### Table of Contents

*Click on any page number to go directly to that page.*

- **Introduction**  
  page 3
- **Instructions**  
  page 4
- **Rules for Classroom Spelldowns**  
  page 8
- **Rules for Classroom Spelling Bees**  
  page 9
- **Rules for All-School Spelling Bees**  
  page 10
- **Organizational Checklist**  
  page 12
- **Personnel Chart**  
  page 14
- **Recorder’s Charts**  
  page 15
- **Audience Guidelines**  
  page 17
- **Letter to Families**  
  page 18
- **Sample Press Release**  
  page 19
- **Classroom Activities and Partner Game**  
  page 20
- **The Scripps Spelling Bee**  
  page 23
- **How to Study for a Spelling Bee**  
  page 25
- **Spelling Rules for Upper Grades**  
  page 27
- **Study List for Students**  
  page 29
- **Student Worksheets**  
  page 30
- **Answers to Worksheets**  
  page 37
- **Frequently Asked Questions**  
  page 38
- **620 Spelling Bee Words and Sentences**  
  page 39
- **Alphabetical Listing of 600 words**  
  page 67
- **Super Challenge words**  
  page 72
- **Spelling Bee Clip Art**  
  page 76
- **Spelling Bee Bookmarks, Reminders and Name Tags**  
  page 77
- **Deluxe Color Award Certificates**  
  page 83
- **Deluxe Black and White Award Certificates**  
  page 101
Frequently Asked Questions
This brief section covers some key points about the big word lists and study lists for students that I’m often asked. It’s definitely worth a few minutes to read this page.

Spelling Bee Words and Sentences
Our list of 620 words was gleaned from a variety of grade-level resources. Many of the words appear in the spelling bee word lists on our website. Be sure to read through the words in advance of any spelling bee to rearrange, add and omit words as you see fit.

Also read through all the sentences prior to your competition. Feel free to use your own sentences for any of the ones here that you feel are not meaningful or appropriate for your students. Sentences are purposely brief. Many sentences give clues to the words’ meanings as an aid to the speller. You don’t need to use every word on the list. Skip over any words that you think might cause problems.

In general, our words appear from easiest to most difficult. However, this will not always be true for every speller. There are about 20 5th grade words included near the beginning of the list. There are many words at the 9th grade level and beyond toward the end of the list.

You may start with any word on the list, depending on the level of your students. Here are some general guidelines:
Grade 6 – Start at the beginning
Grade 7 – Start around #150
Grade 8 – Start around #300

During the bee, you may choose to skip large sections of the list in order to get to more difficult words more quickly.

Alphabetical Listing of 620 Spelling Bee Words
This quick reference tool will allow you to compare our word list to your own spelling curriculum and other resources.

Super Challenge List
Use these words to challenge your best spellers or to supplement our list of 620 words during your spelling bee. Throughout the school year, be on the lookout for more super-challenge words to add to this list.
Sample Press Release

Wilson Middle School
123 Scholarly Drive
Lansing, MI 49ZIP
(123) 456-7890

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Doe, Spelling Bee Coordinator
(123) 456-7890 x987

10th Annual Wilson Middle School Spelling Bee – November 9

Lansing, MI – On Tuesday, November 9, at 10 A.M, the Wilson Middle School will hold its tenth annual spelling bee competition in the school’s auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

Twenty-four students from grades 6, 7, and 8 will compete for the title of school champion. The champion will represent the school next month in the Ingham County Spelling Bee.

Mayor Sue Jones will be on hand to present the trophy to this year’s winner. The winner will also receive a $100 U.S. Savings Bond, compliments of Acme Services, this year’s sponsor.

School principal, Ms. Sondra Smith, notes that two past winners of Wilson Middle Spelling Bee have gone on to compete at the state and national levels. She urges the public to attend the event and encourage the hard-working students.

Each participant has already competed at his/her own grade level and finished among the top 8 in his/her class. During the all-school competition, participants will be asked to spell words from lists they have not previewed. It should prove to be a challenging competition for all students.

For more information about the Wilson Middle School Spelling Bee, please contact John Doe at 123.456.7890.987 or j.doe@email.address.
Tough Choice

You'll need to make two correct decisions for each word on this page. First, choose the correct spelling of each word. Then write the correct spellings in the sentences below so that each sentence makes sense. You will use two of the words more than once.

contagious/contagous
preferable/preferrable
disasterous/disastrous
familiar/familiar
feirce/fierce
spaceous/spacious
foreign/foriegn
unmistakable/unmistakeable

1. The luxury car was especially __________________ on the inside.
2. It is __________________ that you work correctly rather than quickly.
3. The __________________ wind blew loudly, making it difficult to fall asleep.
4. Because the disease was very __________________, many people in the village became ill.
5. The __________________ currency is worth more today than the U.S. dollar.
6. I __________________ hope my thoughtless remark did not offend you.
7. He looks __________________, but I can’t remember where I’ve seen him before.
8. The __________________ aroma of Mom’s spaghetti sauce greeted me as I walked in the door.
9. When the puppy jumped onto the shelf of fine china, the results were __________________.
10. Please keep your __________________ waste in a separate trash can.
11. Her laughter was so __________________ that soon everyone in the room was laughing with her.
12. Because the competition was so __________________, only the very best players succeeded.
Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** Why are there easy words at the beginning of the big list of words and sentences in the Toolbox?

**Answer:** There are easy words so that all of your students may enjoy participating in a spelling bee! The Toolbox is designed for general school and community use, with the idea that as many students as possible will want to be included. Many times, most students can succeed through at least the first round and feel successful.

As explained in the directions, please feel free to skip over any words that are way too easy, or are otherwise unsuitable for your purposes. I’ve included a huge list of words so you should still have plenty!

**Question:** Should students be given the entire list of words to study before the bee?

**Answer:** This depends on your philosophy and preference. Some educators feel that it is most fair when all students are given the exact words to study in advance. It “levels the playing field.”

Others believe that this method only rewards those who can memorize the best, rather than those who can actually spell the best. By not giving students the entire list, the bee will reward students who can think on their feet, who have large spelling vocabularies, and who have studied on their own.

My recommendation is to use the 100-word study list provided in the Toolbox. About 70 of these words are in the actual big list. This gives students a taste of what to expect in the bee. Encourage students to study difficult words on their own, as well as to follow other tips included in this eBook.

**Question:** When conducting the spelling bee, should I use the words in the order they appear in the list of words and sentences, or mix them up randomly?

**Answer:** I strongly encourage you to use them in the order the appear. That’s because the words are, generally speaking, arranged from easiest to most difficult. It makes sense to have the easiest words at the beginning of the bee. As spellers are eliminated, the remaining spellers should be given tougher and tougher words.

For example, it wouldn’t be good for a speller to given *boulevard* in the first round, misspell it and be eliminated, then for another speller to be given the word *under* in the sixth round and advance. (Please note that you may want to rearrange a few words since difficulty is always somewhat subjective and can vary by curriculum, etc.)

If you are giving students all the words to study in advance, use the alphabetical list of words, rather than the list of words and sentences.
89. mourn – Many people gathered to mourn the loss of their friend.
90. demonstrate – I asked the salesman to demonstrate the phone’s new features.
91. exterior – We bought exterior paint to use on the outside of our house.
92. hyphen – Use a hyphen when writing numbers like twenty-one.
93. numerator – The numerator is the top number in a fraction.
94. routine – The dance routine was difficult to learn.
95. crisis – The long drought created a severe crisis for large numbers of people.
96. percent – Ten percent of students in my school are absent on any single day.
97. remarkable – It is remarkable how quickly my baby sister is learning to walk!
98. sword – An antique sword was sold to a collector of old weapons.
99. cushion – Some people like to sit on the floor with a cushion.
100. chiefs – The police chiefs from ten cities met to discuss public safety.
101. frontal – The commander ordered a frontal attack on the enemy’s camp.
102. novel – Many people would like to write a novel.
103. curious – Cats are known for being curious.
104. sponge – Meg used a sponge to wipe up the spilled water.
105. rural – There are many farms in rural areas.
106. zealous – Rioters were zealous to oust the dictator who had illegally siezed power.
107. physical – You must have an annual physical exam to be on a sports team.
108. alternative – We hated to cancel the trip, but the blizzard left us no alternative.
109. personal – The Prime Minister is a close personal friend.
110. cupboard – There’s plenty of soup in the cupboard.
111. replacement – The band members need to find a replacement for their lead singer.
478. futility – The futility of continuing the picnic in the rain quickly became clear.
479. studious – She’s very bright because she’s very studious.
480. dormitory – The dormitory closed over the summer break.
481. pronunciation – There is more than one pronunciation for tomatoes.
482. frustrate – It’s easy to frustrate a child who is just learning to read.
483. skirmish – The skirmish outside the restaurant quickly turned into a big fight.
484. turbulent – Turbulent winds led to the cancellation of the yacht race.
485. phenomenon – Old Faithful is an amazing natural phenomenon.
486. engrossed – He was so engrossed in the novel, he forgot to go to bed.
487. negligible – When the cyclist ran into the bush, the damage was negligible.
488. qualm – At the last minute he had a qualm about purchasing the home.
489. accomplice – My little brother was my accomplice in sneaking the cookies.
490. expensive – The nice restaurant was too expensive for us, so we ate fast food.
491. belligerent – The protestors became more belligerent as the police arrived.
492. cocoon – A beautiful butterfly emerged from the cocoon.
493. authentic – An expert said the signature was authentic.
494. auxiliary – Because of a blackout, the office is running on auxiliary power.
495. chaotic – The three-year-old boy’s birthday party quickly became chaotic.
496. pastime – Woodworking is my uncle’s favorite pastime.
497. chronic – She received a reprimand for her chronic tardiness.
498. curriculum – The new science curriculum includes more laboratory work.
499. distinction – Ed has the distinction of being the first in his family to go to college.
500. maintenance – A car requires regular maintenance to run properly.
Don’t BEE too Busy to study for the BEE!

Words to Study:

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Fabulous Words to Study:
1. ______________________
2. ______________________
3. ______________________
4. ______________________
5. ______________________
6. ______________________
7. ______________________
8. ______________________
9. ______________________
10. ______________________
11. ______________________
12. ______________________
13. ______________________
14. ______________________
15. ______________________

Bee Prepared
Bee Confident
Bee On Time
Bee a Winner!

www.spelling-words-well.com
Congratulations to

___________________

Winner
of the _____________

Spelling Bee
Sample pages from Spelling-Words-Well.com
on ____________, 20 ___

Well Done!

___________________  ____________________
Principal           Teacher

© 2011 www.spelling-words-well.com
This award goes to

_____________________

for finishing in ____ place in the

__________________________ Spelling Bee

held on ____________________ , 20____

at

Sample pages from Spelling-Words-Well.com

Nice Job!

__________________________

Principal

__________________________

Teacher

© 2011 www.spelling-words-well.com