English.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>a pudding especially popular in Scotland made of the heart, liver, and lungs of a sheep or a calf minced with suet, onions, oatmeal, and seasonings and boiled in the stomach of the animal.</p> <p><i>Alexandra is eager to try <b>haggis</b> when she visits Scotland next summer.</i></p>
372.	<b>luminaria</b>	\ .lümə'nerēə \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from Latin.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>a traditional Mexican Christmas lantern consisting of a brown paper bag with a lighted candle inside; also : a similar lantern of various colors that is displayed with others.</p> <p><i>Mateo helped his mother put a rock in each <b>luminaria</b> to keep it in place.</i></p>
373.	<b>arthritis</b>	\ är'thrītəs \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	<p>This word is from an originally Greek word that passed into Latin before becoming English.</p> <p>noun</p> <p>inflammation of one or more joints due to infectious, metabolic or constitutional causes.</p> <p><i>Theo’s <b>arthritis</b> keeps him from playing tennis.</i></p>

374. **transmogrify** \ tran(t)'smägrəfī \  
[ \ tranz'mägrəfī \ ]  
This word is of unknown origin.  
verb  
to change or alter in form, appearance or structure often with grotesque or humorous effect.  
*Some characters in the sci-fi novel **transmogrify** into zombies.*
375. **formicide** \ 'förməsīd \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is made up of a Latin part and an English combining form that went from Latin to French to English.  
noun  
a substance used for destroying ants.  
*Upon noticing the hill of red ants in the backyard, Melissa went to the hardware store to purchase a **formicide**.*
376. **mancala** \ män'kälə \  
[ \ 'mänkälə \ ]  
This word is from Arabic.  
noun  
any of various games from Africa and southern Asia that involve competition between two players in the distribution of pieces into rows of holes or pockets in a board.  
*It is thought that there may be over 200 versions of **mancala** played throughout the world.*
377. **glosseme** \ 'gläsēm \  
[ \ 'glösēm \ ]  
This word is made up of a Greek-derived Latin element plus a Greek-derived element.  
noun  
the smallest unit (as a word, a stem, a grammatical element, an intonation or an order of words) that signals a meaning in a language.  
*Theoretically, a **glosseme** is to language as an atom is to matter.*
378. *Say to the speller “This word could be confused with a similar word.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*  
**cachinnate** \ 'kakənāt \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Latin.  
verb  
[Could be confused with catkinate.]  
to laugh usually loudly or convulsively.  
*Some funny movies make people **cachinnate** until they cry.*
379. **echinacea** \ .ekə'nāshēə \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Greek.  
noun  
the dried rhizome and roots of either of two herbs formerly used in the treatment of ulcers and boils.  
*Some people take **echinacea** to prevent colds and flu.*
380. **ganglion** \ 'gæŋglēən \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from an originally Greek word that passed into Latin.  
noun  
a mass of nerve tissue containing nerve cells.  
*Each **ganglion** controls certain activities and is more or less independent of the others.*

381. *The following word has two correct spellings. Either one of the two spellings listed below should be accepted as correct; the speller only needs to provide one correct spelling.*
- katabasis** or            \ kə'tabəsəs \            This word is from Greek.  
**catabasis**                    [no alternate pronunciation(s)]            noun  
a going or marching down or back : retreat; especially : a military retreat.  
*The **katabasis** of the battalion was inevitable after severe losses.*
382. *Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- The following word has two correct spellings. Either one of the two spellings listed below should be accepted as correct; the speller only needs to provide one correct spelling.*
- fenugreek** or            \ 'fenyə.grēk \            Originally Latin, this word passed to English from French.  
**foenugreek**                    [ \ 'fenə.grēk \ ]            noun  
[Could be confused with similarly pronounced variant foennugreek.]  
a leguminous annual Asiatic herb with aromatic seeds used in making curry, imitation vanilla flavoring and some veterinary medicines.  
*Leonard always adds **fenugreek** leaves to his curry.*
383. **nene**                    \ 'nā.nā \            This word is from a Hawaiian word.  
   [no alternate pronunciation(s)]            noun  
a nearly extinct goose of the Hawaiian islands that inhabits waterless uplands and feeds on berries and vegetation.  
*The toes of the **nene**, the state bird of Hawaii, are longer than those of other geese and are probably an adaptation for climbing on rocky lava flows.*
384. **legerdemain**            \ .ləjərdə'mān \            This word is from a French word.  
   [no alternate pronunciation(s)]            noun  
the practice of magic or trickery usually involving adroitness and cleverness in accomplishing a deception.  
*The performer's **legerdemain** included making a coworker disappear from an enclosure.*
385. *Say to the speller "This word has a near-homonym." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.*
- rhodium**                    \ 'rōdēəm \            This word is from an originally Greek word that passed into Latin.  
   [no alternate pronunciation(s)]            noun  
[Has near-homonym: Rhodian.]  
a bright white hard ductile metallic element that is used chiefly in alloys with platinum and in plating for reflectors, electrical contacts or jewelry.  
***Rhodium** is among the rarest and most valuable precious metals and is used to plate white gold and platinum to give it a reflective, white surface.*

386.	<b>lachrymose</b>	\ 'lɑkrə.mōs \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from Latin. adjective fit to bring tears : dismal or melancholy. <i>The <b>lachrymose</b> play ruined Samantha's weekend.</i>
387.	<b>terrigenous</b>	\ tə'rijənəs \ [ \ te'rijənəs \ ]	This word is from a Latin word plus a Latin-derived English combining form. adjective formed by the erosive action of rivers, tides and currents — used of an ocean bottom. <i>At the brink of the continental shelf, <b>terrigenous</b> deposits form and are eventually swept away.</i>
388.	<b>zoanthropy</b>	\ zō'an(t)θrəpē \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is made up of originally Greek parts. noun a mental illness in which a person believes himself or herself changed into an animal and acts like one. <i>The psychiatrist sought an effective treatment for his patient's persistent <b>zoanthropy</b>.</i>
389.	<b>pleonexia</b>	\ plēə'neksēə \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from Greek. noun avarice or covetousness. <i>The holy books of various religions warn uniformly against <b>pleonexia</b>.</i>
390.	<b>billiken</b>	\ 'biləkən \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is probably formed from a name plus an English combining form. noun a squat smiling comic figure used as a mascot. <i>The campus of Saint Louis University has a statue of its mascot, the <b>billiken</b>.</i>
391.	<i>Say to the speller "This word could be confused with a similar word." Next, say the word. Then, provide the word's part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller's questions, if any, about the word.</i>		
	<b>douceur</b>	\ dü'sər \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from Latin-derived French. noun [Could be confused with doozer.] a conciliatory gift : gratuity, present. <i>Mr. Wilson bought his neighbors a <b>douceur</b> in apology after his Dalmatian wreaked havoc upon their newly planted hydrangea bushes.</i>
392.	<b>Zoilus</b>	\ 'zōələs \ [no alternate pronunciation(s)]	This word is from a Greek name. noun a bitter and usually enviously carping critic : one given to unjust quibbling and faultfinding. <i>The chef dismissed the food critic's review as the ravings of a <b>Zoilus</b> who only wished he could be a chef himself.</i>

393. **acesodyne** \ ə'sesədīn \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Greek.  
adjective  
mitigating or relieving pain.  
*The patient was administered an **acesodyne** drug to relieve her back pain.*
394. **lebhaft** \ 'lāp.häft \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from an originally German word.  
adjective  
lively — used as a direction in music.  
*Ulrich intended his second cantata to be **lebhaft** throughout.*
395. *Say to the speller “This word has a near-homonym.” Next, say the word. Then, provide the word’s part of speech and definition. Finally, answer speller’s questions, if any, about the word.*  
**vanadic** \ və'nādīk \  
[ \ və'nadik \ ]  
This word is from the name of an Old Norse goddess plus an English combining form.  
adjective  
[Has near-homonym: venatic.]  
of, relating to or containing vanadium — used especially of compounds in which this element has a relatively higher valence than in vanadous compounds.  
***Vanadic oxide** is a yellowish red crystalline compound used in manufacturing glass.*
396. **quebrada** \ kə'brädə \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Spanish.  
noun  
a ravine; especially : one that is normally dry or nearly dry but is filled by a torrent during a rain.  
*The **quebrada** serves as a natural drain for mountain water.*
397. **Isthmian** \ 'ismēən \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Greek.  
adjective  
of or relating to the Isthmus of Corinth or the games anciently held there.  
*Pindar’s victory odes celebrate the victors in Olympic, Nemean, Pythian and **Isthmian** games.*
398. **macropodid** \ mə'kräpədəd \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is made up of Greek-derived Latin elements.  
adjective  
of or relating to a family of marsupial mammals comprising the kangaroos, wallabies and rat kangaroos that have long hind limbs and weakly developed forelimbs.  
***Macropodid** mammals subsist mostly on foliage of one kind or another.*
399. **hypoxemia** \ .hī.päk'sēmēə \  
[no alternate pronunciation(s)]  
This word is from Greek.  
noun  
deficient oxygenation of the blood.  
*At high altitudes many people experience **hypoxemia**.*

400. **japonaiserie**

\zhá.pónéz(ə)'rē\

[no alternate pronunciation(s)]

This word is from a French word.

noun

a style of art reflecting Japanese qualities or motifs.

*The restaurant's ambience was enhanced by the use of **japonaiserie**.*

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## Oral Vocabulary Round: Intermediate Level

*These 50 questions are based on words selected from the 2020 School Spelling Bee Study List.*

**Instructions:** Read aloud the word, the vocabulary question and both options (A) and (B), but do not indicate which option is correct. Respond to speller's requests for the question and/or answer options to be repeated. You may also provide the spelling of the word in question.

A speller may answer the question by providing:

- the letter associated with the chosen answer,
- the chosen answer or
- both.

For example: If the speller is offered the question, "What is porridge made from? A. fur, or B. grain," each of the following methods of answering is correct:

- "B,"
- "grain," or
- "B. grain."

1. **reply** \ri'pli\

*What does it mean to **reply**?*

- ✓ A. answer in words or writing
- B. try again

*Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.*

2. **manger** \'mānjər\

*A **manger** is a:*

- A. person who conducts or supervises
- ✓ B. trough for cattle feed

*Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.*

3. **brim** \'brim\

*A **brim** is:*

- ✓ A. the edge of a cup or bowl
- B. any of various leguminous shrubs

*Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.*

4. **snarl** \'snärl\

*What is a **snarl**?*

- A. a contrivance to catch an animal
- ✓ B. a tangle of hairs that is hard to unravel

*Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.*

5. **grub** \'grəb\

*Another word for **grub** is:*

- ✓ A. food
- B. cleanser

*Because the following word has a near-homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.*

6. **grits** \'grits\

***Grits** are:*

- ✓ A. grains such as maize or barley which have been hulled and ground
- B. small carnivorous mammals with grizzled fur and slender bodies

*Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.*

7. **jangled** \'jæŋgəld\

*If something **jangled** it:*

- A. shone brightly
- ✓ B. sounded harshly

8. **flustered** \'fləstərd\

*Another word for **flustered** is:*

- ✓ A. muddled
- B. relaxed

9. **adrift** \ ə'drift \

Something done **adrift** is done?

- A. with reassurance of the final outcome
- ✓ B. without controlled movement

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

10. **marinate** \ 'marə.nāt \

What does it mean to **marinate**?

- A. to roll or compress into a thin plate
- ✓ B. to steep meat, fish or vegetables in a brine

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

11. **punting** \ 'pʌntɪŋ \

If someone is **punting**, they are:

- ✓ A. kicking a ball before the ball dropped from the hands hits the ground
- B. preparing to dismount from a beam

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

12. **pardon** \ 'pɑrd'n \

A **pardon** is:

- ✓ A. forgiveness of a fault or offense
- B. a European crab often used as food

Because the following word has a homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

13. **levees** \ 'levēz \

**Levees** are:

- ✓ A. embankments designed to prevent flooding
- B. those who float in the air especially in seeming defiance of gravity

14. **disembark** \ .disəm'bärk \

What does it mean to **disembark**?

- ✓ A. leave or go ashore from a ship
- B. split into pieces or smash

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

15. **loppers** \ 'läpərz \

**Loppers** are:

- A. rooms or floors above another
- ✓ B. pruning shears

16. **heritage** \ 'herətɪj \

What is a **heritage**?

- A. the property brought to a husband by a wife according to feudal custom upon her marriage
- ✓ B. a legacy

17. **periodically** \ .pɪrē'ädɪklē \

If you do something **periodically**, you do it:

- A. with your eyes closed
- ✓ B. from time to time

18. **reluctant** \ ri'ləktənt \

Another word for **reluctant** is:

- ✓ A. unwilling
- B. amenable

19. **apprentice** \ ə'prentəs \

An **apprentice** is:

- ✓ A. a person who is in training to learn a trade from a skilled worker
- B. something added to a more important thing: an appendage

20. **hymnal** \ 'hɪmnəl \

A **hymnal** is:

- ✓ A. a collection of church songs
- B. an elaborately designed tapestry

21. **bayonet** \ .bāə'net \

A **bayonet** is:

- A. a large window projecting from the outer wall of a building
- ✓ B. a weapon

22. **prestigious** \ pre'stɪʃəs \

Another word for **prestigious** is:

- ✓ A. honored
- B. evocative

23. **intriguing** \ ɪn'trɛɡɪŋ \

Another word for **intriguing** is:

- ✓ A. fascinating
- B. appalling

Because the following word has a near-homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

24. **solace** \ 'säləs \

What is another word for **solace**?

- A. bluff
- ✓ B. console

25. **absorptive** \ əb'sɔrptɪv \

If something is described as **absorptive**, it is:

- ✓ A. characterized by assimilation
- B. able to pool on the surface of liquid

26. **tumultuous** \ tū'məlchəwəs \

Something **tumultuous** is:

- A. given to taking liberties
- ✓ B. characterized by commotion or change

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

27. **commodore** \ 'kämədór \

A **commodore** is:

- A. a reclining chair with a long seat, which can support the outstretched legs of a sitter
- ✓ B. an officer of the navy who typically ranks next below a rear admiral and above a captain

28. **proportionate** \ prə'pɔrshənət \

Something described as **proportionate** is:

- ✓ A. in balance or symmetry
- B. widely extended in scope or application

29. **nefarious** \ ni'ferəs \

Something **nefarious** is:

- ✓ A. detestable
- B. kidney-shaped

30. **steeplechasing** \ 'stēpəl.chāsiŋ \

What is **steeplechasing**?

- A. the institution whereby individuals are joined in marriage
- ✓ B. the sport of riding horses in races that involve jumping over barriers

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

31. **gorp** \ 'gɔrp \

**Gorp** is a:

- ✓ A. snack of high-energy foods
- B. large African antelope

32. **squadron** \ 'skwädrən \

A **squadron** is:

- ✓ A. a division of organization in the military
- B. a signal fire commonly on a hill, tower or pole

33. **thermohaline** \ ,θərmō'hā.lɪn \

If something is described as **thermohaline**, it:

- ✓ A. involves the joined effect of salinity and temperature
- B. consists of or resembles glass

34. **currycomb** \ 'kərē.kōm \

What is a **currycomb**?

- ✓ A. a tool for grooming horses
- B. a fragrant leaf

35. **emphatic** \ əm'fatɪk \

Something described as **emphatic**:

- ✓ A. commands notice by insistence or prominence
- B. is composed of elements drawn from various sources

36. **precariously** \ pri'kerēəslē \

If something is done **precariously**, it is done:

- A. in a frank manner
- ✓ B. in a manner marked by a lack of stability or security

37. **smelters** \ 'smeltərz \

**Smelters** are:

- ✓ A. furnace operators who melt ore
- B. specialists in equine hoof care

38. **denouncement** \də'naɪn(t)smənt \

What is a **denouncement**?

- ✓ A. the act of making known or declaring someone such as a culprit to people in command
- B. an act (spoken or written) declaring that something is surrendered or disowned

39. **jodhpurs** \ˈjɑːdpɜːz \

What are **jodhpurs**?

- ✓ A. pants for horseback riding
- B. fleshy coverings of the jaw

40. **divan** \dɪˈvæn \

What is a **divan**?

- ✓ A. a type of couch
- B. someone who guards an entrance

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

41. **proximo** \ˈprɑːksəˌmɔː \

Something described as **proximo** is:

- A. situated before
- ✓ B. of or taking place in the next month after the current one

Because the following word has a homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

42. **guerrilla** \gəˈrɪlə \

A **guerrilla** is:

- ✓ A. a member of an independent band engaged in predatory excursions during war
- B. an anthropoid lowland ape from western Africa

43. **tartaric** \tɑːrˈtɑːrɪk \

In which class would you most likely learn about something described as **tartaric**?

- ✓ A. chemistry
- B. English

44. **aspersions** \əˈspɜːrzhənz \

What are **aspersions**?

- A. acts of combining things at intervals
- ✓ B. slanderous expressions

45. **culminate** \ˈkʌlməˌneɪt \

What does it mean to **culminate**?

- ✓ A. reach a conclusive point
- B. select or separate out as inferior

46. **coltan** \ˈkɒl.tən \

**Coltan** is:

- A. the young of a camel
- ✓ B. an ore that is a mixture of columbite and tantalite

47. **dropsonde** \ˈdrɒp.səndə \

What is a **dropsonde**?

- A. a stereoscopic instrument for determining various eye defects
- ✓ B. a miniature radio transmitter dropped from a parachute

48. **visite** \vɪˈzɪt \

A **visite** is a type of:

- ✓ A. coat
- B. shoe

49. **satsuma** \sətˈsʊmə \

What is a **satsuma**?

- A. a form of wrestling popular in Japan
- ✓ B. a cultivated mandarin tree producing seedless fruit

Because the following word has a near-homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

50. **McIntosh** \ˈmɑːkən.təʃ \

A **McIntosh** is a type of:

- A. computer software
- ✓ B. apple

## Oral Vocabulary Round: Advanced Level

*These 50 questions are based on words selected from 2020 Words of the Champions*

**Instructions:** Read aloud the word, the vocabulary question and both options (A) and (B), but do not indicate which option is correct. Respond to speller's requests for the question and/or answer options to be repeated. You may also provide the spelling of the word in question.

A speller may answer the question by providing:

- the letter associated with the chosen answer,
- the chosen answer or
- both.

For example: If the speller is offered the question, "What is porridge made from? A. fur, or B. grain," each of the following methods of answering is correct:

- "B,"
- "grain,"
- or "B. grain."

*Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.*

1. **diadem** \ 'dī.ə.dəm \

A **diadem** is a type of:

- ✓ A. crown
- B. footnote abbreviation

*Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.*

2. **succinct** \ .sək'sɪŋ(k)t \

Something described as **succinct**:

- ✓ A. lacks needless words
- B. has the ability to suction

3. **juxtapose** \ 'jəkstə.pōz \

What does it mean to **juxtapose**?

- ✓ A. to place side by side
- B. to sit for a length of time for a portrait

4. **ufology** \ yü'fäləjē \

**Ufology** is the study of:

- A. birds' eggs
- ✓ B. unidentified flying objects

5. **cruciferous** \ krü'sifərəs \

Something described as **cruciferous**:

- A. is easily flammable
- ✓ B. belongs to the mustard family of plants

6. **bombastic** \ bäm'bastik \

Someone described as **bombastic** is:

- A. having the power to form or create
- ✓ B. pompous and verbose

7. **emulsify** \ ə'məlsə.fī \

What does it mean to **emulsify**?

- ✓ A. to combine two hard-to-mix liquids
- B. to deprive of masculine vigor or spirit

8. **raucous** \ 'rökəs \

Something described as **raucous** is:

- ✓ A. disorderly
- B. uncooked

*Because the following word has a homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.*

9. **queue** \ 'kyü \

A **queue** is a sequence of messages or jobs that:

- ✓ A. are awaiting processing
- B. have been canceled

10. **usurper** \ yü'sərpər \

What does a **usurper** do?

- ✓ A. infringes upon the property of another
- B. eats meals on a college campus

11. **epitome** \ə'pitə(ɪ)mē\

What is an **epitome**?

- A. an exclamatory sentence
- ✓ B. the essence of something

12. **lingua franca** \'liŋgwə'frɑŋkə\

What is a **lingua franca**?

- A. an honest conversation
- ✓ B. something that acts as a common language

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

13. **ostracism** \'ɑstrə'sizəm\

What does **ostracism** refer to?

- ✓ A. exclusion from social acceptance
- B. cultivation of oysters in prepared beds

Because the following word has a homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

14. **cygnet** \'siŋnət\

What is a **cygnet**?

- ✓ A. a juvenile swan
- B. a notice or warning

15. **oviparous** \ō'vipərəs\

Which of the following is an example of an **oviparous** animal?

- ✓ A. a duck
- B. a human

16. **facile** \'fasəl\

Something described as **facile** is:

- A. not mandatory
- ✓ B. easily achieved

17. **woad** \'wōd\

What is **woad**?

- ✓ A. a type of blue dye
- B. a Roman footpath

18. **ruminare** \'rūmə'nāt\

What does it mean to **ruminare**?

- ✓ A. carefully think about something
- B. practice a rhythmic Cuban dance

19. **credulity** \kri'dülətē\

What is **credulity**?

- A. readiness to follow orders even without explanation
- ✓ B. willingness to believe something is true

20. **burgoo** \'bərgü\

**Burgoo** is type of:

- A. flag
- ✓ B. stew

21. **dictum** \'diktəm\

A **dictum** is a type of:

- A. corrupt ruler
- ✓ B. pronouncement

22. **muesli** \'myüslē\

**Muesli** is:

- ✓ A. a breakfast cereal of Swiss origin consisting of rolled oats, nuts and fruit
- B. a type of fruit characterized by flesh with a musky aroma

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

23. **widdershins** \'widər.shinz\

Something done **widdershins** is done:

- A. while singing
- ✓ B. counterclockwise

24. **subliminal** \sə'blimən'1\

Something described as **subliminal**:

- A. occurs primarily underwater
- ✓ B. is designed to affect the mind on an unconscious level

25. **eschew** \əs'chü\

What does it mean to **eschew**?

- A. spit out
- ✓ B. shun

Because the following word has a near-homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

26. **immolate** \'imələt\

What does it mean to **immolate**?

- A. to violate moral principles
- ✓ B. to sacrifice or deny (as oneself) in the interests of some goal or cause

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

27. **germane** \jər'mān\

Something described as **germane** is:

- ✓ A. pertinent
- B. infectious

28. **filbert** \'fɪlbərt\

A **filbert** is a type of:

- ✓ A. hazelnut
- B. shoe

29. **tutelage** \'tütəliʒ\

**Tutelage** is:

- ✓ A. individual instruction
- B. dense traffic

30. **slumgullion** \'sləm.gəlyən\

**Slumgullion** is a type of:

- ✓ A. stew
- B. kitchen

31. **papillon** \,pəpē'yō\

What is a **papillon**?

- ✓ A. a breed of toy spaniel
- B. the bell of a wind instrument

32. **olfactory** \ōl'faktərə\

Something **olfactory**:

- A. grows in a small kitchen garden
- ✓ B. is connected with the sense of smell

33. **moribund** \'mōrəbənd\

Something described as **moribund** is:

- A. poverty-stricken
- ✓ B. dormant

34. **hierurgical** \,hīə'rərjəkəl\

Something described as **hierurgical** relates to:

- ✓ A. an act of worship
- B. the removal of unwanted tissue

35. **affable** \'afəbəl\

Someone described as **affable**:

- A. has a voice which sounds hoarse
- ✓ B. is easy to get along with

36. **mansard** \'mɑnsɑrd\

A **mansard** is what part of a house?

- A. window
- ✓ B. roof

37. **entente** \ən'tɑnt\

What is an **entente**?

- A. an ambiguity of meaning arising from the language used
- ✓ B. an international understanding

38. **mamushi** \mə'müşē\

A **mamushi** is:

- A. a skin irritant
- ✓ B. a Japanese snake

Because the following word could be confused with a similar word, say the word then spell it aloud.

39. **abattoir** \'abətwär\

What is an **abattoir**?

- A. a sidewalk
- ✓ B. a slaughterhouse

40. **duello** \dü'elō\

**Duello** is:

- A. a theory that divides the world into two mutually irreducible elements or classes of elements
- ✓ B. the rules of two-person combat

41. **mufti** \'mʌftē\

A **mufti** is:

- A. a governmental subdivision of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- ✓ B. a professional jurist who interprets Islamic religious law

42. **nacelle** \nə'sel\

What is a **nacelle**?

- A. an eyelet on a tennis shoe
- ✓ B. a shelter for an aircraft engine

43. **seiche** \'sāsh\

A **seiche** is:

- ✓ A. a fluctuation or oscillation of the surface of a lake
- B. a tool that has a long, curving blade for cutting grass

Because the following word has a homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

44. **miscible** \ 'misəbəl \

Another word for **miscible** is:

- A. edible
- ✓ B. mixable

45. **karst** \ 'kärs̩t \

What is **karst**?

- ✓ A. a limestone region marked by underground streams
- B. a dry tableland of Africa that rises in terraces

Because the following word has a homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

46. **xiphias** \ 'zifēəs \

A **xiphias** is a type of:

- ✓ A. big oceanic fish
- B. divine wisdom

47. **yakitori** \ ,yāki'tōrē \

**Yakitori** is:

- A. an archaic Native American language
- ✓ B. small pieces of marinated and grilled meat

Because the following word has a homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

48. **elision** \ ə'lizhən \

What is an **elision**?

- A. a bruise caused by external violence
- ✓ B. omission of a sound in a word combination, as in a contraction

Because the following word has a homonym, say the word then spell it aloud.

49. **tumulus** \ 'tümyələs \

Where might you find a **tumulus**?

- A. in an art supply store
- ✓ B. in a graveyard

50. **nimiety** \ ni'miətē \

What is another word for **nimiety**?

- A. decorum
- ✓ B. excess



## Scripps National Spelling Bee Vocabulary Test

### Intermediate Level – School Spelling Bee Study List

1. *Polo* is a type of:
  - A. infectious disease
  - B. game played on horseback
  - C. large mild chili pepper
2. Another word for *stark* is:
  - A. cheerful
  - B. desolate
  - C. flowery
3. What do *stirrups* do?
  - A. provide padding for the vertebral column
  - B. hold and support the foot of a rider on horseback
  - C. separate or divide two things of unequal size
4. If something is *charred*, it is:
  - A. adorned with braids
  - B. partly burned on the outside
  - C. barred from attention or consideration
5. *Giza* is:
  - A. an eccentric or unreasonable person
  - B. a type of duck-like bird
  - C. a city in northern Egypt near Cairo
6. *Fixity* is:
  - A. the condition of sullen ill-temper
  - B. the state or quality of being stable
  - C. the philosophy or science of art
7. Another word for *petite* is:
  - A. little
  - B. talkative
  - C. menacing
8. Where would you find *withers*?
  - A. under the hood of an automobile
  - B. on a horse between the shoulder bones
  - C. in an industrial restaurant kitchen
9. *Asparagus* is:
  - A. the ceremony of sprinkling altar, clergy and people with holy water
  - B. the Greek god of darkness who dwelt in the underworld
  - C. a plant that is extensively grown for its edible and tender young shoots
10. What does it mean to *admit*?
  - A. accept as the truth
  - B. construct out of what is at hand
  - C. enjoy thoroughly
11. *Broth* is:
  - A. the administration of law
  - B. liquid used to cook meat, fish, grains or vegetables
  - C. a solemn pledge of fidelity
12. What does it mean to *behold*?
  - A. establish deep rapport with
  - B. experience or apprehend
  - C. engage a person in legal process
13. Another word for *shoo* is:
  - A. stay
  - B. scam
  - C. hello
14. *Laryngitis* is:
  - A. knowledge of a particular event or situation
  - B. inflammation of the vocal cords
  - C. malformation resulting from disorganized tissue

15. Someone described as **senile** is:
- A. marked by refined cultured interests and pursuits
  - B. displaying a decline of mental abilities associated with old age
  - C. very foolish or reckless in behavior
16. If something is described as **incomprehensible**, it is:
- A. existing beyond the reach of the human mind
  - B. bringing or deserving severe rebuke or censure
  - C. incapable of associating or blending because of disharmony
17. What does it mean to be **contaminated**?
- A. destroyed totally
  - B. made unsuitable for use by the introduction of elements that are undesirable or unwholesome
  - C. having made fine adjustments or divided into marked intervals for optimal measuring
18. Another word for **accordance** is:
- A. agreement
  - B. index
  - C. reconnaissance
19. If something is described as **derogatory**, it is:
- A. expressive of disdain
  - B. full of or giving praise
  - C. cleared of guilt or blame
20. **Merrimack** is:
- A. a mountain in Botswana of famed importance
  - B. a waterfall in Thailand named after an American adventurer
  - C. a river in southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts
21. **Cahoots** are a type of:
- A. condition of belonging
  - B. secret agreement
  - C. undeniable bond
22. Another word for **suffused** is:
- A. bound
  - B. injured
  - C. flushed
23. Another word for **therapeutic** is:
- A. snug
  - B. injurious
  - C. curative
24. **Hyperion** is a:
- A. figure of speech
  - B. Titan
  - C. pouched mammal
25. A **Geiger** is a:
- A. large endangered cat of forests in most of Asia with a striped tawny coat
  - B. river of western Europe formed by the confluence of two tributaries and flowing through Germany
  - C. tool used to detect the presence of cosmic rays or radioactive substances



## Scripps National Spelling Bee Vocabulary Test

### Intermediate Level – Answer Key

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Scripps National Spelling Bee Vocabulary Test  
Advanced Level – Words from  
*2020 Words of the Champions*

1. If you **winnow** something, you:
  - A. study and sort it
  - B. repeat it in order
  - C. gain it by using flattery
2. Something described as **antagonistic** is:
  - A. chronologically out of place
  - B. brave or heroic
  - C. hostile or in opposition
3. What does it mean to **circumscribe** something?
  - A. physically purify it
  - B. increase its entertainment value
  - C. draw a line around it
4. Another word for **trepidation** is:
  - A. ennui
  - B. apprehension
  - C. mirth
5. A person who is **churlish** is:
  - A. rude
  - B. joyful
  - C. immature
6. **Decrepitude** is:
  - A. a state of decay or ruin
  - B. a horseshoe-shaped mollusk
  - C. a crinkly, papery texture
7. What does it mean to **elucidate**?
  - A. to explain clearly
  - B. join together into one unit or whole
  - C. lay waste, prey upon or plunder
8. What is another word for **vulpine**?
  - A. voluptuous
  - B. solitary
  - C. crafty
9. Something described as **sartorial** relates to:
  - A. philosophy
  - B. academics
  - C. clothing
10. Something described as **reverberant** is:
  - A. marked by or tending to repeat in or as if in repeated echoes
  - B. made sacred by religious, historic or other associations
  - C. very or profoundly respectful
11. **Bulgogi** is:
  - A. a sweet baked good with a crust made of enriched dough
  - B. cold rice garnished with bits of raw seafood
  - C. a Korean food consisting of marinated, thin-sliced beef
12. Someone described as **sanctimonious** would most likely:
  - A. serve or tend to maintain, encourage or permit
  - B. exhibit elevated principles in order to impress
  - C. be extremely devoted to his or her academic pursuits
13. What is another word for **draconian**?
  - A. harsh
  - B. moist
  - C. stellar

14. What does it mean to **peculate**?
- A. steal or appropriate wrongfully to one's own use
  - B. fish commercially
  - C. ponder a subject
15. What is a **quittance**?
- A. an inflammation of the feet of horses
  - B. a discharge from debt
  - C. a fixed rent due bimonthly
16. Something described as **gustatory** is associated with the sense of:
- A. taste
  - B. touch
  - C. smell
17. **Surimi** is:
- A. a small, gregarious burrowing mammal
  - B. a cheap fish product made to look like a more expensive seafood
  - C. a volcanic hill on Iwo Jima in the western Pacific
18. What is an **annuity**?
- A. the yearly recurrence of a date marking an event or occurrence of notable importance
  - B. the act or process of coming to direct knowledge or certainty without reasoning or inferring
  - C. money that is paid in installments on a regular basis
19. Which of the following would be mostly likely described as **isotopic**?
- A. a debate
  - B. an atom
  - C. a hurricane
20. If something is described as **languorous**, it:
- A. emits robust and offensive odors
  - B. is adept at skilled and easy communication
  - C. produces listless indolence or dreaminess
21. What is another term for **gypsum**?
- A. plasterboard
  - B. moth
  - C. Bohemian
22. **Hubris** is:
- A. the organic portion of soil
  - B. semisoft food made with chickpeas
  - C. overweening pride : arrogance
23. **Merino** is a type of:
- A. pants with a pleated front and tapered legs
  - B. fine wool and cotton yarn used for knitwear
  - C. red sauce often served with pasta
24. If something is **tripartite**, it:
- A. is made of three parts
  - B. has political acuity
  - C. is dictated by wanderlust
25. An **anorak** is a type of:
- A. jacket
  - B. ox
  - C. tea



## Scripps National Spelling Bee Vocabulary Test

### Advanced Level – Answer Key

- If you **winnow** something, you:*
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  - a sweet baked good with a crust made of enriched dough
  - cold rice garnished with bits of raw seafood
  - a Korean food consisting of marinated, thin-sliced beef
- Someone described as **sanctimonious** would most likely:*
  - serve or tend to maintain, encourage or permit
  - exhibit elevated principles in order to impress
  - be extremely devoted to his or her academic pursuits
- What is another word for **draconian**?*
  - harsh
  - moist
  - stellar

14. What does it mean to **peculate**?
- ✓ A. steal or appropriate wrongfully to one's own use
  - B. fish commercially
  - C. ponder a subject
15. What is a **quittance**?
- A. an inflammation of the feet of horses
  - ✓ B. a discharge from debt
  - C. a fixed rent due bimonthly
16. Something described as **gustatory** is associated with the sense of:
- ✓ A. taste
  - B. touch
  - C. smell
17. **Surimi** is:
- A. a small, gregarious burrowing mammal
  - ✓ B. a cheap fish product made to look like a more expensive seafood
  - C. a volcanic hill on Iwo Jima in the western Pacific
18. What is an **annuity**?
- A. the yearly recurrence of a date marking an event or occurrence of notable importance
  - B. the act or process of coming to direct knowledge or certainty without reasoning or inferring
  - ✓ C. money that is paid in installments on a regular basis
19. Which of the following would be mostly likely described as **isotopic**?
- A. a debate
  - ✓ B. an atom
  - C. a hurricane
20. If something is described as **languorous**, it:
- A. emits robust and offensive odors
  - B. is adept at skilled and easy communication
  - ✓ C. produces listless indolence or dreaminess
21. What is another term for **gypsum**?
- ✓ A. plasterboard
  - B. moth
  - C. Bohemian
22. **Hubris** is:
- A. the organic portion of soil
  - B. semisoft food made with chickpeas
  - ✓ C. overweening pride : arrogance
23. **Merino** is a type of:
- A. pants with a pleated front and tapered legs
  - ✓ B. fine wool and cotton yarn used for knitwear
  - C. red sauce often served with pasta
24. If something is **tripartite**, it:
- ✓ A. is made of three parts
  - B. has political acuity
  - C. is dictated by wanderlust
25. An **anorak** is a type of:
- ✓ A. jacket
  - B. ox
  - C. tea