ABOUT THE BEE

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is an educational promotion sponsored by The E.W. Scripps Company in conjunction with over 260 newspapers 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 in their locales and send their champions to the finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in 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, and home schools. Participants must not have reached their 16th birthday on or before the date of the 2008 national finals and must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before February 1, 2008. A comprehensive set of eligibility requirements may be found in the Suggested Rules for Local Spelling Bees 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 82 National Spelling Bee champions, 43 have been girls and 39 have been boys. Co-champions were declared in 1950, 1957, and 1962. The 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee will involve more than ten million students at the local level and over 270 national finalists.
ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

Welcome to the 2008 edition of Spell It!, the Scripps National Spelling Bee study booklet! Spell It! will be published annually, just as its predecessor, Paideia, was published from 1995 to 2006.

This year’s study booklet focuses on about 874 words. Almost all the words are divided into sections by language of origin. (The list also contains one special section: eponyms.) This division by language of origin will enable you to learn and remember several important rules, tips, and guidelines for successfully spelling words in English—the most challenging language of all for spellers!

Each section contains one or more “challenge words” in addition to its basic study list. The challenge words, unlike those in the basic study lists, have pronunciations and short definitions that often resemble those found in Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate® Dictionary and provide just enough information to introduce you to the words. However, the official dictionary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is the 2002 edition of Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged (also published by Merriam-Webster), whose definitions and pronunciations are often much more detailed than those you will find here. The etymological information in Webster’s Third is likewise far more detailed than what you will find in this booklet, which concentrates on the influence of only one or two languages on any particular word.

The basic study-list words and the challenge words are typical of the words that will be used in most local spelling bees this year. However, in some highly competitive local spelling bees, spellers remaining at the end of the contest will receive words that do not appear in this booklet. Some organizers of local 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 the official list of study words for 2008, 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! Your teacher may have you work on them in groups or as a class. 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!

For additional challenge words and other activities, visit www.myspellit.com. You may be asked to spell these additional challenge words in competition.

WORDS FROM LATIN

No language has been more influential in the development of English 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, until relatively recently, the language of culture, religion, education, and science in the Western world. 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
alliteration
refuge
amicable
lucid
percolate
meticulous
fastidious
trajectory
transect
animosity
implement
ambiguity
curriculum
omnivorous
bellicose
electoral
crescent
obsequious
precipice
suscitable
condolences
benefactor
candidate
bugle
formidable
cany
suberfuge
abdicate
lunatic
colloquial
carnivore
gregarious
ostentatious
prodigal
herbivore
prosaic
ostentatious
prosaic
herbivore
prodigal
magnanimous
benevolent
mercurial
simile
jovial
ridiculous
innate
opportune
discern
mediocre
insidious
rupture
precipitate
erudite
intractable
exuberant
ingenious
reminiscencenous
ominous
vulnerable
omnipotent
consensus
discipline
alleviate
spectrum
prescription
capitulation
incredulous
affinity
necessary
adjacent
dissect
conjecture
imperative
predicate

(For footnotes, see Spelling Tips, page 4.)
The letter i is a vowel often used to connect two Latin word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\(\text{ə}\)) and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter i might be a good guess: See carnivore and herbivore. Other examples include non-study-list words that end in iiform such as oviform and peditiform.

The letter k rarely appears in words from Latin, and its sound is nearly always represented by c as in canary, proasic, canine, mediocre, Capricorn, aquatic, cognition, precocious, and many other words.

The letter x often gets the pronunciation (\(\text{g}\)) in words from Latin, as in exacerbate, and exuberant.

The combination ious ends many adjectives of Latin origin. When the consonant that precedes iou is c or t, the sound of the final syllable is \(\text{sh}\) as in precocious, facetious, ostentatious, and pernicious.

**CHALLENGE WORDS**

soliloquy \(\text{sər-ə-li-kwə}\) n a dramatic monologue that represents a series of unspoken reflections.

accommodate \(\text{a-kə-mə-dät}\) v provide with lodgings.

pernicious \(\text{pər-ni-shəs}\) adj very harmful or destructive.

efficacy \(\text{ef-ə-sa-ri}\) n the power to produce an effect.

vernacular \(\text{ver-nə-kə-lər}\) adj instinctive rather than intellectual.

exacerbate \(\text{ek-sə-rət}\) v make more violent, bitter, or severe.

**SPELLING TIPS FOR LATIN WORDS**

1. One of the hardest things to remember about words from Latin is whether an internal double consonant (like r in interrupt) is doubled. To reinforce your memory of the correct spelling, try to remember related words all together (like interrupt along with interruption or necessary along with necessity).

2. The \(\text{iə}\) sound (as in ooze) is nearly always spelled with a u in words from Latin. It typically follows a \(\text{u}, \text{i}, \text{y}, \text{w}, \text{r}, \text{v}\), or \(\text{u}\) sound. After other consonants, this sound normally becomes \(\text{y}\) (as in bugle, refugee, and meticulous).

3. Beware of words like crescent in which the \(\text{s}\) sound is spelled with c in words from Latin. Other examples include visceral, discern, and discipline.

4. A related tip: When you hear within a word from Latin the \(\text{s}\) sound followed by any of the sounds of e (long, short, or schwa), there’s a possibility that the \(\text{s}\) sound is spelled with c as in exacerbate, access, adjacent, condolence, facetious, and necessary.

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?

For additional challenge words and other activities, visit www.myspellit.com. You may be asked to spell these additional challenge words in competition.
**CHALLENGE WORDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;māš-ə-lən&quot;</td>
<td>muslin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;kəm(p)-ərə&quot;</td>
<td>camphor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;al-ɡə-ɾi-thəm&quot;</td>
<td>algorithm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;mi-nə-rət&quot;</td>
<td>minaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;ta-mə-rən&quot;</td>
<td>tamarind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;kə-ɾəf&quot;</td>
<td>carafe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;jœ-ləp&quot;</td>
<td>julep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;mərt-sə-pən&quot;</td>
<td>marzipan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WORDS FROM ARABIC**

Words from Arabic have come into English in two different ways. A relatively few, in more modern times, have made the jump directly as loanwords. In these instances, Arabic had a name for something that was either unknown in English or lacked a name. The more frequent route of Arabic words into English was in previous eras, often traveling through other languages on the way. For that reason the spelling of Arabic words in English is not consistent, but there are nevertheless a few clues that you can watch out for.

- **azure**
- **Islamic**
- **sultan**
- **artichoke**
- **macrame**
- **mummy**
- **adobe**
- **macrame**
- **artichoke**
- **sultan**
- **Islamic**
- **azure**

**Tips from the Top**

The Arabic alphabet has 28 letters, and among these are letters that represent half a dozen sounds that do not even exist in English. Thus, when a word crosses over from Arabic to English, there is always a compromise about how it will be spelled and pronounced, which sometimes results in inconsistencies. Some English consonants have to do double or triple duty, representing various sounds in Arabic that native speakers of English don't make.

- **guitar**
- **nabob**
- **giraffe**
- **mattress**
- **elixir**
- **saffron**
- **cotton**
- **albatross**
- **zero**
- **magazine**
- **mohair**
- **mosque**
- **zenith**
- **alfalfa**
- **imam**
- **tariff**
- **elixir**
- **mohair**

**SPELLING TIPS FOR ARABIC WORDS**

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*, and *henna*. When they are at the end of a word (*albatross* or *tariff*), this 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 in Arabic has three consonant sounds, with or without vowels between them: *Gazelle*, *safari*, *talc*, and *carafe* are typical examples.

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

4. A long *e* sound (*\ē\*\) at the end of an Arabic word is often spelled with *i* as in *safari* but may also be spelled with *y* as in *alcohol*.

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

**Folk Etymology**

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 often change the spelling of 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 they suspect might have elements of folk etymology in them! 

1. *Elixir* is typical of Arabic words in that it has three consonant sounds, not counting the *l* that is from the Arabic definite article (see tip 3, above). Why do you think *elixir* is spelled with only two consonants after the *l* 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 in the list of words from Arabic?

**NOW YOU TRY!**

1. *Elixir* is typical of Arabic words in that it has three consonant sounds, not counting the *l* that is from the Arabic definite article (see tip 3, above). Why do you think *elixir* is spelled with only two consonants after the *l* in English?

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When 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.

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, an approach that you might find useful is to simply spell the word the way you would spell it if you were hearing it for the first time. In other words, use the letters you would use if the spelling were completely up to you! Another approach that is sometimes useful is to spell a borrowed word or part of a borrowed word in the way that an English word you already know with similar sounds is spelled. This approach would work for spelling mongoose, for example.

Another approach that is sometimes useful is to spell a borrowed word or part of a borrowed word in the way that you would spell it if you had already heard it. This approach would work for spelling gymkhana, for example.

Now You Try!

1. One sound is spelled with the same double vowel in five of the words from Asian languages on this page. What sound is that, and how is it spelled?

2. The long e sound (/e/) is spelled ee in dungaree and rupee. Name three other ways it is spelled in the words above.

3. Why do you think bungalow is spelled with a w at the end? (Hint: See the second paragraph under Tips from the Top, above.)

Before 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, English words with French credentials 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.

Challenging Words

Gymkhana /gim-ˈkə-nə/ n a sports or athletic competition.
Basmati /bəz-mə-tə/ n a kind of long-grained rice.
Gingham /ˈgin-əm/ n a dyed fabric used to make clothes.

Now You Try!

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### Challenge Words

- **Dugong** /ˈdəgəŋ/ n an aquatic mammal
- **Guru** /ˈɡərə/ n a spiritual leader in Hinduism
- **Cushy** /ˈkəsə/ n an comfortable or luxurious place
- **Seersucker** /ˈsirəsəkər/ n a creased cotton fabric
- **Jungle** /ˈdʒʌŋgl/ n a dense, tropical forest
- **Oolong** /ˈʊəlɒŋ/ n a type of Chinese tea
- **Nirvana** /ˈnɪr.vənə/ n a state of bliss or perfect peace
- **Bangle** /ˈbæŋgl/ n a circular piece of jewelry
- **Cummerbund** /ˈkʌmər.bənd/ n a belt that encircles the waist
- **Juggernaut** /ˈdʒuɡ.nər.ət/ n a large, immovable object
- **Pangolin** /ˈpæŋɡəl.ən/ n an armored, ant-eating reptile
- **Mahatma** /ˈmɑː.χət.əm/ n a remarkable person

### Words from French

- **Peloton** /ˈpələ.tɔ̃/ n a group of cyclists
- **Barrage** /ˈbær.je/ n a dam or barrier
- **Clementine** /ˈklemənt.ən/ n a variety of mandarin orange
- **Chagrin** /ˈtʃæɡri.n/ n a feeling of regret or shame
- **Pacifism** /ˈpæs.fizəm/ n the belief in avoiding violence
- **Manicure** /ˈmæn.iˌkər/ n a treatment for the nails
- **Altruism** /ˌælt.rə.ˈzəm/ n selflessness or self-sacrifice
- **Bureaucracy** /ˌbjuː.əˈkræs.i/ n the management of an organization through bureaucracy
- **Mascot** /ˈmæskət/ n a symbol or figure representing a sports team
- **Chamois** /ˈʃəməs/ n a type of wild sheep
- **Typhoon** /ˈtaɪ.pən/ n a powerful typhoon
- **Bamboo** /ˈbæm.bəʊ/ n a type of grass
- **Dungaree** /ˈdʌŋ.gəri/ n a type of denim overalls
- **Bungalow** /ˈbʌŋɡə.lən/ n a small house
- **Gunysack** /ˈɡʌn.i.sæk/ n a type of bag
- **Chutney** /ˈʃʊ.təni/ n a spicy condiment
- **Karma** /ˈkær.mə/ n the law of causes and effects
- **Jute** /ˈdʒuːt/ n a type of fiber

### Spelling Tips

- English words with French credentials 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.

### 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.
2008

WORDS FROM FRENCH

CHALLENGE WORDS

- **gauche** adj lacking social experience or grace.
- **rapport** n harmonious and easy relations between parties.
- **camouflage** n concealment by means of disguise.
- **genre** n a category of artistic, musical, or literary composition.
- **virgule** n a forward slash.
- **debacle** n a great disaster or failure.

fusillade n a number of shots fired in succession.
saboteur n someone who carries out an act or process tending to hamper or hurt.
renaisance n a period of renewed activity.
chaudvinism n an unfair attitude of superiority over a group.
recidivist n someone who relapses, especially to a life of crime.
chassis n the supporting frame or structure of a machine or car.
détente n a relaxation of strained relations.
racconter n a good storyteller.
mayonnaise n a thick sauce made from egg yolks and oil.
surveillance n a close watch over someone or something.
repertoire n a list of things that can be performed.

SPELLING TIPS FOR FRENCH WORDS

1. French nearly always spells the \(\text{\textasciitilde}h\) sound with ch, and this spelling of the sound is very common in words from French. Chagrin, chaudvinism, and croquet are examples.

2. A word from French ending with a stressed \(\text{\textasciitilde}et\) is usually spelled with ett as in croquette and layette.

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

4. A somewhat unfamiliar way to spell long a \(\text{\textasciitilde}a\) at the end of a word from French is with er as in one pronunciation of foyer.

5. A long e sound \(\text{\textasciitilde}ee\) 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 \(\text{\textasciitilde}az\) sound are common in French. This sound is spelled age as in collage, mirage, dressage, garage, and barrage.

7. A \(\text{\textasciitilde}ak\) sound at the end of a word from French is often spelled que as in mystique, boutique, and physique.

8. The \(\text{\textasciitilde}u\) sound (as in boutique and rouge) is usually spelled ou in words from French. Sometimes, however, it is spelled with u as in tutu.

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

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

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

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 sound \(\text{\textasciitilde}a\) can be spelled at the end of a word from French: \(\text{\textasciitilde}ka-f\) \(\text{\textasciitilde}m-a\).

2. The consonant w is rare in French. You get ten points for using it in French SCRABBLE®! Find the three words in the study list that have a \(\text{\textasciitilde}w\) 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 \(\text{\textasciitilde}a\). Others, like levee, have a long e \(\text{\textasciitilde}e\). 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 in 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?
**Eponyms**

Eponyms 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 in this list that end with ia are names for plants and are based on the last names of botanists.

**Challenge Words**

forsythia /fɔrˈsɪθ.iə/ n a shrub that has yellow flowers in the spring.
madeleine /mədəˈli.nə/ n a small, shell-shaped cake.
bromeliad /bromˌi-lē-əd/ n any plant in the pineapple family.
mercerize /ˈmɜr-səˌriz/ v treat fabric chemically to give it strength and shine.
Fahrenheit /ˈfær.ənˌhɪt/ adj relating to a scale for measuring heat.
narcissistic /ˈnær-səˈsɪs-tɪk/ adj excessively concerned for or devoted to oneself.
dahlia /ˈda.lɪə/ n a flowering plant that grows from a tuber.
Baedeker /ˈbā-diˈkɑr/ n a guidebook to a foreign country.

**Now You Try!**

1. Three of the eponyms listed above are inspired by characters from Greek or Roman mythology. Which three 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?

For additional challenge words and other activities, visit [www.myspellit.com](http://www.myspellit.com). You may be asked to spell these additional challenge words in competition.

**Challenge Words**

schottische /ˈʃɔt-tɪsh/ n a round dance similar to a polka.
dreidel /ˈdred-i/l n a four-sided toy like a top.
weimaraner /ˌvi-mə-ˈrə-nər/ n a breed of large, gray-haired pointers.
ersatz /ˈɜrt-sats/ adj being an inferior or artificial substitute.
fräulein /ˈfro-iˌli:n/ n an unmarried German woman.
blitzkrieg /ˈblɪtsˌkriːɡ/ n war conducted with great speed and force.
gesundheit /ˌɡəsʊnˈhɪt/ interj said to acknowledge that someone has sneezed.
pfeffernuss /ˈpfe-fər-nʊs/ n a small, hard, spicy Christmas cookie.
edelweiss /ˈɛdəlˌwiːs/ n a small, white, alpine flower.
glockenspiel /ˈɡlɑkˌkɑnˌspel/ n a percussion instrument somewhat like a xylophone.
rottweiler /ˈrɔt-ˌvɪ-lər/ n a breed of black-and-tan, short-haired guard dogs.
anchluss /ˈɑnˌkɫʊs/ n political or economic union of two states.

**Words from German**

angst 1
pretzel
waltz
haversack
nosh
sauerkraut
hinterland
verboten
kitsch 2
liverwurst
treat
umruck
strudel
eiderdown
rucksack
schnauzer
Meistersinger 3
lederhosen
kohlrabi
sitzmark
langlauf
autobahn
Backstein
inselberg
gestalt
einkorn
gastapo
angst
knapsack
feldspar
poltergeist
nachtmusik
graupel
Wagnerian
cregle
fife
glitz
hamburg
Bildungsroman
kuchen
pitchblende
prattle
zwinger

(For footnotes, see Spelling Tips, page 14.)
1. A surprising number of words in English for dog breeds come from German. In our list there are three: rottweiler, schnauzer, and weimaraner. See if you can fill in the blanks in the following words to correctly spell some other dog breeds from German:

da_ _s_ _nd p_ _le affenp_ _sch_ _ Do_ _m_ _n

2. The spellings of the words streusel, pretzel, and snorkel are all typical of German words. The spelling of noodle, 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 in words from German is usually pronounced about the same way when these words arrive in English. Looking at umlaut, sauerbraten, autobahn, schnauzer, and langlauf, which word would you say has been more anglicized in its usual pronunciation? Why do you think this is?

4. The vowel combination sch 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 /s/. When it follows a t, which is common, the pronunciation is /ts/ as in spritz, pretzel, and seltzer.

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

7. A long e sound (/e/) usually has the spelling ie in words from German, as in Blitzkrieg.

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

**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
   - cravat
   - knish
Like 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.

**Challenge Word**

 mAELSTROM 
 n a powerful, violent whirlpool.

**Challenge Words**

heifer  
 n a young cow that has not produced a calf.

mistletoe 
 n a semiparasitic shrub with white berries that grows on trees.

salve  
 n a healing ointment.

**True in Part**

Buckwheat is an example of a “part translation.” When a word that has two parts (like English rowboat) travels from another language to English, we sometimes translate one part and keep the sound of the other part without translating it. The original Dutch for buckwheat is boek-weit. When this word came into English, we kept the sound of boek and translated weit (“wheat”).

**Tip from the Top**

A typical Dutch word in English is often a hybrid. It gives some clues to its Dutch origins either in sound or spelling, but it has also been made more English-friendly as a result of spending years on the tongues and pens of English speakers. When you hear “Dutch origin,” the best bet to start with is just to spell the word as it sounds. But be on the lookout for unusual vowel-sound spellings such as those you see in furlough and maelstrom.

**Challenge Words**

cranberry  
grosbeak  
alpenglow  
smearcase
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 OLD ENGLISH WORDS**

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, and errand.

2. A long a sound (\(\text{\textael}a\)) at the end of an Old English word is often spelled ay as in belay.

3. Long e (\(\text{\textae}e\)) 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, and womany.

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

5. When the syllable \(\text{\textael}a\) ends an Old English word, it is nearly always spelled stle, with the t being silent. The only common exception to this rule is pestle, which some people pronounce as \(\text{\textael}es-tle\).

6. Silent gh after a vowel is common in Old English words, 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 \(\text{\textael}i\).

7. The vowel combination 0a in Old English words is nearly always pronounced as long o (\(\text{\textael}o\)) as in loam and goatee. Examples not on the study list include shoal, loathe, and gloaming.

8. Silent e on the end or not? For words from Old English that end in either hard th \(\text{\textith}h\) or soft th \(\text{\textither}h\), 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, and hearth versus tithe and lithe. Interestingly, the word blithe can be pronounced both ways.

**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.

example: paddock
clue: a small hill
answer: hillock

A. example: narrow

1. clue: a pointed weapon
2. clue: the filling of bones
3. clue: a small songbird
4. challenge clue: a wild plant with yellow or white flowers

B. example: sallow

5. clue: not deep
6. clue: thick fat from cattle
7. challenge clue: a plant with showy flowers
8. challenge clue: (of a field) not cultivated

C. example: lithe

9. clue: what your lungs do
10. clue: churn or foam as if boiling
11. challenge clue: twist from pain or suffering
12. challenge clue: a cutting tool with a curved blade

D. example: nestle

13. clue: a stiff hair
14. clue: a common weed with prickly leaves
15. challenge clue: a frame that supports
16. challenge clue: a formal word for a letter

pattern: double consonant followed by ock
answer: hillock

pattern: consonant sound followed by allow
answer:

pattern: ending \(\text{\textith}h\) spelled as the
answer:
The 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 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 Hawaiian isn’t a true New World language, it is included here because Hawaii is now a part of the United States.

Challenge Words

CHALLENGE WORDS

opossum \( (o^2)pä-sam \)  n  a marsupial native to eastern North America.
terrapin \( (tɛr-ə-pon) \)  n  an aquatic turtle native to North America.

Tip 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. Cashew, for example, is from the native South American language Tupi, which has no connection with Hawaiian, 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.

Other languages have reduplicative words is also identified with Spanish, and several other words on the list. Did you ever lose a bigwig 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 the second syllable rhymes with the first (as in wingding and the second syllable rhymes with the first (as in flip-flop). The reason that all consonants as the first (as in flip-flop). The reason that all consonants as the first (as in flip-flop). This strategy would work for hurricane, muskrat, wigWam, and several other words on the list.

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 in 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
   - campanula
   - brooklime
   - chickling
   - poppy

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

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.

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

Coyote shows evidence of having passed through Spanish on its way to English: The voiced final e is typical of Spanish words. Another example from this list is tamale.

Tip from the Top

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 the second syllable rhymes with the first (as in flip-flop). The reason that all consonants as the first (as in flip-flop). This strategy would work for hurricane, muskrat, wigwam, and several other words on the list.

Challenge Words

TERESA HAXTON

WORDS FROM NEW WORLD LANGUAGES 2002
Japanese 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. Japanese is written in English according to the sound of Japanese words and is not influenced by the Japanese writing system, which uses symbols for words rather than letters.

WORDS FROM JAPANESE

ninja  
sushi  
tofu  
shogun  
sayonara  
honcho  
karate  
samurai  
teriyaki  
sashimi  
tsushi  
teriyaki  
sashimi  
tsunami  
tycoon  
haiku  
futon  
mikado  
hibachi  
origami  
geisha  
wasabi  
ramen  
kudzu  
banzai  
sumo  
koan  
satori  
tatami  
sukiyaki

WORDS FROM GREEK

lethargy  
android  
chronic  
biospy  
irony  
automaton  
enthusiasm  
synopsis  
chronology  
etymology  
hypothesis  
academy  
anticipate  
fraction  
geometric  
spherical  
empire  
megalopolis  
asphalt  
footprint  
mortal  
tragic  
helicopter  
protocol  
tragic  
therapeutic  
thermometer  
tachometer  
protein  
rhinoceros  
hyphen  
avatar  
herpetology  
pyre  
hermetic  
tritium  
asymmetric  
androcentric  
astigmatism  
hedonism

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WORDS FROM JAPANESE

The words in this list are all 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.

WORDS FROM GREEK

dyslexia  
Olympian  
allegory  
pragmatic  
adaman  
protocol  
tragic  
helicopter  
therapeutic  
thermometer  
tachometer  
protein  
rhinoceros  
hyphen  
avatar  
herpetology  
pyre  
hermetic  
tritium  
asymmetric  
androcentric  
astigmatism  
hedonism

Now you try!

1. Study the sounds that occur at the ends of words from Japanese in 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  pundit  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 Japanese words has?
   matsutake  kamikaze  netsuke  wakame

1. A long e sound (/e/) is very common at the end of Japanese words and is usually spelled with i as in sushi, teriyaki, wasabi, and several other words on the list.
2. Be careful, however, of some Japanese words in which long e is spelled simply with e as in 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 (/o/) at the end of a word from Japanese is spelled with o as in honcho, mikado, and sumo.
5. A long a sound (/a/) heard in geisha is spelled ei in some words from Japanese.

Challenge Word
karaoke  /kə-ˈrē-kō/  n  a form of entertainment in which ordinary people sing popular songs.

Spelling Tips for Japanese Words

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

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(For footnotes, see Spelling Tips, page 24.)
SPELLING TIPS FOR GREEK WORDS

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

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

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

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

5. The Greek letter called phi \(\phi\) (pronounced \(\phi\)), even though its sound is exactly the same as English \(f\), almost always appears as \(ph\) in words from Greek. Consider, for example: apostrophe, diphthong, ephemeral, epiphany, euphemism, hyphen, metamorphosis, metaphor, phonomenon, philanthropy, spherical, topography, and zephyr. These words are only a sample: 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 an \(a\) as in xylophone, notochord, and ergonomic and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter \(o\) is a very good guess. The non-study-list words hypnotist, geometric, and electrolyte are among the many, many words made of Greek word elements connected by \(o\).

7. The \(j\) sound is always spelled with \(g\) in words from Greek. No \(j\) appears in any of the words in this list!

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

**CHALLENGE WORDS**

- dichotomy \(\text{dik-\text{t}a-\text{m}e}\) n a division into two things or groups.
- misogynist \(\text{mis-o-\text{g}a-nist}\) n someone who dislikes women.
- hypocrisy \(\text{hi-\text{p}a-\text{kra-s}e}\) n pretending to believe or practice something when in fact one does not.
- diphthong \(\text{dif-\text{th}o}\) n two vowel sounds pronounced together.
- mnemonic \(\text{ni-\text{m}a-nik}\) adj related to memory or intended to assist memory.
- anomaly \(\text{an-a-\text{m}a-\text{le}}\) n something that is abnormal or peculiar and cannot be easily explained.
- zephyr \(\text{ze-far}\) n a warm, westerly breeze.
- hippopotamus \(\text{hi-po-ta-\text{m}a-sa}\) n a large, gray-skinned mammal that lives in rivers in Africa.
- euphemism \(\text{eu-\text{f}a-\text{mi-za}\text{m}}\) n an acceptable word that substitutes for one that is rude or offensive.
- anachronism \(\text{an-a-\text{kr-o-ni-za}\text{m}}\) n something that seems unlikely or impossible in the time that it occurs.
- metamorphosis \(\text{me-\text{to-mo-\text{r}o-sa}\text{s}}\) n change of physical form or substance.
- hyperbole \(\text{hi-\text{b}a-\text{t}a-sa}\text{al}\text{e}\) n extreme exaggeration.
- arachnid \(\text{ar-a-\text{trock-nad}}\) n a group of animals that includes spiders, scorpions, mites, and ticks.
- paradigm \(\text{per-o-\text{d}i-m}d\) n a very clear or useful example.

**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** \(\text{ana-\text{l}o-sa}\) n separation of something into its parts. The \(\text{ysis}\) part of this word means “loosening” or “breaking up” in Greek.

2. **android** \(\text{an-droid}\) n a robot that looks like a human. The \(\text{and}\) part of this word comes from the Greek word that means “man.”

3. **diatribe** \(\text{di-a-\text{trib}}\) n bitter or abusive writing or speech. The \(\text{dia}\) part of this word means “through,” “across,” or “apart” in Greek words.

4. **isobar** \(\text{is-o-bar}\) n a line on a map connecting places that have the same barometer reading. The \(\text{iso}\) part of this word means “equal” in Greek words.

5. **pentathlon** \(\text{pen-ta-thlon}\) n an athletic competition consisting of five events. The \(\text{pent}\) part of this word comes from the Greek word that means “five.”

6. **polygon** \(\text{poly-\text{gon}}\) n a drawn figure that encloses a space and has straight sides. The \(\text{gon}\) part of this word means “angle” in words from Greek.

7. **thermal** \(\text{ther-mal}\) adj related to, caused by, or involving heat. The \(\text{therm}\) part of this word appears in other words from Greek involving heat.

For additional challenge words and other activities, visit www.myspellit.com. You may be asked to spell these additional challenge words in competition.
English 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 first started catching on of giving some instructions to performers of musical scores, 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, but chances are we might have adopted them anyway: Who doesn’t like Italian food?

**WORDS FROM ITALIAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge Words</th>
<th>English Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>segue</strong></td>
<td>proceed smoothly from one activity, topic, scene, or part to another without pausing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>scherzo</strong></td>
<td>a sprightly, humorous, instrumental musical composition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>adagio</strong></td>
<td>(as a musical direction) slowly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>prosecco</strong></td>
<td>a tube-shaped summer squash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>capriccio</strong></td>
<td>adj impulsive or unpredictable in attitude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>archipelago</strong></td>
<td>a group of scattered islands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>charlatan</strong></td>
<td>a pretended to special knowledge or skill: a quack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>maraschino</strong></td>
<td>a cherry preserved in syrup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>paparazzo</strong></td>
<td>an aggressive photographer of celebrities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPELLING TIPS FOR ITALIAN WORDS**

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

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

3. A long e sound (\(\varepsilon\)) at the end of a word from Italian can be spelled with e as in provolone and finale, although this spelling of the sound is less common than i (see tip 1).

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 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 (\(\ddot{o}\)) as in stucco or when it comes before \(\ddot{a}\), as in staccato.

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

7. The sound \(\varepsilon\-n\-\) common at the end of Italian words (it forms diminutives), is usually spelled ini.

8. The double consonant zz is typically pronounced \(\ts\) in words from Italian, as in paparazzo.

**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 in 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 a word in the Challenge Words list. What letter is used to spell it?
3. The Italian word from which we get balcony is baldacchino. The Italian word from which we get belladonna is belladonna. 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

England 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  vanilla  langosta
embargo 1  embajada  fiesta  alamo
chimichanga  fandango  anchovye  barrio
gazpacho  quesadilla  mesa  cedilla
mariachi 2  flotilla  ramada  Argentina
sombreo  tornado  junco  bolivar
alligator  flamenco  cafetería  amarillo
canasta  bongo  mantilla  cordovan
bonanza  mantillita  desesperado  esperad
chinchilla  cabana  mantilla  empanada
cilantro  ado  oregano  tomatillo
chilantro  oregano  lariat  diablo
cañetos  peccadillo  chalupa  pochismo
enchilada  filibuster  buffalo  7

Challenge words

Sassafras  papa  a  fras  n  a tree of the eastern United States with different leaf shapes.
Punctilio  pock-ti-loe  n  a minor point of conduct.
Sarsaparilla  gas-pa-ri-la  n  a flavoring made from the roots of plants.

Spelling tips for Spanish words

1 A long o sound (\ö) 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 in this list.

A long e sound (\ê) at the end of a word of Spanish origin is usually spelled with i as in mariachi.

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 (\a\), long e (\ê\), or short i (\i\). Quesadilla is an example from our list.

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 (\o\) as in canasta, short a (\a\) as in castanets, or long o (\ö\) as in flamenco and junco.

Anchovy.

A schwa at the end of a word from Spanish is very common and is usually spelled with a as in bonanza, canasta, and several other words in the list.

The combination ll in Spanish words is traditionally treated as a single letter and is pronounced as consonant \ll\ in American Spanish. When such words enter English, sometimes that sound persists. At other times it is pronounced just like l would be in an English word: that is, as \l\.

Some words, such as mantilla and tomatillo, even have two pronunciations in English. Quesadilla and tortilla always have the \ll\ pronunciation in English; chinchilla, flotilla, vanilla, peccadillo, and cedilla always have the \ll\ pronunciation. Be on the lookout!

Note that, except for ll, double consonants in words from Spanish are not very common. Buffalo and peccadillo represent exceptions. In Spanish, buffalo has only one \l\ 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. The only word beginning with j on our study list also begins with a \ll\ sound, but this is not always the case with words from Spanish. What is the initial consonant sound in these three non-study-list words, which also come from Spanish?

Jalapeño  junta  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 in 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 l’s in alligator are not the usual ll 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 legarto 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?

Tips from the Top

The good news about words from Spanish is that they are often spelled the way they sound. There is no need to throw in any silent letters in most cases! Study the list and have a look at the individual tips on the next page.

Spelling tips for Spanish words

1 A long o sound (\ö\) 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 in this list.
Words from Latin  pages 3–5
1. The adjective is curricular.
2. 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.
5. 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 artichoke), c (as in carmine), q (as in sequin), que (as in mosque), and ch (as in alchemy).

Words from Asian Languages  page 8
1. The sound is \u\ and is spelled with oo in oolong, mongoose, shampoo, typhoon, and bamboo.
2. Long e (\eh\) is spelled y (in cushion), iy (in champagne), ye (as in sequoia), and ch (as in basmati).
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.
2. The \w\ sound is spelled with u in suave. In repertoire and boudoir the oi is pronounced \w\.
3. The two words are mirror and miracle.
4. Some words ending with long a (\a\) are agree, apogee, degree, disagree, lessee, pedigree, and refugee.
5. The endings of the words divorcee and repartee can be pronounced with either a long a (\a\) or a long e (\e\).

Eponyms  page 12
1. The three eponyms based on characters from Greek or Roman mythology are narcissistic, tantalize, and hector.
2. Answers will vary; your teacher can help you.

Words from German  pages 13–14
1. The breeds are dachshund, poodle, affenpinscher, and Doberman.
2. The terminal sound \n\ 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.

Words from Spanish  pages 28–29
1. The initial consonant sound is \h\.
2. The Spanish alphabet uses k only to spell words borrowed from other languages.
3. 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.

For additional challenge words and other activities, visit www.myspellit.com. You may be asked to spell these additional challenge words in competition.
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