

# 2024 Fine Arts Spelling Bee

## Words from Old English

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### Study Words

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

### Challenge Words

heifer	mistletoe	salve
kirtle	Wiccan	shrieval
chary		

### Spelling Tips

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Words from New World Languages

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### Study Words

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

### Challenge Words

opossum	terrapin	ocelot
hoomalimali	coati	jacamar
ipecac	menhaden	sachem

### Spelling Tips

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

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

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

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

## Words from Latin

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### Study Words

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

### Challenge Words

soliloquy  
efficacy  
indigenous  
infinitesimal  
precocious  
facetious

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

accommodate  
visceral  
belligerent  
recalcitrant  
ameliorate  
prerogative

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

pernicious [8]  
exacerbate  
vernacular  
innocuous  
commensurate  
ubiquitous

egregious  
corpuscule

aggregate  
perennial

tertiary

### Spelling Tips

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

## Words from French

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### Study Words

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

### Challenge Words

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

### Spelling Tips

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Eponyms

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### Study Words

praline

hosta

salmonella

tortoni

gardenia

zinnia

samaritan

jeremiad

shrapnel

Boswell

Fletcherism

bandersnatch

Dracula

### Challenge Words

forsythia

mercerize

dahlia

guillotine

gnathonic

braggadocio

magnolia

poinsettia

newton

greengage

melba

quisling

Panglossian

hector

vulcanize

ampere

yahoo

Crusoe

boysenberry

macadamia

saxophone

angstrom

tantalize

begonia

quixote

Geronimo

Frankenstein

cupid

diesel

mentor

madeleine

Fahrenheit

Baedeker

Bobadil

pasteurize

bromeliad

narcissistic

philippic

mesmerize

Croesus



## Words from Italian

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### Study Words

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

### Challenge Words

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

### Spelling Tips

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Words from Spanish

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### Study Words

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

### Challenge Words

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

### Spelling Tips

- 1 A long o sound (\ō\ ) at the end of a word is often a mark of Spanish origin, and it is nearly always spelled simply with o as in embargo and many other words on this list.
- 2 A long e sound (\ē\ ) at the end of a word of Spanish origin is usually spelled with i as in mariachi.
- 3 The \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 (\ā\ ), long e (\ē\ ), or short i (\i\ ). Quesadilla and conquistador (in its pronunciations with and without the \s\ sound) are examples from our list.
- 4 It is much more common for the \k\ sound to be spelled with c in words of Spanish origin. This is almost invariable when the vowel sound that follows is a schwa \ə\ as in canasta and embarcadero; short a (\a\ ) as in castanets and caballero; or long o (\ō\ ) as in flamenco and junco.
- 5 A schwa at the end of a word from Spanish is very common and is usually spelled with a as in mesa, bonanza, and several other words on the list.
- 6 The combination ll in Spanish words is traditionally treated as a single letter and is pronounced as consonant \y\ in American Spanish. When such words enter English, sometimes that sound persists. At other times it is pronounced just like ll would be in an English word: that is, as \l\ . Some words—such as mantilla, tomatillo, amarillo, and caballero—even have two pronunciations in English. Quesadilla, tortilla, and novillero always have the \y\ pronunciation in English; chinchilla, flotilla, vanilla, peccadillo, cedilla, and sarsaparilla always have the \l\ pronunciation. Be on the lookout!

7 Note that, except for ll, double consonants in words from Spanish are not very common. Buffalo and peccadillo represent exceptions. In Spanish, buffalo has only one f and peccadillo has only one c. English spelling rules prefer two consonants as a signal that the previous vowel is short, as is the case in these words.

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## Words from Greek

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### Study Words

lethargy	android	chronic
biopsy	irony	automaton
enthusiasm	synopsis	homogeneous
odyssey	megalopolis	acme [1]
synonym	orthodox	aristocracy
calypso	patriarch	hierarchy
character [2]	isobar	asterisk
eclectic	melancholy	stoic
chronology	eulogy	didactic
cosmetic	Spartan	geothermal
cynical [3]	homonym	cryptic
hypothesis	academy	pentathlon
antibiotic	diatribe	etymology
hydraulic [4]	trauma	hygiene
semantics	thesaurus	phenomenon [5]
cosmos	protagonist	acronym
paradox	synchronous	misanthropy
sarcasm	ephemeral	polygon
nemesis	syntax	eureka
topography	panic	apostrophe
geranium	metaphor	spherical
xylophone [6]	dynamic	myriad
epiphany	apathy	synergy
amnesia	philanthropy	democracy
strategy [7]	diagnosis	topical
matriarch	endemic	analysis [8]
rhetoric	eponym	agnostic
dogma	idiom	thermal
dyslexia	Olympian	allegory
pragmatic	adamant	protocol
tragic	hydrology	polymer
notochord	biblical	ergonomic
mathematics	tachometer	protein
rhinoceros	hyphen	autopsy
pyre	herpetology	angelic
tritium	androcentric	demotic
geode	hedonism	periscope
geponics	asthmogenic	monotonous
amphibious	symbiosis	macron
periphery		

### Challenge Words

dichotomy	misogynist	hypocrisy
diphthong	mnemonic	anomaly
zephyr	hippopotamus	euphemism
anachronism	metamorphosis	hyperbole
arachnid	paradigm	Eocene
gynarchy	pneumatic	Hemerocallis
cynosure	philhellenism	euthanasia

philately

cacophony

### Spelling Tips

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

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

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

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

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

6 The letter o is the vowel most often used to connect two Greek word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\ə\ ) as in xylophone, notochord, orthodox, ergonomic, geonics, 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.