

2023

**Words & Spelling Tips
for School Champions
& Runner-Ups**



Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee

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Words from Latin: Study Words

ingenious	reptile	formidable	ambivalent
print	visit	Force	power
retrospective	providence	canary	dejected
ominous	message	subterfuge	postmortem
vulnerable	foliate	abdicate	incriminate
omnipotent	nasal	lunatic	finite
consensus	opera	carnivore	plausible
discipline	renovate	gregarious	interrupt
alleviate	credentials	ostentatious	alliteration
spectrum	temporal	prosaic	refugee
prescription	canine	herbivore	amicable
capitulation	measure	prodigal	lucid
incredulous	credible	magnanimous	percolate
affinity	nimbus	benevolent	meticulous
necessary	confidence	mercurial	solution
oval	lotion	insect	faucet
adjacent	gravity	simile	trajectory
dissect	popularity	jovial	animosity
conjecture	diary	ridiculous	implement
imperative	humble	innate	ambiguity
predicate	vivisection	obstinate	curriculum
classical	saucepan	surplus	cyberspace
corporal	strict	discern	omnivorous
patina	prosecute	mediocre	bellicose
strident	contiguous	insidious	electoral
unison	lavender	autumn	evaporation
goliath	conspiracy	sustainable	pulmonary
participant	ductile	rupture	crescent
library	stasis	precipitate	obsequious
cognition	current	vanish	hyaline
primal	perfidy	colloquial	precipice
filament	fidelity	intractable	susceptible
unity	incorruptible	exuberant	condolences
ventilate	benefactor	risible	impetuous
aquatic	candidate	relevant	bugle
plaster	superb	exterior	subdivision
disco	facilitate	germinate	appendectomy
solid	tarantula	correctional	infrastructure
poem	unicorn	portable	expensive
nutmeg	violet	person	champion

Words from Latin: Challenge

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

Words from Latin: 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 a *u* in words from Latin. It typically follows a *\d*, *\j*, *\l*, *\r*, or *\s* sound. After other consonants, this sound normally becomes a *\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 *corpuscle*.
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 preceded *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 characteristics of”. Examples include non-study-list words *herbaceous*, *cetaceous*, and *lilaceous*.

Words from Spanish: Study Words

mesa	burrito	quesadilla	cedilla
ramada	embargo	flotilla	arroyo
chili	chimichanga	tornado	bolivar
cafeteria	rumba	barracuda	Amarillo
bongo	mariachi	vigilante	cordovan
ranch	sombrero	adios	desperado
mantilla	alligator	cabana	empanada
oregano	guacamole	gordita	tomatillo
lariat	bonanza	peccadillo	diablo
chalupa	chinchilla	filibuster	jalapeno
buffalo	machismo	tortilla	sierra
renegade	enchilada	vanilla	bodega
langosta	pueblo	cilantro	bolero
stampede	hacienda	fiesta	duenna
salsa	fandango	anchovy	coyote
poncho	alamo	pochismo	

Words from Spanish: Challenge

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

Words from Spanish: Spelling Tips

1. A long *o* sound (\o\) 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 (\e\) 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 a long *a* (\a\), long *e* (\e\) 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 \e\ as in *canasta* and *embarcadero*; short *a* (\a\ as in *castanets* and *caballero*; or long *o* (\o\) 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 in the case in these words.

Words from Slavic Languages: Study Words

gulag	Permian	knish	baba
parka	kishke	cravat	cossack
Slav	glasnost	babushka	nelma
robot	paprika	Soviet	kovsh
samovar	sable	Borzoi	lokshen
kremlin	kasha	gopak	feldsher
troika	nebbish	cheka	barabara
slave	polka	sevruga	aul
mammoth	Bolshevik	trepak	tundra
Siberian	vampire	babka	
tundra	sputnik	purga	

Words from Slavic Languages: Challenge

balalaika	barukhzy	commissar	taiga
kielbasa	perestroika	tokamak	Beetewk
tchotchke	apparatchik	pogrom	

Words from Dutch: Study Words

scrabble	ticket	cockatoo	potassium
clapboard	buckwagon	keelhaul	crimp
gruff	hock	harpoon	bluff
blink	floss	furlough	stipple
excise	etch	bazooka	boodle
blister	daffodil	easel	cruiser
rabbit	grabble	holster	hustle
package	waffle	freebooter	wentletrap
muddle	scow	potash	polder
handsome	wintergreen	trawl	gulden
foist	trigger	uproar	catkin
staple	stripe	cashier	splice
bundle	bruin	cruller	Flemish
mart	skipper	yacht	loiter
screen	waywiser	commodore	huckster
guilder	spoor	brackish	frolic
measles	mizzle	decoy	ravel
Netherlander	school	caboose	isinglass
dune	pickle	buckwheat	scum
croon	snuff	walrus	trek
ravel		harpoon	

Words from Dutch: Challenge

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

Words from Old English: Study Words

pull	barley	creepy	stringy
barn	abide	mermaid	quell
timely	manhandle	kipper	wanton
bower	slaughter	lithe	newfangled
tusk	gospel	linden	dearth
blithe	furlong	hassock	tithe
keen	linseed	orchard	knelt
window	circle	forward	along
mongrel	nether	hearth	rime
reckless	fathom	betoken	maple
twig	nightingale	fiend	folksiness
whirlpool	farthing	goatee	worrisome
belay	threshold	earthenware	roughhewn
cleanser	hurdle	dealership	primacy
dreary	halter	custard	kith
slumber	latch	tuneful	workmanship
love	loam	fiery	anvil
thirst	thicket	anthem	scrimmage
sallow	yield	hawthorn	hundredth
tarmac	nursery	composure	commendable
watery	mattock	nosiest	icicle
nostril	learned	aspen	pinafore
gristle	dogged	errand	yieldable
earwig	behoove	fennel	hue
fickle	forlorn	gnat	broadleaf
neck	quiver	daily	paddock
dairy	beehive	spider	breakfast
world	nestle	shortage	vocabulary
goblet	siren	barrow	alderman
marsh	newton	contract	bequeath
mulch			

Words from Old English: 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 (\a\) at the end of words from Old English is nearly always spelled *ay* as in *belay*.
3. Long *e* (\e\) at the end of an adjective or adverb from Old English is nearly always spelled with *y*. Examples include *dreary*, *watery*, *windily*, *fiery*, *creepy*, *daily*, *stringy*, *timely*, *womanly*, and *chary*.
4. Long *o* (\o\) 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 \sel\ ends words from Old English, it is nearly always spelled *stle*, with the *t* being silent (as in *gristle* and *nestle*).

Words from Old English: Study Tips, continued

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 \T\.
7. The vowel combination *oa* in words from Old English is nearly always pronounced as long *o* (\O\) 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: Often, 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: Study Words

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

Words from New World Languages: Challenge

opossum	hoomalimali	ipecac
terrapin	coati	menhaden
ocelot	jacamar	sachem

Words from New World Languages: Spelling Tips

1. Remember that words settling down in English are often spelled according to English word patterns. If you're completely unsure 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 \ü\ 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 Greek: Study Words

lethargy	cynical	geranium	tragic
android	homonym	metaphor	hydrology
chronic	cryptic	spherical	polymer
biopsy	hypothesis	xylophone	notochord
irony	academy	dynamic	biblical
automaton	pilot	myriad	ergonomic
enthusiasm	antibiotic	epiphany	mathematics
synopsis	diatribe	apathy	tachometer
homogeneous	etymology	synergy	protein
odyssey	hydraulic	amnesia	rhinoceros
megalopolis	trauma	philanthrop	hyphen
acme	hygiene	democracy	autopsy
synonym	semantics	strategy	herpetology
orthodox	thesaurus	diagnosis	angelic
aristocracy	phenomenon	matriarch	tritium
calypso	cosmos	endemic	androcentric
patriarch	protagonist	analysis	demotic
hierarchy	acronym	rhetoric	geode
character	paradox	eponym	hedonism
isobar	synchronous	agnostic	periscope
asterisk	misanthropy	asterism	geoponics
eclectic	sarcasm	idiom	pathogenic
melancholy	ephemeral	thermal	monotonous
stoic	polygon	dyslexia	amphibious
chronology	nemesis	Olympian	symbiosis
eulogy	syntax	allegory	macron
didactic	eureka	pragmatic	periphery
cosmetic	Spartan	adamant	topography
oven	panic	protocol	pentathlon
geothermal	apostrophe	praxis	aerospace
speak	timber	chamber	misanthropy
tropical	azalea	geometry	nausea
mentor	acoustic	technocrat	
dogma			

Words from Greek: Challenge

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

Words from Greek: Spelling Tips

1. In a few words from Greek, *e* appears at the end of a word and has a long *e* sound (\ë\): 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 (\ĩ\) in a word that comes from Greek is sometimes represented by *y*, especially after *h*, as in *hydraulic*, *hydrology*, *hygiene*, *hyperbole*, *hyphen*, *hypothesis*, *dynamic*, *cygnosure*, *gynarchy*, *xylophone*, and *pyre*.
5. In ancient Greek, the letter *phi* (pronounce \fĩ\) represented a breathy or "aspirated" version of the sound that is represented in English by *f*. Speakers of Roman-alphabet language 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 from Greek origin. Consider, for example: *amphibious*, *apostrophe*, *cacophony*, *diphthong*, *epiphany*, *euphemism*, *hyphen*, *metamorphosis*, *metaphor*, *periphery*, *phenomenon*, *philanthropy*, *philately*, *philhellenism*, *spherical*, *topography*, *xylophone*, and *zephyr*.
6. The letter *o* is the vowel most often used to connect two Greek word elements. If the connecting vowel sound is a schwa (\e\) 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 from 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*.

Words from Italian: Study Words

staccato	falsetto	maestro	salami
ballot	ditto	gelato	Parmesan
confetti	provolone	fresco	oratorio
semolina	extravaganza	stucco	finale
influenza	scampi	inferno	scenario
cavalry	belladonna	ballerina	contrapuntal
piazza	gondola	malaria	illuminati
cadenza	rotunda	grotto	concerto
pistachio	cauliflower	harpsichord	macaroni
spinet	galleria	allegro	loggia
cantata	regatta	umbrella	virtu
incognito	crescendo	spaghetti	fiasco
vendetta	balcony	piccolo	cameo
contraband	portfolio	ravioli	broccoli
mascara	antipasto	vibrato	sonata
graffiti	libretto	pesto	magenta
credenze	virtuoso	aria	quarantine
parapet	harmonica	bambino	nostalgia
ballerina	credenza		

Words from Italian: Challenge

Scherzo	archipelago	mozzarella	vivace
Adagio	charlatan	garibaldi	cappelletti
Segue	maraschino	ocarina	pizzicato
Zucchini	paparazzo	prosciutto	intaglio
capricious	fantoccini	trattoria	

Words from Italian: Spelling Tips

9. 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.
10. Long *o* (\o\) 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.
11. 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*.
12. 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.
13. The \k\ sound can be spelled *cc* when it comes before long *o* (\o\) as in *stucco* or when it comes before \ä\ as in *staccato*.
14. Another Italian spelling of \k\ is *ch* as in *scherzo*.
15. The sound \ -n \, common at the end of Italian words (it forms diminutives), is usually spelled *ini* (as in *zucchini* and *fantoccini*).
16. The double consonant *zz* is typically pronounce \ts\ in words from Italian, as in *paparazzo*, *mozzarella*, *pizzicato*, and on pronunciation of *piazza*.

Words from Asian Languages: Study Words

yen	ketchup	jackal	kama
guru	juggernaut	dungaree	pundit
cushy	pangolin	bungalow	loot
seersucker	ginseng	pekoe	kavya
jungle	rupee	chutney	jiva
oolong	mongoose	karma	pandit
nirvana	shampoo	jute	chintz
bangle	typhoon	yamen	mandarin
patel	bamboo	cushy	

Words from Asian Languages: Challenge

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

Words from French: Study Words

peloton
barrage
chagrin
pacifism
manicure
altruism
pounce
mascot
visual
parfait
change
mystique
tennis
layette
voice
dressage
croquet
resume
gorgeous
denture
kitten
mirage
bevel
cypress
curfew
maladroit

denim
cachet
cynosure
beige
diplomat
motif
suave
foyer
vertical
clementine
amusing
ambulance
digestive
rehearse
leotard
prairie
mezzanine
consecutive
entourage
fuselage
dentist
boudoir
menu
irrigation
annoyance

collage
amenable
expertise
matinee
plateau
sortie
croquette
physique
relative
elite
marmalade
deluxe
vinegar
nougat
rouge
escargot
crochet
dexterity
regime
doctrinaire
return
tutu
narration
treacherous
boutique

bevel
menu
ramify
quiche
fatigue
garage
morgue
stethoscope
disengage
vogue
reservoir
musicale
performance
palette
flamboyant
baton
souvenir
verdigris
impasse
finesse
bicycle
cabotage
resemble
bureaucracy
virgule

Words from French: Challenge

gauche	renaissance	repertoire	protégé
rapport	voyage	dossier	blasé
camouflage	recidivist	taupe	ingenu
genre	chassis	poignant	rendezvous
debacle	raconteur	croissant	chauvinism
fusillade	mayonnaise	ecru	
saboteur	surveillance	lieutenant	

Words from French: 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 (\e\) at the end of a word from French can be spelled with *ie* as in *prairie* and *sortie*.
6. Words ending with an \äzh\ sound are common in French. This sound is spelled *age* as in *collage*, *mirage*, *dressage*, *garage*, *barrage*, *camouflage*, *entourage*, and *fuselage*.
7. A \k\ sound at the end of a word from French is often spelled *que* as in *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 *aïse* (pronounced \ez\ in French) is usually \äz\.

Eponyms: Study Words

praline
magnolia
boysenberry
hosta
poinsettia
macadamia
salmonella
netwon
saxophone
tortoni

greengage
angstrom
gardenia
melba
tantalize
zinnia
quisling
begonia
Samaritan
Panglossian

quixote
jeremiad
hector
Geronimo
shrapnel
vulcanize
Frankenstein
Boswell
ampere
cupid

Fletcherism
yahoo
diesel
bandersnatch
Crusoe
mentor
Dracula

Eponyms: Challenge Words

forsythia
madeleine
bromeliad
mercerize

Fahrenheit
narcissistic
dahlia
Baedeker

philippic
Guillotine
Bobadil
mesmerize

gnathonic
pasteurize
Croesus
braggadocio

Words from German: Study Words

angst	sauerkraut	feldspar	cringle
pretzel	sitzmark	poltergeist	fife
how	wanderlust	lederhosen	Meistersinger
waltz	langlauf	noodle	glitz
haversack	autobahn	spareribs	homburg
iceberg	blitz	sauerbraten	ersatz
gather	inselberg	pumpnickel	pitchblende
wink	contestants	delicatessen	seltzer
hinterland	gestalt	schuss	spritz
kindergarten	quartz	strudel	prattle
uber	kitsch	bagel	zwinger
streusel	gestapo	hamster	spitz
umlaut	schloss	cobalt	realschule
room	rucksack	hamburger	panzer
eiderdown	plunder	vorlage	stollen
schnauzer	bratwurst	graupel	dachshund
hanger	bacon	knapsack	verboten

Words from German: Challenge

Schadenfreude	blitzkrieg	rottweiler	zeitgeber
Dreidel	gesundheit	schottische	pickelhaube
Weimaraner	pfeffernuss	anschluss	schnecke
springerle	edelweiss	wedel	Weissnichtwo
fräulein	glockenspiel		

Words from German: Spelling Tips

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

Words from Japanese: Study Words

ninja	tsunami	kudzu	kuruma
sushi	haiku	banzai	rickshaw
tofu	futon	tycoon	emoji
shogun	mikado	sumo	odori
honcho	hibachi	kawaii	miso
karate	origami	satori	judo
samurai	geisha	tatami	geta
teriyaki	wasabi	kami	sayonara
karate	sashimi	ramen	sukiyaki

Word from Japanese: Challenge

karaoke	sansei	kibei
nisei	issei	

Words from Japanese: Spelling Tips

1. A long *e* sound (\bar{e}) is very common at the end of Japanese words and is usually spelled with *i* as in *sushi*, *teriyaki*, *wasabi*, *Meiji*, *odori*, and several other words on the list.
2. In some Japanese words, long *e* is spelled simply with *e* (not *i*) as in *karate* and *karaoke*.
3. An \bar{u} sound is also a common way to end Japanese words and is spelled with *u* as in *haiku*, *tofu*, and *kudzu*.
4. Long *o* (\bar{o}) at the end of a word from Japanese is spelled with *o* as in *honcho*, *mikado*, *sumo*, and *miso*.
5. A long *a* sound (\bar{a}) heard in *geisha* is spelled *ei* in some words from Japanese. Four of the challenge words have this spelling of the long *a* sound and contain the word element *sei*, which means “generation”.

Words from Arabic: Study Words

orange	safari	tarragon	average
sequin	magazine	adobe	gazelle
macramé	zenith	mohair	crimson
algebra	alfalfa	borax	lilac
guitar	imam	haboob	alcove
candy	alkaline	arsenal	massage
giraffe	alcohol	lemon	henna
mattress	tariff	tuna	alchemy
coffee	azure	admiral	sugar
saffron	chemistry	hazard	taj
cotton	sultan	apricot	syrup
albatross	artichoke	rigel	khan
giraffe	crimson	cotton	ghoul
zero	mummy	monsoon	

Words from Arabic: Challenge Words

muslin	marzipan	nadir	alim
camphor	nenuphar	douane	Swahili
algorithm	alcazar	fennec	serdab
minaret	tahini	hafiz	mihrab
tamarind	Qatari	azimuth	salaam
carafe	alkali	bezoar	mukhtar
julep	serendipity	halal	khorr
foggara	diffa	coffle	

Words from Arabic: Spelling Tips

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 (\ē\) 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*.