

Tricks & Tips for Spelling Bee Success



2017

ABOUT THE BEE

he Scripps National Spelling Bee is an educational promotion sponsored by The E.W. Scripps Company in conjunction with sponsoring newspapers and organizations around the world. Its purpose is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

The program takes place on two levels: local and national. Sponsors organize spelling bee programs near their locales and send their champions to the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, D.C. The national program is coordinated by The E.W. Scripps Company corporate headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to planning and conducting the national finals, the national office annually publishes several word publications utilized by students, educators, and sponsors.

The program is open to students attending public, private, parochial, charter, virtual, and home schools. Participants must not have reached their 15th birthday on or before August 31, 2016, and must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before February 1, 2017. A comprehensive set of eligibility requirements may be found at www.spellingbee.com.

The National Spelling Bee was begun in 1925. Nine students participated in the first national finals. In 1941 Scripps Howard acquired the rights to the program. There was no Scripps National Spelling Bee during the World War II years of 1943, 1944, and 1945. Of the 95 National Spelling Bee champions, 48 have been girls and 47 have been boys. Co-champions were declared in 1950, 1957, 1962, 2014, 2015 and 2016. The 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee will involve more than eleven million students at the local level.



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2016 Co-champions Nihar Janga and Jairam Hathwar

Be sure to visit
www.myspellit.com
for other activities,
a list of
"Words You Need to Know,"
and links to definitions
and pronunciations of
words on the
Spell It! study lists.

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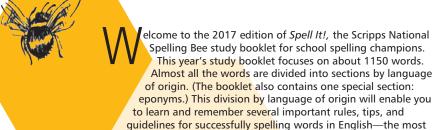
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ABOUT THIS BOOKLET





The official dictionary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is Merriam-Webster Unabridged (www.Merriam-WebsterUnabridged.com). The etymological information in Merriam-Webster Unabridged is far more detailed than what you will find in this booklet, whose categorization of words by language of origin concentrates on the influence of primarily one language.

challenging language of all for spellers!

Each section contains "challenge words" in addition to its basic study list. The basic study-list words and the challenge words are typical of the words that will be used in most district- and regional-level spelling bees this year. In some highly competitive district and regional spelling bees, however, spellers remaining at the end of the contest will receive words that do not appear in this booklet. Some organizers of district and regional bees will even create their own competition word lists, which may contain none of the words you will find here!

Although this booklet's main purpose is to provide you with an official list of study words for 2017 district- and regional-level bees, each of its sections also contains at least one exercise. The exercises are intended to give you further information about words that come from a particular language and help you better understand how the words behave in English. Some of the exercises are quite challenging. Don't feel discouraged if you can't answer all of them! The solutions to the exercises are printed on pages 30–31.

We hope that you'll find this short booklet as enjoyable as it is educational and that the fascinating facts you'll learn about the words discussed here will stay with you for many years to come!

Be sure to visit www.myspellit.com for other activities, a list of "Words You Need to Know," and links to definitions and pronunciations of words on the *Spell It!* study lists.





WORDS FROM LATIN

o language has been more influential in the development of advanced English vocabulary than Latin. There are two reasons for this. First, when the French conquered England in 1066, their language was very similar to Latin, and French remained England's official language for 200 years. Second, Latin was the language of culture, religion, education, and science in the Western world from the Middle Ages until relatively recently. It is still used today to name newly discovered species of plants and animals and to form some compound words in various scientific and technological fields.

inane relevant impetuous ambivalent dejected postmortem incriminate access plausible interrupt 1 alliteration refugee amicable lucid² percolate meticulous fastidious trajectory animosity implement ambiguity curriculum omnivorous bellicose electoral crescent³ obsequious transect

precipice susceptible condolences 4 benefactor candidate buale formidable canary subterfuge abdicate lunatic carnivore 5 gregarious ostentatious prosaic 6 herbivore prodigal magnanimous benevolent mercurial simile iovial ridiculous innate obstinate discern

mediocre insidious rupture precipitate erudite colloquial intractable exuberant 7 ingenious retrospective ominous vulnerable omnipotent consensus discipline alleviate spectrum prescription capitulation incredulous affinity necessary adjacent dissect conjecture **imper**ative

predicate corporal patina Capricorn participant library cognition primal filament unity ventilate aguatic igneous reptile providence message foliate nasal opera renovate credentials temporal canine measure credible

study words continued on page 4

WORDS FROM LATIN



femininity confidence triumvirate popularity diary humble vivisection strict prosecute contiguous ductile gradient current perfidy fidelity incorruptible

CHALLENGE WORDS

soliloquy	vernacular	prerogative
accommodate	infinitesimal	ubiquitous
pernicious 8	recalcitrant	egregious
efficacy	innocuous	aggregate
visceral	precocious	tertiary
exacerbate	ameliorate	corpuscle
indigenous	commensurate	perennial
belligerent	facetious	
belligerent	facetious	

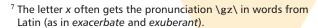
SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM LATIN

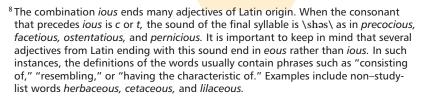
- ¹ One of the hardest things to remember about words from Latin is whether an internal consonant (like *rr* in *interrupt*) is doubled. To reinforce your memory of the correct spelling, try to remember related words all together (like *interrupt* along with *interruption* or *necessary* along with *necessity*).
- ³ Beware of words like *crescent* in which the \s\ sound is spelled with *sc* in words from Latin. Other examples include *visceral*, *discern*, *discipline*, *susceptible*, and *corpuscle*.
- ⁴ A related tip: When you hear within a word from Latin the \s\ sound followed by any of the sounds of e (long, short, or schwa), there's a possibility that the \s\ sound is spelled with c as in exacerbate, access, adjacent, condolences, facetious, and necessary.



WORDS FROM LATIN

- ⁵ The letter *i* is a vowel often used to connect two Latin word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\a\) and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter *i* might be a good guess: See *carnivore* and *herbivore*. Other examples include non-study-list words that end in *iform* such as *oviform* and *pediform*.
- ⁶ The letter *k* rarely appears in words from Latin, and its sound is nearly always represented by *c* as in *canary, prosaic, canine, mediocre, Capricorn, cognition, ductile, incorruptible, vernacular, innocuous,* and many other words on the list.





NOW YOU TRY!

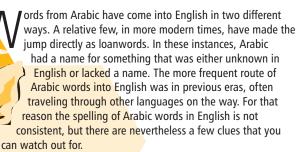
- 1. Curriculum is another word from Latin like necessary and interrupt that has an internal double consonant. Can you think of an adjective related to curriculum that also has double r?
- 2. Some of the Latin study-list words end with the sound \shes\, and the consonant that begins the last syllable is c or t (see tip 8, above). Can you think of two words in English that end with this sound and are spelled with xious?
- 3. The rarely used plural of *consensus* is *consensus*es, but some words from Latin that end in *us* have a plural that ends in a long *i* sound (\ī\) and is spelled with *i*. Can you think of three such words?
- 4. Three words on the study list come from the Latin verb that means "throw." These words are conjecture, dejected, and trajectory. See if you can unscramble these letters to find four other common English words that have the same root:

jbustce trecje rptcjeo cotbej

5. The consonants gn often occur in words from Latin. When they divide two syllables of a word, both of them are pronounced. Some words from Latin, however, have the consonants gn in a single syllable. In this case, the g is silent as in design. Can you think of three other words from Latin in which this happens?



WORDS FROM ARABIC



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

CHALLENGE WORDS

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

halal

alcazar

Tip from the Top

The Arabic alphabet has 28
letters, and among these are
letters that represent half a dozen
sounds that do not exist in English.
Therefore, when a word crosses over
compromise about how it will be spelled and
pronounced, which sometimes results in inhave to do double or triple duty,
Arabic that native speakers of
English don't make.

WORDS FROM ARABIC

SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM ARABIC

- ¹ Double consonants are often seen in words from Arabic. More often than not, they occur in the middle of a word as in mummy, cotton, henna, foggara, coffle, tarragon, and several other words on the list. Their appearance at the end of a word (as in albatross and tariff) is usually because of the spelling conventions of English or some other language that the word passed through to get here.
- ² A typical word from Arabic has three consonant sounds, with or without vowels between them. Gazelle, safari, talc, carafe, mahal, tahini, alkali, hafiz, and salaam are typical examples.
- ³ Note how many words on this list begin with al: This spelling can be traced to the definite article al ("the") in Arabic, which sometimes gets borrowed along with a word. Most of the time the spelling is al in English, but note el in elixir.
- ⁴ A long e sound (\bar{e}) at the end of a word from Arabic is often spelled with i as in safari and several other words on the list but may also be spelled with v as in mummy and alchemy.
- ⁵ The schwa sound (\a\) at the end of a word from Arabic is usually spelled with a as in henna. tuna, algebra, alfalfa, foggara, and diffa.



Is it just coincidence that mohair describes the hair of a goat? Not exactly. Mohair—like dozens of other words in this book—is the result of a process called "folk etymology." Folk etymology sometimes occurs when a word travels from one language to another. Speakers of the new language (ordinary "folks") often change the word in a way that makes it more like words in their language. To help them remember just what the word is, they might even change a part of it to match a word that is already familiar to them. The original Arabic for mohair is mukhayyar. The element hayyar doesn't mean "hair," but its sound was close enough for English speakers to make the connection. Watch out for other words that you suspect might have elements of folk etymology in them!



- 1. Elixir is typical of a word from Arabic in that it has three consonant sounds, not counting the sound of the letter I that is from the Arabic definite article (see tip 3, above). Why do you think elixir is spelled with only two consonants after the I in English?
- 2. Arabic has three different letters, all with different sounds, that English speakers convert to a \k\ sound. How many different ways is \k\ spelled on the list of words from Arabic?

WORDS FROM ASIAN LANGUAGES





hen English-speaking people—mainly the British—began to trade with the Indian subcontinent and the Far East, it was necessary to find words for many things never before encountered, whether foods, plants, animals, clothing, or events. Many words that were borrowed from Asian languages as a result of trade have become well established in English, and the process continues today. It is difficult to find reliable patterns to help you spell these words because they were borrowed at different times by different people.

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

CHALLENGE WORDS

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

NOW YOU TRY!

- One sound is spelled with the same double vowel in six of the words from Asian languages on this page. What sound is that, and how is it spelled?
- 2. The long e sound (\earlie \earlie \) is spelled ee in dungaree and rupee. Name three other ways it is spelled in the words above.
- Why do you think bungalow is spelled with a w at the end? (Hint: See the second paragraph under Tips from the Top, above.)

Tips from the Top

Most of the words on this page from various Asian languages were introduced into English by people who spoke English. Therefore, if you

aren't familiar with a word and don't know origin, as a last resort you might try spelling it the way spell it.

Another

Another approach that is sometimes useful is to spell a borrowed word or part of a borrowed word in the way that an English sounds is spelled. This approach would work for spelling mongoose,





WORDS FROM FRENCH

efore the Modern English that we speak today was fully settled, the French of the Middle Ages—a direct offshoot of Latin—was widely spoken in the British Isles as a result of the conquest of Britain by France in 1066. English is so rich in vocabulary today partly because we often have words with similar or overlapping meanings, one of which came via the Germanic route (that is, from Anglo-Saxon or another Germanic language) and one via French. So, for example, we may call the animal a hog (Old English), but the meat it produces is pork (from French).

Today, words with French ancestry are everywhere in English. Our pronunciation of vowels and consonants is quite different from the modern French

of today, but there are many consistent spelling patterns that can help us make educated guesses about how to spell words that come from French.

peloton	ambulance
barrage	rehearse
chagrin ¹	leotard
pacifism	prairie ⁵
manicure	diorama
altruism	entourage
bureaucracy	fuselage
mascot	boudoir
parfait	collage ⁶
mystique	amenable
layette ²	expertise
boutique	matinee
dressage	plateau
croquet	sortie
gorgeous	croquette
denture	physique ⁷
mirage	elite
denim	deluxe
cachet ³	nougat
neologism	rouge ⁸
beige	escargot
diplomat	crochet
motif	regime
suave	doctrinaire
foyer ⁴	tutu

bevel

clementine

menu	musicale
egalitarian	palette
quiche 9	flamboyant
fatigue	baton
garage	souvenir
morgue	impasse
stethoscope	finesse
voque	maladroit

Tip from the Top

French has many different vowel sounds and diphthongs that are distinctly French, but it has only the same 26 letters to spell them with that English has. Therefore, French relies on certain combinations of vowels and consonants in spelling to show what vowel sound is meant. When pronounced in English, many of these sounds are simplified. The result is that many different English spellings stand for the same sound in French words.

> (For footnotes, see Spelling Tips, page 10.)

WORDS FROM FRENCH





CHALLENGE WORDS

gauche
rapport
camouflage
genre
virgule
debacle
fusillade 10
saboteur
renaissance
chauvinism

recidivist garcon chassis croissant détente raconteur lieutenant mavonnaise 11 protégé surveillance mélange repertoire blasé dossier fête taupe ingenue rendezvous poignant

SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM FRENCH

- ¹ French nearly always spells the \sh\ sound with *ch*, and this spelling of the sound is very common in words from French. *Chaqrin*, *chauvinism*, and *crochet* are examples.
- ² A word from French ending with a stressed \et\ is usually spelled with ette as in *croquette* and *layette*.
- ⁴ One way to spell long *a* at the end of a word from French is with *er* as in *dossier* and in *foyer*. Most Americans, however, do not pronounce the ending of *foyer* with a long *a*.
- ⁵ A long e sound (\ē\) at the end of a word from French can be spelled with *ie* as in *prairie* and *sortie*. (But see exercise 4 on page 11 for another spelling of the long e ending.)
- ⁶ Words ending with an \äzh\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled age as in collage, mirage, dressage, garage, barrage, camouflage, entourage, and fuselage.
- ⁷ A \k\ sound at the end of a word from French is often spelled *que* as in *mystique*, boutique, and physique.
- 8 The \"u\" sound (as in rouge and many other words on the list) in words from French is usually spelled with ou. Sometimes, however, it is spelled with u as in tutu and ecru.
- 9 When the \sh\ sound occurs at the end of a word from French, there is nearly always a silent e that follows it as in quiche and gauche.
- 10 Words ending with an \äd\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled ade as in fusillade.
- ¹¹ French speakers have a number of vowels that English speakers modify in pronunciation. Our way of pronouncing the French *aise* (pronounced $\ext{\ensuremath{\mbox{ez}}\xspace}\xspace in French) is usually <math>\arrangle z$.



WORDS FROM FRENCH

NOW YOU TRY!

1. Read these two pronunciations of non-study-list French words and then spell them. You'll discover two other ways that a long a sound (\bar{a}) can be spelled at the end of a word from French:

\ka-'fā\ \'mā-.lā\

2. The consonant w is rare in French. You get ten points for using it in French SCRABBLE®! Find the four words on the study list that have a \w\ sound and tell how this sound is spelled in each word.



- 3. The word mirage has two common related words in English that come ultimately from the Latin root mirari, a word that means "wonder at." One of these English words has three r's; the other has only one. Can you guess the words?
- 4. English has dozens of words from French that end in ee. Some, like melee, have a long a pronunciation ($\\bar{a}$). Others, like levee, have a long e (\bar{e}). Can you think of two other words from French ending in ee that have the long a sound and two that have the long e sound?
- 5. Of the words on the study list, three could also have been listed on the Eponyms page (page 12) because they are based on the name of a person or character. Which three words are these?

All Around the Mediterranean

If you're getting an odd sense of déjà vu looking at some of these French words, you're not mistaken! Some of them are purely French—that is, they have no obvious roots in another language. A large number, however, have roots in Latin (such as ambulance and renaissance) and Greek (such as diplomat, neologism, and stethoscope). Long before France was an independent country it was part of the Roman Empire, and its language was close to Latin. The Roman Empire was, in turn, influenced by the civilization of classical Greece that preceded it. With so rich a heritage, the French did not have to travel very far to find a word for just about everything! Diorama is a special case. If you see elements in it that remind you of Greek words, you are correct; but the French actually modeled this word on a word they saw in English—panorama—which was, in turn, made from Greek roots!

EPONYMS



Fletcherism yahoo diesel bandersnatch Crusoe mentor Dracula



ponyms are words based on a person's or character's name. Sometimes the person's name and the word are exactly the same and the word simply takes on a new meaning. In other cases the person's name is slightly changed. When this happens, the stressed syllable of the new word can also change and you won't always recognize the origin, which might be a somewhat familiar name. Take, for example, gardenia. It's really just a man's name (Alexander Garden) with the plant-naming suffix -ia. In fact, all of the words on this list that end with ia are names for plants and are based on the last names of botanists.

iic ze

locio

-		
praline	greengage	quixote
magnolia	angstrom	jeremiad
boysenberry	gardenia	hector
hosta	melba	Geronimo
poinsettia	tantalize	shrapnel
macadamia	zinnia	vulcanize
salmonella	quisling	Frankenstein
newton	begonia	Boswell ()
saxophone	samaritan	ampere 🐧
tortoni	Panglossian	cupid

CHALLENGE WORDS

forsythia	dahlia	gnathon
madeleine	Baedeker	pasteuriz
bromeliad	philippic	Croesus
mercerize	guillotine	braggad
Fahrenheit	Bobadil	
narcissistic	mesmerize	

NOW YOU TRY!

- 1. Six of the eponyms listed above are inspired by characters from Greek or Roman mythology. Which six eponyms are they?
- 2. If you discovered a new plant and you could use your first or last name to give a name to the plant, what would you call it? How would you pronounce it?

Be sure to visit www.myspellit.com for other activities, a list of "Words You Need to Know," and links to definitions and pronunciations of words on the *Spell It!* study lists.



WORDS FROM GERMAN

nglish and German are in the same language family, and because of that you might expect that they would look more like each other than they do! While many words of German origin in English have some telltale signs, others have been anglicized (made to look and sound more English). Therefore, you might not know at first glance where they came from.

There are two main reasons why older borrowings from
German tend to look less German and more English. First, English
patterns have had more opportunity to influence older Germanic
words, both because they've had more time to do so and because spelling wasn't standardized until well after these words entered English. Second, the German language has
itself evolved since English borrowed these words, so the spelling patterns characteristic
of modern German didn't necessarily govern the spelling of older German words.

angst ¹	sitzmark
pretzel	langlauf
waltz	autobahn
haversack	Backstein
nosh	inselberg
sauerbraten	gestalt
hinterland	einkorn
verboten	kitsch ²
liverwurst	gestapo
streusel	schloss
umlaut	rucksack
wanderlust	echt
eiderdown	bratwurst
schnauzer	knapsack
lederhosen	feldspar
kohlrabi	poltergeist

noodle
spareribs
Meistersinger $^{\rm 3}$
pumpernickel
Bildungsrom an
strudel
bagel
hamster
cobalt
n <mark>achtmusi</mark> k
vorlage ⁴
graupel
Wagnerian
cringle
fife
glitz

homburg kuchen pitchblende spritz ⁵ prattle zwinger spitz realschule panzer stollen dachshund seltzer



CHALLENGE WORDS

schadenfreude ⁶ dreidel weimaraner ersatz fräulein blitzkrieg ⁷ gesundheit pfeffernuss edelweiss ⁸ glockenspiel rottweiler schottische anschluss wedel

springerle zeitgeber pickelhaube schnecke Weissnichtwo

WORDS FROM GERMAN





SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM GERMAN

- ¹ Don't shy away from consonant clusters! German words often have combinations of three or more consonants that don't occur in thoroughly English words. Examples include ngst in angst, sch in schadenfreude, schn in schnauzer, and nschl in anschluss.
- ² A \k\ sound in a word from German is usually spelled with k at the beginning of a word or syllable (as in kitsch and einkorn) and often with ck at the end of a word or syllable (as in knapsack and glockenspiel).
- ³ A long *i* sound (\ī\) usually has the spelling *ei* in words from German, as in *fräulein,* Meistersinger, zeitgeber, and several other words on the list.
- ⁴ The \f\ sound, especia<mark>lly at the beginning of</mark> a word, is sometimes spelled with v in German words as in *vorlage*. Other examples include the non–study-list words *herrenvolk* and *volkslied*.
- ⁵ The letter z is far more common in German than in English. Note that its pronunciation is not usually the same as English \z\. When it follows a t, which is common, the pronunciation is \s\ as in *spritz*, *pretzel*, *blitzkrieg*, and several other words on the list.
- ⁶ The \sh\ sound in words of German origin is usually spelled *sch* as in *schadenfreude*, whether at the beginning or end of a word or syllable. In *schottische*, you get it in both places!
- ⁷ A long e sound (\eartiles\) usually has the spelling *ie* in words from German, as in *blitzkrieg* and *glockenspiel*.
- The letter w is properly pronounced as \v\ in German, as you hear in one pronunciation of edelweiss and in wedel and Weissnichtwo. Many German words, however, have become so anglicized that this pronunciation has vanished. Most Americans, for example, say "bratwurst," not "bratwurst."

NOW YOU TRY!

1. A surprising number of words in English for dog breeds come from German. On our list there are five: *rottweiler, schnauzer, weimaraner, spitz,* and *dachshund.* See if you can fill in the blanks in the following words to correctly spell some other dog breeds from German:

dr	_ ht _ a _ r	p	le	affenp so	ch Do		m _	r
----	--------------	---	----	-----------	-------	--	-----	---

- 2. The el spelling at the end of words such as streusel, pretzel, and dreidel is typical of German words that end with this sound. The le spelling of this sound in noodle, cringle, and prattle, on the other hand, is more typical of English. What generalization can be made about the differences in these spellings?
- 3. The vowel combination au is usually pronounced the same way in English words from German as it is in German words. Looking at umlaut, sauerbraten, autobahn, schnauzer, langlauf, graupel, and pickelhaube, which word would you say has been more anglicized in its usual pronunciation? Why do you think this is?



WORDS FROM SLAVIC LANGUAGES

any people in Eastern Europe and Asia speak a Slavic language such as Czech, Ukrainian, Croatian, or Bulgarian. And that's completely apart from Russian, a Slavic language spoken by more than 200 million people! Some words of Slavic origin that have made their way into English traveled through another language first, reflecting the fact that contacts between English-speaking and Slavic-speaking cultures have not always been direct.



tundra

Permian

	kishke
	glasnost
	paprika
	sable
	kasha
	nebbish
•	polka
	Bolshevik
	vampire
	sputnik
	knish
	cravat

babushka Soviet baba cossack Borzoi nelma gopak cheka kovsh sevruga lokshen trepak feldsher barabara babka aul purga

Tip from the Top

The "sound it out" strategy
Works well with most words of
Slavic origin. Although some Slavic
and some, like Russian and Bulgarian, use
the Cyrillic alphabet, our spellings of most of
note: The frequent schwa \a\a\tatext{at the end of}
\text{k\sound is nearly always spelled}

CHALLENGE WORDS

balalaika commissar kielbasa tokamak tchotchke pogrom barukhzy taiga perestroika Beetewk apparatchik

NOW YOU TRY!

- 1. The suffix -nik as in sputnik comes originally from
 Slavic languages to denote a person of a certain type. Can you
 think of any other words in English (most of them informal) that use this suffix?
- 2. Look up these four study-list words in a dictionary and study the etymologies. Which is the odd one out, and why?

nebbish kishke crayat knish

WORDS FROM DUTCH

Flemish

grabble





ike German, Dutch is a member of the same language family as English: the Germanic family. Many of the original European settlers in North America came from the country that later became the Netherlands, and those early settlers were one of the sources of Dutch words in American English today.

To the state of th	decoy	huckster
	caboose	frolic
cockatoo	buckwheat	ravel
keelhaul	walrus	tattle
harpoon	howitzer	scum
furlough	crimp	trek
bowery	bluff	scrabble
easel	stipple	clapboard
holster	floss	gruff
freebooter	cruiser	isinglass
waffle	hustle	excise
trawl	klompen	blister
uproar	polder	rabbit
beleaguer	bundle	package
cruller	catkin	muddle
yacht	splice	handsome

foist	daffodil
staple	loiter
gulden	potash
mart	scow
screen	wintergreen
guilder	trigger
etch	stripe
Netherlander	bruin
dune	skipper
croon	waywiser
ticket	spoor
buckwagon	mizzle
hock	school
boodle	pickle
guy	snuff

CHALLENGE WORDS

mynheer bobbejaan apartheid waterzooi keeshond hartebeest flense voortrekker keest muishond uitlander wainscot hollandaise roodebok witloof galjoen springbok schipperke maelstrom

True in Part

Buckwheat is an example of a "part translation." When a word that has two parts (like language to English, we sometimes the other part without translating it. The weit. When this word came into boek and translated weit "wheat").

NOW YOU TRY!

1. All of the following non–study-list words are part translations from another language. Can you guess the original language of each? Use a dictionary if you can't guess!

cranberry grosbeak alpenglow smearcase



WORDS FROM OLD ENGLISH

Id English was the language spoken in Britain before the French arrived in 1066. If you could listen to a conversation in Old English, you would probably be scratching your head a lot. A few of the words would make sense, but most of them wouldn't. Like plants and animals, languages evolve—keeping the things that they find useful, discarding others, and picking up new things along the way. This study list represents some of the real success stories in English: words coined long ago that have not

quell ¹ fickle hawt
barrow nestle ⁵ tithe
dearth fennel beho
bower nostril forlor
paddock abide quive
blithe behest husti

lost their usefulness over dozens of generations!

keen slaughter ⁶
mongrel gospel
reckless furlong
alderman linseed
whirlpool nether

belay ² fathom cleanser nightingale dreary ³ farthing bequeath threshold

kith

dross wanton
lithe loam ⁷
qristle vield

sallow 4

earwig mattock



heifer Wiccan mistletoe shrieval salve chary kirtle hawthorn behoove forlorn quiver hustings aspen mermaid anvil barlev linden hassock orchard hearth 8 watery fiend goatee **earthenware** windily

bookkeeping
fiery
learned
nosiest
creepy
errand
daily
gnat
broadleaf
stringy
dairy
workmanship
newfangled
timely

womanly manhandle folksiness worrisome roughhewn knavery hurdle kipper hundredth icicle pinafore yieldable hue

(For footnotes, see Spelling Tips, pages 18–19.)

Tip from the Top

dogged

mootable

You have a great advantage in learning to spell a word tage in learning to spell a word that has been in English for a very long time. Chances are that the word belongs to a group of words that show the same spelling pattern, since words in all languages have a habit of conforming to each other over time. As you study to each other over time. As you study the words on the list, try to remember them together with another word or words with a similar sound and spelling.

WORDS FROM OLD ENGLISH 740





Peer Pressure: Words Feel It Too!

Have you ever noticed that when someone joins a group, he or she often does whatever possible to blend in? Believe it or not, words often do the same thing! The best way for a new word to survive in a language is to look or sound like other words. Before long, the new word is accepted as a native.

For example, our list has three words that (a) have two syllables, (b) have a double consonant, and (c) end with ock: paddock, mattock, and hassock. The ock part of these words is an Old English suffix used to form diminutives (smaller versions of something). Now, look at these non-study-list English words: cassock, haddock, and hammock. If you guessed that they all came from Old English using the same suffix, you would be wrong! All these words came into English later and some came from other languages, but it was easy and convenient to spell them according to a familiar pattern.

SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM OLD ENGLISH

- ¹ Old English likes double consonants following short vowels, especially if the vowel is in a stressed syllable. Examples include *quell*, *paddock*, *mattock*, *sallow*, *fennel*, *hassock*, *errand*, *barrow*, *kipper*, and *Wiccan*.
- 2 A long a sound (\bar{a}) at the end of words from Old English is nearly always spelled ay as in belay.
- ³ Long e (\earbit{e}\) at the end of an adjective or adverb from Old English is nearly always spelled with y. Examples include dreary, watery, windily, fiery, creepy, daily, stringy, timely, womanly, and chary.
- ⁵ When the syllable \sal\ ends words from Old English, it is nearly always spelled *stle*, with the *t* being silent (as in *gristle* and *nestle*).
- ⁶ Silent *gh* after a vowel is common in words from Old English, as in *slaughter*. Silent *gh* usually appears after *i* in words like *plight* (not on the study list) and *nightingale*, and it signals that the vowel is pronounced $\\bar{\imath}$.
- ⁷ The vowel combination oa in words from Old English is nearly always pronounced as long o (\ō\) as in *loam* and *goatee*. Examples not on the study list include *shoal*, boastful, and *gloaming*.



WORDS FROM OLD ENGLISH

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

nglish ly,

NOW YOU TRY!

Now's your chance to fill up some of the empty spots in your memory with a few non-study-list words in English that look like some words on the study list. We'll give you a pattern and then some clues to see if you can think of other words in English that are spelled according to the same pattern.

you can ammed out of the troids in English that an	e spenieu accoraing to the same par
pattern: double consonant followed by ock	example: paddock
clue: a small hill	answer: hillock
A. pattern: double consonant followed by ow	example: harrow
1. clue: a pointed weapon	answer:
2. clue: the filling of bones	an <mark>swe</mark> r:
3. clue: a small songbird	answer:
4. challenge clue : a wild plant with yellow or white flowers	answer:
B. pattern: consonant sound followed by allow	example: sallow
5. clue: not deep	answer:
6. clue: thick fat from cattle	answer:
7. challenge clue: a plant with showy flowers	answer:
8. challenge clue: (of a field) not cultivated	answer:
C. pattern: ending \text{th}\ spelled as the	example: lithe
9. clue: feel strong dislike for	answer:
10. clue: churn or foam as if boiling	answer:
11. challenge clue: twist as a result of pain	answer:
challenge clue: a cutting tool with a curved blade	answer:
D. pattern: ending \səl\ spelled as <i>stle</i>	example: nestle
13. clue: a stiff hair	answer:
14. clue: a common weed with prickly leaves	answer:
15. challenge clue: a frame that supports	answer:
16. challenge clue: a formal word for a letter	answer:

WORDS FROM NEW WORLD LANGUAGES



he people of the tribes and nations who lived in the New World before the arrival of European explorers were like people everywhere: They had a name for everything! Often, the language of the newly arrived people simply absorbed the native term, imposing changes on it that would make it fit in better with the newcomers' language. Some of these terms jumped directly to English from a native language. Others traveled through some other language along the way. Though Hawajjan isn't a true New World language, it is included here because Hawaii is now a part of the United States.

condor bayou coyote 3 iguana hurricane 1 tamale kahuna poi hogan cashew ierky luau muskrat totem hominy mole wigwam hickory pampas cacao caribou ² kona toboggan malihini persimmon wikiwiki Tuckahoe quinine wowwoq pecan

chipotle skunk woodchuck 4 chocolate muumuu puma tomato maraca petunia

jaguar

buccaneer llama succotash caucus wampum mahimahi toucan

Tips from the Top

All of the source languages of words in this study list are unrelated to English, and many of them are unrelated to each other. For example, cashew is from the native South American language Tupi, which has no connection with Hawaiian, the source of kahuna, or Algonquian, which gives us caribou.

Many of these words are from languages that had no alphabet at the time of borrowing or that had their own unique writing system. The result is that introduction into English, whether direct or indirect, involved some compromise in pronunciation and spelling which often reflects the rules of English or some intermediary language.

CHALLENGE WORDS

opossum iacamar terrapin ipecac ocelot menhaden hoomalimali sachem coati



WORDS FROM NEW WORLD LANGUAGES

SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM NEW WORLD LANGUAGES

- Remember that words settling down in English are often spelled according to English word patterns. If you're completely unsure of how to spell a word from a New World language, you can try just "sounding it out." This strategy would work for hurricane, muskrat, wigwam, and several other words on the list.
- ³ Coyote shows evidence of having passed through Spanish on its way to English: The voiced final e is often seen in Spanish words. Two other examples on this list are tample and mole
- ⁴ Remember what folk etymology is? Words that entered English from New World languages were prime candidates for this process. If parts of a native word sounded familiar, they were often spelled by the settlers in a familiar way, as in woodchuck. Muskrat is also probably a result of folk etymology.

NOW YOU TRY!

1. The two words on the study list that suggest folk etymology denote animals. Which of the following non-study-list words for plants would you think have folk etymologies?

pennyroyal ca

chickling

campanula brooklime

It Feels Nice to Say It Twice

Did you ever lose a flip-flop at a wingding where all the bigwigs were eating couscous? Well, maybe not. But it would be fun to say that you did! All human languages have a feature called "reduplication." It applies to words that fit any of three patterns: (a) both syllables are identical (as in couscous), (b) the second syllable rhymes with the first (as in wingding and bigwig), and (c) the second syllable has a different vowel but the same consonants as the first (as in flip-flop). The reason that all languages have reduplicative words is that people like them! They're fun to say and easy to remember. This study list has four reduplications: powwow, mahimahi, wikiwiki, and muumuu. Such words are usually easy to spell. If the syllables are identical, they are spelled identically. If they differ only by the vowel sounds or only by the consonant sounds, then only that part of the word changes from one syllable to the next.

рорру

2. Cashew, persimmon, hickory, cacao, and pecan are all New World trees and have names from New World languages. Based on your knowledge of typically English words, which of the following tree names do you think are from New World languages?

oak ash catalpa beech elm maple guava pine

WORDS FROM JAPANESE

apanese is a relative latecomer among the languages that have influenced English, making it a welcome language of origin for spellers: Recently borrowed words are spelled more consistently than are those from languages that English has been borrowing from for centuries. Keep in mind that the Japanese writing system uses symbols for words, so English words from Japanese are written with the Roman

alphabet according to the way the words sound.

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

CHALLENGE WORDS

karaoke

sansei

kibei

nisei issei



SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM JAPANESE

- ¹ A long e sound (\ē\) is very common at the end of Japanese words and is usually spelled with *i* as in *sushi*, *teriyaki*, *wasabi*, *Meiji*, *odori*, and several other words on the list.
- ² The sound of long e is spelled simply with e in some words from Japanese. Examples include *karate* and *karaoke*.
- ³ An $\$ u sound is also a common way to end Japanese words and is spelled with u as in *haiku*, *tofu*, and *kudzu*.
- ⁴ Long o (\\bar{o}\) at the end of a word from Japanese is spelled with o as in honcho, mikado, sumo, and miso.
- ⁵ A long a sound (\a\) heard in *geisha* is spelled *ei* in some words from Japanese. Four of the challenge words have this spelling of the long a sound and contain the word element *sei*, which means "generation."

NOW YOU TRY!

1. Study the sounds that occur at the ends of words from Japanese on the study list. Based on what you see there, which of the following non–study-list words would you say is not from Japanese, and why?

kanban ginger wok soba kendo

2. From what you have learned about Japanese words in English, how many syllables do you think each of these non-study-list words from Japanese has?

matsutake kamikaze netsuke wakame



WORDS FROM GREEK

Il the words on this list are related to words that were used 2500 years ago! English gets an important part of its vocabulary from the language of ancient Greece. Classical Greek, as it is called, is quite different from but closely related to the language spoken in Greece today. The ancient Greeks provided the foundation for many important ways of looking at the world and for living in society that are still important today; that is one reason their language has remained so influential. It is still used today, for example, when scientists need a word to describe something newly created or discovered.



lethargy android chronic biopsy irony automaton enthusiasm synopsis homogeneous odyssey megalopolis acme 1 synonym orthodox aristocracy calypso patriarch hierarchy character 2 isobar asterisk eclectic melancholy stoic chronology eulogy didactic cosmetic Spartan geothermal cvnical 3

homonym cryptic hypothesis academy pentathlon antibiotic diatribe etymology hvdraulic 4 trauma hygiene semantics thesaurus phenomenon 5 cosmos protagonist acronym paradox synchronous misanthropy sarcasm ephemeral polygon nemesis syntax eureka topography

panic apostrophe geranium metaphor spherical xylophone 6 dynamic myriad epiphany apathy synergy amnesia philanthropy democracy strategy 7 diagnosis topical matriarch endemic analysis 8 rhetoric eponym agnostic doama idiom thermal dyslexia Olympian allegory pragmatic adamant

protocol tragic hydrology polymer notochord hiblical ergonomic mathematics tachometer protein rhinoceros hyphen autopsy pyre herpetology angelic tritium androcentric demotic geode hedonism periscope geoponics asthmogenic monotonous amphibious symbiosis macron periphery

(For footnotes, see Spelling Tips, pages 24–25.)

WORDS FROM GREEK





CHALLENGE WORDS

dichotomy misogynist hypocrisy diphthong mnemonic anomaly zephyr hippopotamus euphemism anachronism metamorphosis hyperbole arachnid paradigm Eocene

gynarchy

pneumatic Hemerocallis cynosure philhellenism euthanasia philately cacophony

SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM GREEK

- ¹ In a few words from Greek, e appears at the end of a word and has long e sound \earlies\text{e}\: Some examples are acme, apostrophe, and hyperbole.
- ² A \k\ sound in English often represents a sound from Greek that we don't actually use, and the most common spelling of this sound in English is ch: See anachronism, arachnid, character, chronic, chronology, dichotomy, gynarchy, hierarchy, matriarch, melancholy, notochord, patriarch, synchronous, and tachometer.
- ³ The most frequent sound that y gets in words from Greek is short i (\i\) as in acronym, calypso, cryptic, cynical, dyslexia, eponym, homonym, myriad, Olympian, polymer, symbiosis, synchronous, synergy, synonym, synopsis, and syntax.
- ⁴ A long *i* sound (\ī\) in a word that comes from Greek is sometimes represented by *y*, especially after *h*, as in *hydraulic*, *hydrology*, *hygiene*, *hyperbole*, *hyphen*, *hypothesis*, *cynosure*, *dynamic*, *gynarchy*, *pyre*, and *xylophone*.
- ⁵ In ancient Greek, the letter *phi* (pronounced \fi\) represented a breathy or "aspirated" version of the sound that is represented in English by *f*. Speakers of Roman-alphabet languages did not have this sound or a corresponding letter, so they substituted the \f\ sound but memorialized the original sound of *phi* by using *ph* to spell it. As a result, the English \f\ sound almost always appears as *ph* in words of Greek origin. Consider, for example: *amphibious*, *apostrophe*, *cacophony*, *diphthong*, *epiphany*, *euphemism*, *hyphen*, *metamorphosis*, *metaphor*, *periphery*, *phenomenon*, *philanthropy*, *philately*, *philhellenism*, *spherical*, *topography*, *xylophone*, and *zephyr*. Hundreds of words in English derived from Greek show this spelling.
- ⁶ The letter o is the vowel most often used to connect two Greek word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\a\) as in xylophone, notochord, androcentric, orthodox, ergonomic, geoponics, and asthmogenic, and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter o is a very good guess. The non-study-list words hypnotist, geometric, and electrolyte are among the many, many words made of Greek word elements connected by o.



WORDS FROM GREEK

- ⁷ The \j\ sound is always spelled with *g* in words from Greek. Why? When the \j\ sound appears in words of Greek origin, it does so as an anglicized pronunciation of a root originally pronounced with a hard *g*. Note that no *j* appears in any of the words on this list!
- ⁸ A schwa in words from Greek is occasionally spelled with *y*: See analysis, etymology, misogynist, odyssey, and zephyr.



apathy \'a-pə-thē\
n lack of feeling. The
path part of this word
comes from the Greek word
for "feeling." Some other
words you might think of
are: empathy, pathology, sympathy, and
e telepathy.

NOW YOU TRY!

Here are a few more Greek words with their pronunciations and definitions. After each definition is an explanation of what a part of the word means. See if you can think of other words in English that contain the same Greek word part, spelled in the same way.

- 1. analysis \a-\na-la-sas\ n separation of something into its parts. The *lysis* part of this word means "loosening" or "breaking up" in Greek.
- 2. android \'an-1\droid\ n a robot that looks like a human. The andr part of this word comes from the Greek word that means "man."
- 3. **diatribe** \'dī-ə-₁trīb\ *n* bitter or abusive writing or speech. The *dia* part of this word means "through," "across," or "apart" in Greek words.
- isobar \'i-sə-, b\'ar \ n a line on a map connecting places that have the same barometric reading. The iso part of this word means "equal" in Greek words.
- 5. **pentathlon** \pen-\tath-lan\ n an athletic competition consisting of five events.

 The pent/penta part of this word comes from the Greek word that means "five."
- 6. **polygon** \'pä-lē-_Igän\ n a drawn figure that encloses a space and has straight sides. The *gon* part of this word means "angle" in words from Greek.
- 7. **thermal** \'thər-məl\ adj related to, caused by, or involving heat. The *therm* part of this word appears in other words from Greek involving heat.

Be sure to visit www.myspellit.com for other activities, a list of "Words You Need to Know," and links to definitions and pronunciations of words on the Spell It! study lists.





nglish vocabulary owes Italian a big debt in two categories that provide a lot of enjoyment for many people: music and food. During the 17th century, when the idea of giving some instructions to performers of musical scores first started catching on, many of the important composers were Italian—and it was natural for them to use their own language. The result is that the standard terms for musical expression today are Italian. Many Italian food terms made their way into American English particularly as a result of 19th-century immigration. We might have adopted them anyway, though, for many people love Italian food!

staccato ballot confetti 1 semolina influenza cavalry piazza cadenza pistachio spinet cantata incognito² vendetta contraband mascara araffiti credenza parapet

falsetto ditto provolone 3 extravaganza scampi belladonna gondola rotunda cauliflower galleria regatta crescendo 4 balcony portfolio antipasto libretto virtuoso harmonica

maestro bravura fresco stucco 5 inferno **ballerina** malaria grotto harpsichord allegro virtuosa spaghetti piccolo ravioli vibrato pesto aria bambino

salami Parmesan oratorio finale scenario contrapuntal illuminati concerto macaroni palmetto bandit fiasco cameo sonata coloratura

CHALLENGE WORDS

scherzo 6 adagio seaue zucchini 7 capricious archipelago charlatan

maraschino paparazzo 8 fantoccini mozzarella qaribaldi ocarina prosciutto

trattoria vivace cappelletti pizzicato intaglio





WORDS FROM ITALIAN

SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM ITALIAN

- ² Long o (\ō\) at the end of an Italian word is spelled with o as in incognito, vibrato, stucco, virtuoso, concerto, prosciutto, pizzicato, and many other words on the list.
- ⁴ The \sh\ sound has various spellings in words from Italian; a spelling it usually doesn't have is *sh!* It can be spelled *sc* as in *crescendo* and *prosciutto* or *ch* as in *charlatan* and *pistachio*. The spelling of the \sh\ sound in *capricious* is also seen in words that come from Latin—the ancestral language of Italian.
- ⁵ The \k\ sound can be spelled cc when it comes before long o (\o\) as in stucco or when it comes before \\\"a\" as in staccato.
- ⁶ Another Italian spelling of \k\ is ch as in scherzo.
- ⁷ The sound \ē-nē\, common at the end of Italian words (it forms diminutives), is usually spelled *ini* (as in zucchini and fantoccini).
- ⁸ The double consonant zz is typically pronounced \ts\
 in words from Italian as in paparazzo, mozzarella,
 pizzicato, and one pronunciation of piazza.

NOW YOU TRY!

Officially, Italian uses only 21 of the 26 letters in the Roman alphabet. The letters it doesn't use (j, k, w, x, and y) do appear in Italian books and newspapers—but usually only to spell foreign words. Young Italians think it's cool to use these foreign letters, so they may eventually be accepted into the language. But for now, official Italian finds other ways to spell the sounds we normally associate with these letters. In light of that information, see if you can answer these puzzlers!

- 1. One word on the list of Challenge Words has a \w\ sound. How is it spelled?
- 2. One of the sounds we normally associate with *j* appears in one pronunciation of a word on the Challenge Words list. What is the word, and what letter is used to spell the sound?
- 3. The Italian word from which we get *cavalry* is *cavalleria*. The Italian word from which we get *balcony* is *balcone*. Why do you think these words ended up with a *y* on the end in English?
- 4. Il Messico is the Italian name of a country. What country do you think it is?

WORDS FROM SPANISH





ngland and Spain had some opportunities for word exchanges through war and trade. The real crossroads for Spanish and English, however, has been North America, starting as early as the 15th century when Spanish explorers

first came to the New World. This crossroads is as busy today as ever, for Spanish is the second—most-frequently spoken language in the United States. Because of the long border we share with Mexico and the large number of

Americans whose origins go back eventually to Mexico,
American English has many words that come directly from
Mexican Spanish.

burrito	pueblo	filibuster	mantilla ⁶	amarillo
embargo ¹	hacie <mark>nda</mark>	tortilla	oregano	cordovan
chimic hanga	fandango	vanilla	lariat	desperado
gazpacho	quesadilla ³	cilantro	chalupa	empanada
mariachi ²	flotilla	fiesta	buffalo 7	tomatillo
sombrero	tornado	anchovy	renegade	diablo
alligator	flamenco ⁴	mesa ⁵	langosta	pochismo
canasta	vigilante	ramada	alamo	sierra
bonanza	adios 🔊 🚜	junco	barrio	olio
chinchilla	cabana 🕌	cafete <mark>ria</mark>	cedilla	bolero
machismo	gordita 🖤	bongo	Argentine	junta
enchilada	peccadillo	castanets	bolivar	duenna
_				

CHALLENGE WORDS

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

SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM SPANISH

- ¹ A long o sound (\ō\) at the end of a word is often a mark of Spanish origin, and it is nearly always spelled simply with o as in embargo and many other words on this list.
- ² A long e sound (\eartile \) at the end of a word of Spanish origin is usually spelled with *i* as in *mariachi*.

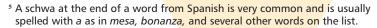
Tip from the Top

The good news about words from Spanish is that they are often spelled the way they sound. Silent letters in most cases! Be sure to have a look, though, at the spelling tips on this and the next page.



WORDS FROM SPANISH

- ³ The \k sound is sometimes spelled with qu in words of Spanish origin. This is especially true when the vowel sound that follows is long a (\array{a}), long e (\array{e}), or short i (\array{i}). Quesadilla and conquistador (in its pronunciations both with and without the \array{w} sound) are examples from our list.
- 4 It is much more common for the \k\ sound to be spelled with c in words of Spanish origin. This is almost invariable when the vowel sound that follows is a schwa (\a\) as in canasta and embarcadero; short a (\a\) as in castanets and caballero; or long o (\o\) as in flamenco and junco.



- The combination // in Spanish words is traditionally treated as a single letter and is pronounced as consonant \y\ in American Spanish. When such words enter English, sometimes that sound persists. At other times it is pronounced just like // would be in an English word: that is, as \l\. Some words—such as mantilla, tomatillo, amarillo, and caballero—even have two pronunciations in English. Quesadilla, tortilla, and novillero always have the \y\ pronunciation in English; chinchilla, flotilla, vanilla, peccadillo, cedilla, and sarsaparilla always have the \l\ pronunciation. Be on the lookout!
- ⁷ Note that, except for *II*, double consonants in words from Spanish are not very common. *Buffalo* and *peccadillo* represent exceptions. In Spanish, *buffalo* has only one *f* and *peccadillo* has only one c. English spelling rules prefer two consonants as a signal that the previous vowel is short, as is the case in these words.

NOW YOU TRY!

1. One of the two words beginning with *j* on our study list also begins with a \j\ sound, but the letter *j* does not always have this sound in words from Spanish. What is the initial consonant sound in these four non–study-list words, which also come from Spanish?

jalapeño jipijapa jinete jojoba

- 2. Why do you think English uses either c or qu but not k to spell the \k\ sound in words of Spanish origin?
- 3. You can see from the words on the list that *ch* is common in words from Spanish and that it usually has the same pronunciation as English normally uses for *ch*. In which word from the list does *ch* sometimes have a different pronunciation?
- 4. We have seen already that c often represents a \k\ sound in words from Spanish. In which three words on the list does c have a different pronunciation, and what sound does it have?
- 5. The two I's in alligator are not the usual II that you often see in the middle of words from Spanish. When this word was borrowed, the Spanish masculine definite article el ("the") was borrowed along with it. El lagarto in Spanish became alligator in English. Do you remember in what other language the definite article is often borrowed along with the word when it enters English?

KEY TO EXERCISES





Words from Latin pages 3-5

- 1. The adjective is curricular.
- English words from Latin ending in xious include anxious, noxious, and obnoxious.
- 3. There are several such plurals in English. The most common ones are probably alumnus/alumni, nucleus/nuclei, cactus/cacti, and fungus/fungi.
- 4. The words are *subject*, *reject*, *project*, and *object*.
- Some other words with a silent g include assign, benign, impugn, and reign.

Words from Arabic pages 6-7

- 1. The letter *x* represents two consonant sounds: \ks\.
- 2. The \k\ sound is spelled with k (as in alkali), c (as in carmine), q (as in Qatari), que (as in mosque), ch (as in alchemy), and kh (as in mukhtar).

Words from Asian Languages page 8

- 1. The sound is \"\"\ and is spelled with oo in oolong, mongoose, shampoo, typhoon, loot, and bamboo.
- Long e (\ē\) is spelled with y (in cushy and gunnysack), ey (in chutney), and i (in basmati, batik, gourami, jiva, and Holi).
- 3. Bungalow probably got a w on the end because many other English words that have the same final sound end in ow: flow, glow, blow, stow, etc.

Words from French pages 9-11

- 1. The words are café and melee.
- The \w\ sound is spelled with u in suave. In repertoire, boudoir, and croissant the oi is pronounced \wä\.
- 3. The two words are mirror and miracle.
- 4. Some words ending with long a (\ā\) are entree, lycée, and soiree.

Some words ending with long e (\earts \) are agree, apogee, degree, disagree, lessee, pedigree, and refugee.

The endings of the words divorcee and repartee can be pronounced with either a long a (\array{a}) or a long e (\array{e}).

5. The three eponyms are *leotard*, *clementine*, and *chauvinism*.

Eponyms page 12

- The six eponyms based on characters from Greek or Roman mythology are narcissistic, tantalize, hector, vulcanize, cupid, and mentor.
- 2. Answers will vary.

Words from German pages 13-14

- 1. The breeds are *drahthaar*, *poodle*, *affenpinscher*, and *Doberman*.
- The terminal sound \al\ is spelled el in the German style and le in the more English style.
- 3. The word *autobahn* has a more anglicized pronunciation, probably because of the influence of *auto* and *automobile*.

Words from Slavic Languages page 15

- 1. The -nik suffix occurs in beatnik, peacenik, refusenik, and in other words that people coin from time to time, such as folknik and neatnik.
- 2. *Cravat* is the odd one out; it is the only one of the group that did not enter English via Yiddish.



KEY TO EXERCISES

Words from Dutch page 16

 Cranberry, alpenglow, and smearcase are all part translations from German. Grosbeak is from French.

Words from Old English pages 17-19

- 1. arrow 2. marrow 3. sparrow
- 4. yarrow 5. shallow 6. tallow
- 7. mallow 8. fallow 9. loathe
- 10. seethe 11. writhe 12. scvthe
- 13. bristle 14. thistle 15. trestle
- 16. epistle

Words from New World Languages pages 20-21

- 1. Pennyroyal, brooklime, and chickling all are results of folk etymology.
- 2. Catalpa and guava are from New World languages.

Words from Japanese page 22

- Ginger and wok are not from Japanese. Notice that Japanese words nearly always end with a yowel sound or with \n\.
- 2. matsutake: 4 syllables kamikaze: 4 syllables netsuke: 2 or 3 syllables wakame: 3 syllables

Words from Greek pages 23-25

The words provided for these exercises are among the most common ones; you may have thought of others.

- 1. catalysis, dialysis, paralysis
- 2. androgenous, misandry, androcracy
- diadem, diagonal, diagram, diaphragm
- 4. isopropyl, isosceles, isotherm, isotope
- 5. pentagram, pentagon, pentameter, Pentateuchal, Pentecost



- 6. decagon, hexagon, heptagon, pentagon, nonagon, octagon, orthogonal
- 7. hyperthermia, hypothermia, isotherm, thermometer

Words from Italian pages 26-27

- The \w\ sound is spelled with u in segue.
- 2. A sound we associate with *j* is spelled with *g* in *adagio*.
- 3. The reason is probably simply that many words in English, representing all parts of speech, end with y.
- 4. *Il Messico* is the Italian name for Mexico.

Words from Spanish pages 28-29

- 1. The initial consonant sound is \h\.
- 2. The standard Spanish alphabet uses *k* only to spell words borrowed from other languages.
- Machismo is sometimes pronounced with a \k\ sound rather than a \ch\ sound.
- 4. The letter c has the \s\ sound in cilantro, hacienda, and cedilla.
- 5. Words in English from Arabic often borrow the definite article *al.*

Be sure to visit www.myspellit.com for other activities, a list of "Words You Need to Know," and links to definitions and pronunciations of words on the *Spell It!* study lists.





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