Spell It!

Tricks & Tips

for Spelling Bee Success
ABOUT THE BEE

The 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, 2012, and must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before February 1, 2013. 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 88 National Spelling Bee champions, 47 have been girls and 41 have been boys. Co-champions were declared in 1950, 1957, and 1962. The 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee will involve more than eleven million students at the local level.

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Made in the United States of America
No 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.

The official dictionary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is the 2002 edition of Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged, published by Merriam-Webster. The etymological information in Webster’s Third 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.

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 2013 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.
**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 *interruptum* or *necessary* along with *necessity*).

2. The \( \text{\textordmasculine} \) sound (as in *ooze*) is nearly always spelled with *u* in words from Latin. It typically follows a \( \text{\textordmasculine} \), \( \text{\textordmasculine}l \), \( \text{\textordmasculine}r \), or \( \text{\textordmasculine}s \) sound. After other consonants, this sound normally becomes \( \text{\textordmasculine} \) (as in *bugle*, *subterfuge*, *ambiguity*, and *prosecute* and in one pronunciation of *refugee*).

3. Beware of words like *crescent* in which the \( \text{\textordmasculine}v \) 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 \( \text{\textordmasculine}v \) sound followed by any of the sounds of *e* (long, short, or schwa), there’s a possibility that the \( \text{\textordmasculine}v \) sound is spelled with *c* as in *exacerbate*, *access*, *adjacent*, *condolences*, *facetious*, and *necessary*.

5. The letter *i* is a vowel often used to connect two Latin word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa \( \text{\textordmasculine} \) and you must guess at the spelling of this sound, the letter *i* might be a good guess: See *carnivore* and *herbivore*. Other examples include non-study-list words that end in *iform* such as *oviform* and *pediform*.

6. The letter *k* rarely appears in words from Latin, and its sound is nearly always represented by *c* as in *canary*, *prosaic*, *canine*, *mediocre*, *Capricorn*, *cognition*, *ductile*, *incorruptible*, *vernacular*, *innocuous*, and many other words on the list.

7. The letter *x* often gets the pronunciation \( \text{\textordmasculine}z \) in words from Latin (as in *exacerbate* and *exuberant*).

8. The combination *ious* ends many adjectives of Latin origin. When the consonant that precedes *ious* is *c* or *t*, the sound of the final syllable is \( \text{\textordmasculine}s\text{\textordmasculine}h\text{\textordmasculine} \) as in *precocious*, *facetious*, *ostentatious*, and *pernicious*. It is important to keep in mind that several adjectives from Latin ending with this sound end in *eous* rather than *ious*. In such instances, the definitions of the words usually contain phrases such as “consisting of,” “resembling,” or “having the characteristic of.” Examples include non-study-list words *herbaceous*, *cetaceous*, and *lilaceous*.

**CHALLENGE WORDS**

- femininity
- confidence
- triumvirate
- popularity
- diary
- humble
- vivisection
- strict
- prosecute
- contiguous
- ductile
- gradient
- current
- perfidy
- fidelity
- incorruptible
- vernacular
- infinitesimal
- recalcitrant
- innocuous
- precocious
- ameliorate
- commensurate
- facetious
- prerogative
- ubiquitous
- egregious
- aggregate
- tertiary
- corpuscle
- perennial
- soliloquy
- accommodate
- pernicious
- efficacy
- visceral
- exacerbate
- indigenous
- belligerent
- src
- src
- src
- src
Words from Arabic have come into English in two different ways. A relative 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.

### Challenge Words
- azure
- Islamic
- sultan
- artichoke
- mummy
- tarragon
- adobe
- mohair
- borax
- t alc
- arsenal
- lemon
- tuna
- admiral
- hazard
- apricot
- carmine
- monsoon
- average
- gazelle
- crimson
- orange
- sequin
- macrame
- algebra
- guitar
- nabob
- giraffe
- mattress
- elixir
- saffron
- cotton
- albatross
- zero
- safari
- magazine
- zenith
- alfalfa
- imam
- mosque
- alcohol
- tariff
- lilac
- alcove
- massage
- henna
- alchemy
- sugar
- taj
- mahal
- khan
- ghoul

### 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 (ə) at the end of a word from Arabic is often spelled with i as in safari and several other words on the list but may also be spelled with y as in mummy and alchemy.
5. The schwa sound (ə) at the end of a word from Arabic is usually spelled with a as in henna, tuna, algebra, alfalfa, foggara, and diffa.

### 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 (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 the word, is they might even change a part of it to match the original a word that is already familiar to them. The original word (or mukhayyar) 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!

### Now You Try!
1. Elixir is typical of a word from Arabic in that it has three consonant sounds, not counting the sound of the letter / that is from the Arabic definite article (see tip 3, above). Why do you think elixir is spelled with only two consonants after the / 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?
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.

**Challenge Words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word from Asian Languages</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dugong</td>
<td>bangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guru</td>
<td>cummerbund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cushy</td>
<td>juggernaut</td>
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<tr>
<td>seersucker</td>
<td>pangolin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jungle</td>
<td>mahatma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oolong</td>
<td>rupee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nirvana</td>
<td>mongoose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOW YOU TRY!**

1. 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 (\v\) 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.)

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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, 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.

**Challenge Words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word from French</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>peloton</td>
<td>ambush</td>
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<tr>
<td>barrage</td>
<td>rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chagrin</td>
<td>leotard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pacifism</td>
<td>diorama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manucure</td>
<td>entourage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>altruism</td>
<td>fuselage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bureaucracy</td>
<td>boudoir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mascot</td>
<td>collage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parfait</td>
<td>amenable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mystique</td>
<td>expertise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>layette</td>
<td>matinee</td>
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<tr>
<td>boutique</td>
<td>plateau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dressage</td>
<td>sortie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>croquet</td>
<td>croquette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gorgeous</td>
<td>physique</td>
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<tr>
<td>denture</td>
<td>elite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mirage</td>
<td>deluxe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>denim</td>
<td>nougat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cachet</td>
<td>rouge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neologism</td>
<td>escargot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beige</td>
<td>crochet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diplomat</td>
<td>regime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motif</td>
<td>doctrinaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suave</td>
<td>tutu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foyer</td>
<td>bevel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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.
Words ending with an \a\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled a in collage, mirage, dressage, garage, barrage, camouflage, entourage, and fuselage.

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

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.

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 quiqche and gauche.

Words ending with an \ad\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled ade as in fusillade.

French speakers have a number of vowels that English speakers modify in pronunciation. Our way of pronouncing the French a\i\e (pronounced \ez\ in French) is usually \az\.

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.

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?

English has dozens of words from French that end in ee. Some, like melee, have a long pronunciation (\e\). Others, like levee, have a long e (\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?

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?

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 (\a\) can be spelled at the end of a word from French: \\ka-\r\a\ \\
\m\a-\l\a\  

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.

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

praline
magnolia
boysenberry
hosta
poinsettia
macadamia
salmonella
newton
saxophone
tortoni

greengage
angstrom
gardena
melba
tantalize
zinnia
quisling
begonia
samaritan
Panglossian
quixote
jeremiad
hector
Geronimo
shrapnel
vulcanize
Frankenstein
Boswell
ampere
Fletcherism
yahoo
diesel
bandersnatch
Crusoe
mento
Dracula

**CHALLENGE WORDS**

forsythia
madeleine
bromeliad
mercerize
Fahrenheit
narcissistic

greengage
angstrom
gardena
melba
tantalize
zinnia
quisling
begonia
samaritan
Panglossian
quixote
jeremiad
hector
Geronimo
shrapnel
vulcanize
Frankenstein
Boswell
ampere
Fletcherism
yahoo
diesel
bandersnatch
Crusoe
mento
Dracula

dahilia
Baedeker
philippic
guillotine
Bobadil
mesmerize
gnathonic
pateurize
Croesus
braggadocio

**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.

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**WORDS FROM GERMAN**

English 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
pretzel
waltz
haversack
nosh
sauerbraten
hinterland
verboten
liverwurst
streusel
umlaut
wanderlust
eiderdown
schnauzer
lederhosen
kohlrabi
sitzmark
langlauf
autobahn
Backstein
inselberg
gestalt
einkorn
kitsch
gestapo
schloss
rucksack
echt
bratwurst
knapsack
feldspar
poltergeist
noodle
spareribs
Meistersinger
pumpennickel
Bildungsroman
strudel
bagel
性质
crab
napthaus
stollen
dachshund
seltzer
homburg
kuchen
pitchblende
spritz
prattle
zwing
spitz
realschule
panzer
stollen
dachshund
seltzer

**CHALLENGE WORDS**

schadenfreude
dreidel
weimaraner
ersatz
fräulein
blitzkrieg
gesundheit
pfeffernuss
edelweiss
glockenspiel
rotweiler
schottische
anschluss
wedel

springerle
zeitgeber
pickelhaube
schneck
Weissnichtwo
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 _ _ sch _ _ Do _ _ m _ n

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, langlaut, graupel, and pickelhaube, which word would you say has been more anglicized in its usual pronunciation? Why do you think this is?

**Challenge Words**

balalaika       commissar
kielbasa       tokamak
chtotchke       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     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 Words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words from Dutch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wiseacre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brackish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cockatoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cockatoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seagull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seagull</td>
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<td>cow</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Foist** | **Daffodil**

**Staple** | **Loiter**

**Gulden** | **Potash**

**Mart** | **Sow**

**Screen** | **Wintergreen**

**Guilder** | **Trigger**

**Etch** | **Stripe**

**Netherlander** | **Bruin**

**Dune** | **Skipper**

**Croon** | **Waywiser**

**Ticket** | **Mizzle**

**Buckwagon** | **Muzzle**

**Hock** | **Pickle**

**Boo** | **Pickle**

**Guy** | **Snuff**

**Challenge Words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words from Old English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>myneheer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waterzooi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flianse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>muishond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>witloof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>springbok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maelstrom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
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 quell, paddock, mattock, sallow, fennel, is in a stressed syllable. Examples include 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.

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

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

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

5. When the syllable /əl/ 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 /ə/.

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

8. Silent e on the end or not? For words from Old English that end in either hard th (\(\text{th}\)) or soft th (\(\text{th}\)) 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, heath, and hundredth versus blithe, 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.

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 answer: ___________________
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: litheth
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: ___________________
12. challenge clue: a cutting tool with a curved blade answer: ___________________

D. pattern: ending /əl/ spelled as stle 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: ___________________
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 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 Hawaiian isn’t a true New World language, it is included here because Hawaii is now a part of the United States.

Some 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.

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### Challenge Words
- opossum
- terrapin
- ocelot
- hoomalimali
- coati
- jacamar
- ippecac
- menhaden
- sachem

### Words from the Top
- bayou
- coyote
- tamale
- poi
- cashew
- luau
- totem
- mole
- hickory
- cacao
- kona
- malihini
- wikiwiki
- Tuckahoe
- pecan
- chipotle
- skunk
- woodchuck
- chocolate
- muumuu
- puma
- maraca
- petunia
- jaguar
- buccaneer
- llama
- succotash
- caucus
- wampum
- mahimahi
- toucan
- condor
- iguana
- hurricane
- kahuna
- hogan
- jerky
- muskrat
- hominy
- wigwam
- pampas
- caribou
- toboggan
- persimmon
- quinine
- powwow

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

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

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

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.

### 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.

### 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?

   - pennroyal
   - campanula
   - chickling
   - brooklime
   - 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
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. 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.

All 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.

CHALLENGE WORDS

karaoke  nisei  kibei

sansei  issei

SPELLING TIPS FOR WORDS FROM JAPANESE

1 A long e sound (ě́) is very common at the end of Japanese words and is usually spelled with i in sushi, teriyaki, wasabi, Meiji, 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 ā́ sound is also a common way to end Japanese words and is spelled with u as in haiku, tofu, and kudzu.

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

5 A long a sound (ā́) 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

lethargy  android  chronic  biopsy  homonym  panic

iriō  automaton  enthusiasm  synopsis  homogeneous

kata  megalopolis  acme  synonym  orthodox  aristocracy

kuro  calypso  patriarch  hierarchy  character  2

hitori  isobar  asterisk  eclectic  melancholy  stoic

jukai  chronology  eulogy  didactic  cosmic  syntactic

rōbin  Spartan  geothermal  cynical  3  pragmatic  adamant
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 \( \varepsilon \): 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, archnid, 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 (\( \iota \)) as in acronym, calypso, cryptic, cynical, dyslexia, eponym, homonym, myriad, Olympian, polymer, symbiosis, synchronous, synergy, synonym, synopsis, and syntax.

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

5. In ancient Greek, the letter phi (pronounced \( \phi \)) 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 \( \alpha \) sound but memorialized the original sound of phi by using ph to spell it. As a result, the English \( \alpha \) sound almost always appears as ph in words of Greek origin. Consider, for example: amphibious, apostrophe, cacophony, diphthong, epiphany, euphemism, hypen, 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 (\( \eta \)) 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.

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.

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 \( \cdot \cdot \cdot a-nə-la-sə \) n separation of something into its parts. The lysis part of this word means “loosening” or “breaking up” in Greek.

2. android \( \cdot \cdot \cdot an-\cdot rə-droid \) n a robot that looks like a human. The andr part of this word comes from the Greek word that means “man.”

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

4. isobar \( \cdot \cdot \cdot i-sə-bər \) 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 \( \cdot \cdot \cdot pent-ə-thən \) 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 \( \cdot \cdot \cdot pō-lə-gōn \) 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 \( \cdot \cdot \cdot thər-əl \) 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.
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 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!

**Challenge Words**

- Staccato
- Ballot
- Confetti
- Semolina
- Cavalry
- Piazza
- Cadenza
- Pistachio
- Spinet
- Cantata
- Incognito
- Vendetta
- Contraband
- Mascara
- Graffiti
- Credenza
- Parapet

**Words from Italian**

- Falsetto
- Ditto
- Provolone
- Extravaganza
- Scampi
- Belladonna
- Gondola
- Cauliflower
- Galleria
- Regatta
- Crescendo
- Balcony
- Portfolio
- Antipasto
- Libretto
- Virtuoso
- Aria
- Harmonica

- Maestro
- Bravura
- Fresco
- Stucco
- Inferno
- Balerina
- Malaria
- Grotto
- Harpsichord
- Allegro
- Virtuosa
- Spaghetti
- Piccolo
- Ravioli
- Vibrato
- Pesto
- Aria
- Bambino

**Spelling Tips for Words from Italian**

1. Long e (\&\text{\textumlaut{o}}\) at the end of a word from Italian is usually spelled with i as in _confetti_, _graffiti_, _zucchini_, _fantoccini_, _cappelletti_, and many other words on the list. In Italian, a final i usually indicates a plural form. This is not always true, however, of Italian terms in English.

2. Long o (\&\text{\textumlaut{a}}\) at the end of an Italian word is spelled with a as in _incognito_, _vibrato_, _stucco_, _virtuoso_, _concerto_, _prosciutto_, _pizzicato_, and many other words on the list.

3. A long e sound (\&\text{\textumlaut{e}}\) at the end of a word from Italian can be spelled with e as in _prima_, _finale_, and one pronunciation of _vivace_, although this spelling of the sound is less common than i (see tip 1).

4. The \&\text{\textumlaut{a}} 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 \&\text{\textumlaut{a}} sound in _capricious_ is also seen in words that come from Latin—the ancestral language of Italian.

5. The \&\text{\textumlaut{u}} sound can be spelled ce when it comes before long a \&\text{\textumlaut{i}}\) as in _stucco_ or when it comes before a \&\text{\textumlaut{i}}\ as in _staccato_.

6. Another Italian spelling of \&\text{\textumlaut{u}}\ is ch as in _scherzo_.

7. The sound \&\text{\textumlaut{e}-\textumlaut{n}}\, common at the end of Italian words (it forms diminutives), is usually spelled _in_ as in _zucchini_ and _fantoccini_.

8. The double consonant zz is typically pronounced \&\text{\textumlaut{s}}\) in words from Italian as in _parapazzo_, _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 \(j, k, w, x, y\) 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 puzzles!

1. One word on the list of Challenge Words has a \&\text{\textumlaut{a}} 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?
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.

A long \( \text{\textipa{\textbar}} \) sound (\( \text{\textipa{\textbar}} \)) at the end of a word is often a mark of Spanish origin, and it is nearly always spelled simply with \( \text{o} \) as in \( \text{embargo} \) and many other words on this list.

A long \( \text{\textipa{\textbar}} \) sound (\( \text{\textipa{\textbar}} \)) at the end of a word of Spanish origin is usually spelled with \( \text{i} \) as in \( \text{mariachi} \).
Words from Latin  pages 3–5
1. The adjectival form is curricular.
2. English words from Latin ending in -ious 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 alkali), c (as in carmine), q (as inQatar), qa (as in mosque), ch (as in algebra), and kh (as in mikhtah).

Words from Asian Languages  page 8
1. The sound is /u/ and is spelled with oo in oolong, mongoose, shampoo, typhoon, loot, and bamboo.
2. Long e (/e/) is spelled with y in cushy and gymnasium, ey (in chutney), and i (in basmati, batik, sourami, 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.
4. Some words ending with long e (/e/) are agree, apogee, degree, disagree, lessee, pedigree, and refugee. The endings of the words divorcee and repartee can be pronounced with either a long e (/e/) or a long o (/o/).
5. The three eponyms are leotard, clementine, and chaauvinist.

Eponyms  page 12
1. 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.
2. The terminal sound /a/ is spelled el in the German style and e 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 French  pages 9–11
1. The words are café and melee.
2. The /w/ sound is spelled with u in suave. In repertoire, boudoir, and croissant the oi is pronounced /wai/.
3. The two words are mirror and miracle.
4. Some words ending with long a (/a/) are etunee, lycée, and soiree.
5. The sound is spelled with /je/.

Words from Greek  pages 23–25
1. 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
   3. didem, diogolal, diaglam, diaphragm
   4. isopropyl, isoeles, isotherm, isotope
   5. pentagram, pentagon, pentamer, Pentateucha, Pentecost

Words from Dutch  page 16
1. 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. wretie 12. scythe
13. bristle 14. thistle 15. trelle
16. epistle

Words from New World Languages  pages 20–21
1. Pennroyal, brooklime, and chickling all are results of folk etymology.
2. Catalpa and guava are from New World languages.

Words from Japanese  page 22
1. Ginger and wok are not from Japanese. Notice that Japanese words nearly always end with a vowel sound or with /n/.
2. matsutake: 4 syllables
   kamikaze: 4 syllables
   netsuke: 2 or 3 syllables
   wakame: 3 syllables

Words from Italian  pages 26–27
1. 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 /b/.
2. The standard 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.

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- More than 1150 words, divided into sections by language of origin
- Basic study lists and special “challenge words”
- Rules, tips, and guidelines for successfully spelling words in English
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