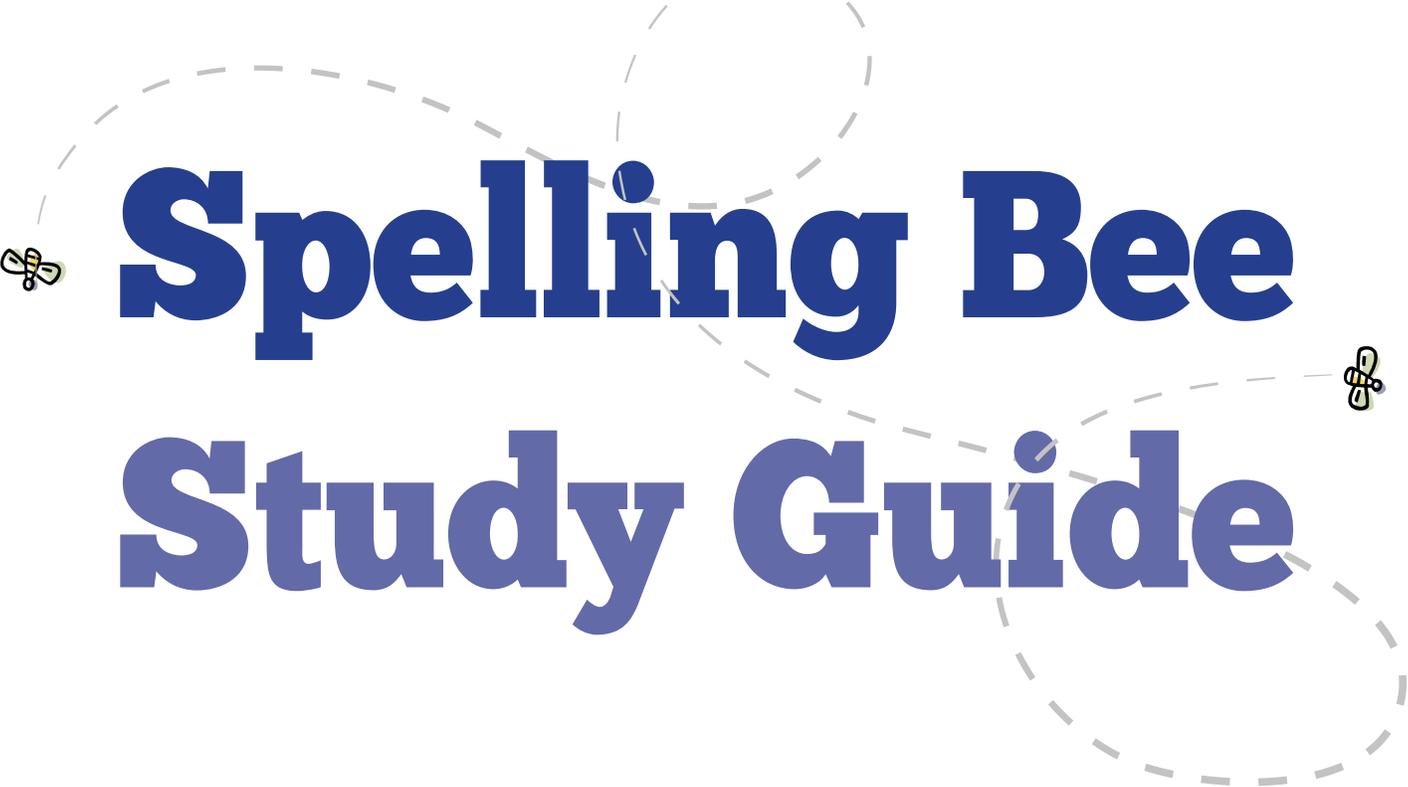


Today's Learning  
for Tomorrow's World



School District 71  
(Comox Valley)



# Spelling Bee Study Guide

## About this Study Guide

Spelling Bee Study Guide focuses on about 1150 words, divided into sections by language of origin. Studying language of origin will enable you to learn and remember several important rules, tips, and guidelines for successfully spelling words in English – the most challenging language of all for spellers!

Each of the sections in this guide contain 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 the last page.

# Words from LATIN

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.

inane  
relevant  
impetuous  
ambivalent  
dejected  
postmortem  
incriminate  
access  
plausible  
interrupt <sup>1</sup>  
alliteration  
refugee  
amicable  
lucid <sup>2</sup>  
percolate  
meticulous  
fastidious  
trajectory  
animosity  
implement  
ambiguity  
curriculum  
omnivorous  
bellicose

electoral  
crescent <sup>3</sup>  
obsequious  
transect  
precipice  
susceptible  
condolences <sup>4</sup>  
benefactor  
candidate  
bugle  
formidable  
canary  
subterfuge  
abdicate  
lunatic  
carnivore <sup>5</sup>  
gregarious  
ostentatious  
prosaic <sup>6</sup>  
herbivore  
prodigal  
magnanimous  
benevolent  
mercurial

simile  
jovial  
ridiculous  
innate  
obstinate  
discern  
mediocre  
insidious  
rupture  
precipitate  
erudite  
colloquial  
intractable  
exuberant <sup>7</sup>  
ingenious  
retrospective  
ominous  
vulnerable  
omnipotent  
consensus  
discipline  
alleviate  
spectrum  
prescription  
capitulation  
incredulous  
affinity  
necessary  
adjacent  
dissect  
conjecture  
imperative  
predicate  
corporal  
patina  
Capricorn  
participant  
library  
cognition  
primal  
filament  
unity  
ventilate  
aquatic  
igneous  
reptile  
providence  
message

foliate  
nasal  
opera  
renovate  
credentials  
temporal  
canine  
measure  
credible  
femininity  
confidence  
triumvirate  
popularity  
diary  
humble  
vivisection  
strict  
prosecute  
contiguous  
ductile  
gradient  
current  
perfidy  
fidelity  
incorruptible

## CHALLENGE WORDS

soliloquy  
accommodate  
pernicious <sup>8</sup>  
efficacy  
visceral  
exacerbate  
indigenous  
belligerent  
vernacular  
infinitesimal  
recalcitrant  
innocuous  
precocious  
ameliorate  
commensurate  
facetious  
prerogative  
ubiquitous  
egregious  
aggregate  
tertiary  
corpuscle  
perennial

# 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 *interruption* or *necessary* along with *necessity*).
- 2 The *\u* 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 *\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 A related tip: 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 *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*.

## Now You Try!

1. *Curriculum* is another word from Latin like *necessary* and *interrupt* that has an internal double consonant. Can you think of an adjective related to *curriculum* that also has double *r*?
2. Some of the Latin study-list words end with the sound *\shəs*, and the consonant that begins the last syllable is *c* or *t* (see tip 8, left). Can you think of two words in English that end with this sound and are spelled with *xious*?
3. The rarely used plural of *consensus* is *consensuses*, but some words from Latin that end in *us* have a plural that ends in a long *i* sound (*\i*) and is spelled with *i*. Can you think of three such words?
4. Three words on the study list come from the Latin verb that means “throw.” These words are *conjecture*, *dejected* and *trajectory*. See if you can unscramble these letters to find four other common English words that have the same root:  
**j**bu**s**tc**e**      **t**rec**j**e      **r**pt**c**je**o**      **c**ot**b**e**j**
5. The consonants *gn* often occur in words from Latin. When they divide two syllables of a word, both of them are pronounced. Some words from Latin, however, have the consonants *gn* in a single syllable. In this case, the *g* is silent, as in *design*. Can you think of three other words from Latin in which this happens?

# Words from ARABIC

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.

azure  
Islamic  
sultan  
artichoke  
mummy<sup>1</sup>  
tarragon  
adobe  
mohair  
borax  
talc  
arsenal  
lemon  
tuna  
admiral  
hazard  
apricot  
carmine  
monsoon

average  
gazelle<sup>2</sup>  
crimson  
orange  
sequin  
macrame  
algebra  
guitar  
nabob  
giraffe  
mattress  
elixir  
saffron  
cotton  
albatross<sup>3</sup>  
zero  
safari<sup>4</sup>  
magazine

zenith  
alfalfa  
imam  
mosque  
alcohol  
tariff  
lilac  
alcove  
massage  
henna<sup>5</sup>  
alchemy  
sugar  
taj  
mahal  
khan  
ghoul

## CHALLENGE WORDS

muslin  
camphor  
algorithm  
minaret  
serdab  
tamarind  
carafe  
julep  
marzipan  
nenuphar  
alcazar  
tahini  
Qatari  
alkali  
serendipity  
nadir  
douane  
fennec

hafiz  
azimuth  
bezoar  
halal  
alim  
Swahili  
mihrab  
salaam  
mukhtar  
khor  
foggara  
diffa  
coffle

### 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 in 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 (ɛ̄) 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*.

### Tip from the Top

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

### Folk Etymology

Is it just coincidence that *mohair* describes the hair of a goat? Not exactly. *Mohair*—like dozens of other words in this guide—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 a word that is already familiar to them. The original Arabic for *mohair* is *mukhayyar*. The element *hayyar* 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 Arabic words in that it has three consonant sounds, not counting the sound of the letter *l* that is from the Arabic definite article (see tip 3, left). Why do you think *elixir* is spelled with only two consonants after the *l* in English?
2. Arabic has three different letters, all with different sounds, that English speakers convert to a \k\ sound. How many different ways is \k\ spelled on the list of words from Arabic?

# Words from SLAVIC LANGUAGES

Many people in Eastern Europe and Asia speak a Slavic language such as Czech, Ukrainian, Croatian, or Bulgarian. And that's completely apart from Russian, a Slavic language spoken by more than 200 million people! Some words of Slavic origin that have made their way into English traveled through another language first, reflecting the fact that contacts between English-speaking and Slavic-speaking cultures have not always been direct.

gulag  
parka  
Slav  
robot  
samovar  
kremlin  
troika  
slave  
mammoth  
Siberian  
tundra

Permian  
kishke  
glasnost  
paprika  
sable  
kasha  
nebbish  
polka  
Bolshevik  
vampire  
sputnik

knish  
cravat  
babushka  
Soviet  
Borzoi  
gopak  
cheka  
sevruga  
trepak  
babka  
purga

baba  
cossack  
nelma  
kovsh  
lokshen  
feldsher  
barabara  
aul

## CHALLENGE WORDS

balalaika  
kielbasa  
tchotchke  
barukhzy  
perestroika  
apparatchik  
commissar  
tokamak  
pogrom  
taiga  
Beetewk

## Tip from the Top

The “sound it out” strategy works well with most words of Slavic origin. Although some Slavic languages use the Roman alphabet and some, like Russian and Bulgarian, use the Cyrillic alphabet, our spellings of most of these words are fairly English-friendly. Take note: The frequent schwa \ə\ at the end of words is usually spelled with *a*, and the \k\ sound is nearly always spelled with *k*.

## 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**

## Eponyms

Eponyms are words based on a person's or character's name. Sometimes the person's name and the word are exactly the same and the word simply takes on a new meaning. In other cases the person's name is slightly changed. When this happens, the stressed syllable of the new word can also change and you won't always recognize the origin, which might be a somewhat familiar name. Take, for example, *gardenia*. It's really just a man's name (Alexander Garden) with the plant-naming suffix *-ia*. In fact, all of the words 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  
gardenia  
melba  
tantalize  
zinnia  
quisling  
begonia  
samaritan

Panglossian  
quixote  
jeremiad  
hector  
Geronimo  
shrapnel  
vulcanize  
Frankenstein  
Boswell  
ampere  
cupid  
Fletcherism  
yahoo  
diesel  
bander-snatch  
Crusoe  
mentor  
Dracula

## CHALLENGE WORDS

forsythia  
madeleine  
bromeliad  
mercerize  
Fahrenheit  
narcissistic  
dahlia  
Baedeker  
philippic  
guillotine  
Bobadil  
mesmerize  
gnathonic  
pasteurize  
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?

# Words from FRENCH

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.

peloton  
barrage  
chagrin <sup>1</sup>  
pacifism  
manicure  
altruism  
bureaucracy  
mascot  
parfait  
mystique  
layette <sup>2</sup>  
boutique  
dressage  
croquet  
gorgeous  
denture  
mirage  
denim  
cachet <sup>3</sup>  
neologism  
beige  
diplomat  
motif

suave  
foyer <sup>4</sup>  
clementine  
ambulance  
rehearse  
leotard  
prairie <sup>5</sup>  
diorama  
entourage  
fuselage  
boudoir  
collage <sup>6</sup>  
amenable  
expertise  
matinee  
plateau  
sortie  
croquette  
physique <sup>7</sup>  
elite  
deluxe  
nougat  
rouge <sup>8</sup>

escargot  
crochet  
regime  
doctrinaire  
tutu  
bevel  
menu  
egalitarian  
quiche <sup>9</sup>  
fatigue  
garage  
morgue  
stethoscope  
vogue  
musicale  
palette  
flamboyant  
baton  
souvenir  
impasse  
finesse  
maladroit

**CHALLENGE WORDS**  
gauche  
rapport  
camouflage  
genre  
virgule  
debacle  
fusillade <sup>10</sup>  
saboteur  
renaissance  
chauvinism  
recidivist  
chassis  
détente  
raconteur  
mayonnaise <sup>11</sup>  
surveillance  
repertoire  
dossier  
taupe  
poignant  
garçon  
croissant  
ecru  
lieutenant  
protégé  
mélange  
blasé  
fête  
ingenue  
rendezvous

## Spelling Tips for Words FROM FRENCH

- 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 *croquette* and *layette*.
- 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*, *crochet* and *croquet*.
- 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 below 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 *mystique*, *boutique* and *physique*.
- 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 \ād\ 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 \āzh\.

## French (cont.)

# Now You Try!

1. Read these two pronunciations of non-study-list French words and then spell them. You'll discover two other ways that a long *a* sound (ā) can be spelled at the end of a word from French: \ka-<sup>1</sup>fā\ \mā-<sup>1</sup>lā\.
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.
3. The word *mirage* has two common related words in English that come ultimately from the Latin root *mirari*, a word that means “wonder at.” One of these English words has three *r*'s; the other has only one. Can you guess the words?
4. English has dozens of words from French that end in *ee*. Some, like *melee*, have a long *a* pronunciation (ā). Others, like *levee*, have a long *e* (ē). Can you think of two other words from French ending in *ee* that have the long *a* sound and two that have the long *e* sound?
5. Of the words on the study list, three could also have been listed in the Eponyms category because they are based on the name of a person or character. Which three words are these?

## Words from GREEK

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.

lethargy  
android  
chronic  
biopsy  
irony  
automaton  
enthusiasm  
synopsis  
homogeneous  
odyssey  
megalopolis  
acme <sup>1</sup>

synonym  
orthodox  
aristocracy  
calypso  
patriarch  
hierarchy  
character <sup>2</sup>  
isobar  
asterisk  
eclectic  
melancholy  
stoic

chronology  
eulogy  
didactic  
cosmetic  
Spartan  
geothermal  
cynical <sup>3</sup>  
homonym  
cryptic  
hypothesis  
academy  
pentathlon

antibiotic  
diatribe  
etymology  
hydraulic <sup>4</sup>  
trauma  
hygiene  
semantics  
thesaurus  
phenomenon <sup>5</sup>  
cosmos  
protagonist  
acronym  
paradox  
synchronous  
misanthropy  
sarcasm  
ephemeral  
polygon  
nemesis  
syntax  
eureka  
topography  
panic  
apostrophe  
geranium  
metaphor  
spherical  
xylophone <sup>6</sup>  
dynamic  
myriad  
epiphany  
apathy  
synergy  
amnesia  
philanthropy  
democracy  
strategy <sup>7</sup>

diagnosis  
topical  
matriarch  
endemic  
analysis <sup>8</sup>  
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  
geoponics  
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 for WORDS FROM GREEK

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 (i\ 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\i\ 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,

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** *n* separation of something into its parts. The lysis part of this word means "loosening" or "breaking up" in Greek.
2. **android** *n* a robot that looks like a human. The andr part of this word comes from the Greek word that means "man."
3. **diatribe** *n* bitter or abusive writing or speech. The dia part of this word means "through," "across," or "apart" in Greek words.
4. **isobar** *n* a line on a map connecting places that have the same barometer reading. The iso part of this word means "equal" in Greek words.
5. **pentathlon** *n* an athletic competition consisting of five events. The pent/penta part of this word comes from the Greek word that means "five."
6. **olygon** *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** *adj* related to, caused by, or involving heat. The therm part of this word appears in other words from Greek involving heat.

## Example

**apathy** *n* lack of feeling. The path part of this word comes from the Greek word for "feeling."

# Words from ITALIAN

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!

staccato  
ballot  
confetti <sup>1</sup>  
semolina  
influenza  
cavalry  
piazza  
cadenza  
pistachio  
spinet  
cantata  
incognito <sup>2</sup>  
vendetta  
contraband  
mascara  
graffiti  
credenza  
parapet  
falsetto  
ditto  
provolone <sup>3</sup>  
extravaganza  
scampi

belladonna  
gondola  
rotunda  
cauliflower  
galleria  
regatta  
crescendo <sup>4</sup>  
balcony  
portfolio  
antipasto  
libretto  
virtuoso  
harmonica  
maestro  
bravura  
fresco  
stucco <sup>5</sup>  
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 <sup>6</sup>  
adagio  
segue  
zucchini <sup>7</sup>  
capricious  
archipelago  
charlatan  
maraschino  
paparazzo <sup>8</sup>  
fantoccini  
mozzarella  
garibaldi  
ocarina  
prosciutto  
trattoria  
vivace  
cappelletti  
pizzicato  
intaglio

## Spelling Tips for Words FROM ITALIAN

- 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*, *vibrato*, *stucco*, *virtuoso*, *concerto*, *prosciutto*, *pizzicato* 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* (see tip 1).
- 4 The \sh\ sound has various spellings in words from Italian; a spelling it usually doesn't have is *sh*! It can be spelled *sc* as in *crescendo* 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 \ä\ 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*.

## Now You Try!

Officially, Italian uses only 21 of the 26 letters in the Roman alphabet. The letters it doesn't use (*j*, *k*, *w*, *x* and *y*) do appear in Italian books and newspapers—but usually only to spell foreign words. Young Italians think it's cool to use these foreign letters, so they may eventually be accepted into the language. But for now, official Italian finds other ways to spell the sounds we normally associate with these letters. In light of that information, see if you can answer these puzzlers!

1. One word in the list of Challenge Words has a \w\ sound. How is it spelled?
2. One of the sounds we normally associate with *j* appears in 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?

# Words from OLD ENGLISH

Old English was the language spoken in Britain before the French arrived in 1066. If you could listen to a conversation in Old English, you would probably be scratching your head a lot. A few of the words would make sense, but most of them wouldn't. Like plants and animals, languages evolve—keeping the things that they find useful, discarding others, and picking up new things along the way. This study list represents some of the real success stories in English: words coined long ago that have not lost their usefulness over dozens of generations!

## 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 *Wiccan*.
- 2 A long *a* sound (ʌ) 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 *s* 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 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 ʌɪ 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 ʌ.
- 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* (ʌθ) or soft *th* (ʌθ), 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*, *tithe* and *lithe*. Interestingly, the word *blithe* can be pronounced both ways.

quell<sup>1</sup>  
barrow  
dearth  
bower  
paddock  
blithe  
keen  
mongrel  
reckless  
alderman  
whirlpool  
belay<sup>2</sup>  
cleanser  
dreary<sup>3</sup>  
bequeath  
sallow<sup>4</sup>  
dross  
lithe  
gristle  
earwig

fickle  
nestle<sup>5</sup>  
fennel  
nostril  
abide  
behest  
slaughter<sup>6</sup>  
gospel  
furlong  
linseed  
nether  
fathom  
nightingale  
farthing  
threshold  
kith  
wanton  
loam<sup>7</sup>  
yield  
mattock  
hawthorn  
tithe  
behoove

forlorn  
quiver  
hustings  
aspens  
mermaid  
anvil  
barley  
linden  
hassock  
orchard  
hearth<sup>8</sup>  
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

## Tip from the Top

You have a great advantage in learning to spell a word that has been in English for a very long time. Chances are that the word belongs to a group of words that show the same spelling pattern, since words in all languages have a habit of conforming to each other over time. As you study the words on the list, try to remember them together with another word or words with a similar sound and spelling.

## 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.



## Words from ASIAN LANGUAGES

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.

dugong	rupee	yamen
guru	mongoose	raj
cushy	shampoo	kama
seersucker	typhoon	pundit
jungle	bamboo	loot
oolong	jackal	kavya
nirvana	dungaree	jiva
bangle	bungalow	pandit
cummerbund	gunnysack	chintz
juggernaut	chutney	patel
pangolin	karma	
mahatma	jute	

**CHALLENGE WORDS**

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

### Tips from the Top

Most of the words on this page from various Asian languages were introduced into English by people who spoke English. Therefore, if you aren't familiar with a word and don't know any rules for spelling words from its language of origin, as a last resort you might try spelling it the way a speaker of English who is an untrained speller would spell it.

Another approach that is sometimes useful is to spell a borrowed word or part of a borrowed word in the way that an English word you already know with similar sounds is spelled. This approach would work for spelling *mongoose*, for example.

### Now You Try!

- 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?
- The long *e* sound (ē) is spelled *ee* in *dungaree* and *rupee*. Name three other ways it is spelled in the words above.
- Why do you think *bungalow* is spelled with a *w* at the end? (Hint: See the second paragraph under Tips from the Top.)

## Words from JAPANESE

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.

ninja	mikado <sup>4</sup>	tatami
sushi <sup>1</sup>	hibachi	kami
tofu	origami	sukiyaki
shogun	geisha <sup>5</sup>	kuruma
honcho	wasabi	Meiji
karate <sup>2</sup>	ramen	Romaji
samurai	kudzu	odori
teriyaki	banzai	miso
sashimi	tycoon	Kabuki
tsunami	sumo	geta
haiku <sup>3</sup>	koan	sayonara
futon	satori	

**CHALLENGE WORDS**

karaoke
nisei
sansei
issei
kibei

### Spelling Tips for Words from Japanese

- A long *e* sound (ē) 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.
- The sound of long *e* is spelled simply with *e* in some words from Japanese. Examples include *karate* and *karaoke*.
- An *ü* sound is also a common way to end Japanese words and is spelled with *u* as in *haiku*, *tofu* and *kudzu*.
- Long *o* (ō) at the end of a word from Japanese is spelled with *o* as in *honcho*, *mikado*, *sumo* and *miso*.
- A long *a* sound (ā) 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!

- 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**
- From what you have learned about Japanese words in English, how many syllables do you think each of these non-study-list Japanese words has?  
**matsutake kamikaze netsuke wakame**

# Words from NEW WORLD LANGUAGES

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.

## Spelling Tips for Words from NEW WORLD LANGUAGES

- Remember that words settling down in English are often spelled according to English word patterns. If you're completely unsure of how to spell a word from a New World language, you can try just "sounding it out." This strategy would work for *hurricane*, *muskrat*, *wigwam* and several other words on the list.
- Take note of the language(s) a word may have traveled through on its way to English, for the path to English often gives a clue about spelling. For example, if it had been up to an English speaker, the *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*.
- 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*.
- 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.

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

**CHALLENGE WORDS**

opossum  
terrapi  
ocelot  
hoomalimali  
coati  
jacamar  
ipecac  
menhaden  
sachem

## 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*.

Many of these words are from languages that had no alphabet at the time of borrowing or that had their own unique writing system. The result is that introduction into English, whether direct or indirect, involved some compromise in pronunciation and spelling which often reflects the rules of English or some intermediary language.

## Now You Try!

- The two words in the study list that suggest folk etymology denote animals. Which of the following non-study-list words for plants would you think have folk etymologies?  
pennyroyal    campanula    brooklime  
chickling    poppy
- 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

## It Feels Nice to Say It Twice

Did you ever lose a *flip-flop* at a *wingding* where all the *bigwigs* were eating *couscous*? Well, maybe not. But it would be fun to say that you did! All human languages have a feature called "reduplication." It applies to words that fit any of three patterns: (a) both syllables are identical (as in *couscous*), (b) the second syllable rhymes with the first (as in *wingding* and *bigwig*), and (c) the second syllable has a different vowel but the same consonants as the first (as in *flip-flop*). The reason that all languages have reduplicative words is that people like them! They're fun to say and easy to remember. This study list has four reduplications: *powwow*, *mahimahi*, *wikiwiki* and *muumuu*. Such words are usually easy to spell. If the syllables are identical, they are spelled identically. If they differ only by the vowel sounds or only by the consonant sounds, then only that part of the word changes from one syllable to the next.

## 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.

### Spelling Tips for Words FROM GERMAN

- 1 Don't shy away from consonant clusters! German words often have combinations of three or more consonants that don't occur in thoroughly English words. Examples include *ngst* in *angst*, *sch* in *schadenfreude*, *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 (\iː) 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 *herrenvolk* and *volkslied*.
- 5 The letter *z* is far more common in German than in English. Note that its pronunciation is not usually the same as English \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 *schadenfreude*, whether at the beginning or end of a word

angst<sup>1</sup>  
pretzel  
waltz  
haversack  
  
sauerbraten  
hinterland  
verboten  
liverwurst  
streusel  
umlaut  
wanderlust  
eiderdown  
schnauzer  
lederhosen  
kohlrabi  
sitzmark  
langlauf  
autobahn  
Backstein

inselberg  
gestalt  
einkorn  
kitsch<sup>2</sup>  
gestapo  
schloss  
rucksack  
echt  
bratwurst  
knapsack  
feldspar  
poltergeist  
noodle  
spareribs  
Meistersinger<sup>3</sup>  
pumpnickel  
Bildungsroman  
strudel  
bagel  
hamster

cobalt  
nachtmusik  
vorlage<sup>4</sup>  
graupel  
Wagnerian  
cringle  
fife  
glitz  
homburg  
kuchen  
pitchblende  
spritz<sup>5</sup>  
prattle  
zwinger  
spitz  
realschule  
panzer  
stollen  
dachshund  
seltzer

**CHALLENGE WORDS**  
schadenfreude<sup>6</sup>  
dreidel  
weimaraner  
ersatz  
fräulein  
blitzkrieg<sup>7</sup>  
gesundheit  
pfeffernuss  
edelweiss<sup>8</sup>  
glockenspiel  
rottweiler  
schottische  
anschluss  
wedel  
springerle  
zeitgeber  
pickelhaube  
schnecke  
Weissnichtwo

### Now You Try!

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  
affep \_ \_ 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*, *langlauf*, *graupel* and *pickelhaube*, which word would you say has been more anglicized in its usual pronunciation? Why do you think this is?

or syllable. In *schottische*, you get it in both places!

- 7 A long *e* sound (\ɛː) 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 *edelweiss* and in *wedel* and *Weissnichtwo*. Many German words, however, have become so anglicized that this pronunciation has vanished. Most North Americans, for example, say “bratwurst,” not “bratyurst.”

# Words from SPANISH

England and Spain had some opportunities for word exchanges through war and trade. The real crossroads for Spanish and English, however, has been North America, starting as early as the 15th century when Spanish explorers first came to the New World. This crossroads is as busy today as ever, for Spanish is the second-most-frequently spoken language in the United States. Because of the long border Americans share with Mexico and the large number of North Americans whose origins go back eventually to Mexico, North American English has many words that come directly from Mexican Spanish.

## Spelling Tips for Words FROM SPANISH

- 1 A long *o* sound (ɒ) at the end of a word is often a mark of Spanish origin, and it is nearly always spelled simply with *o* as in *embargo* and many other words in this list.
- 2 A long *e* sound (ɛ) 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 both with and without the \w\ 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* or *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 in 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.

burrito  
embargo<sup>1</sup>  
chimichanga  
gazpacho  
mariachi<sup>2</sup>  
sombrero  
alligator  
canasta  
bonanza  
chinchilla  
machismo  
enchilada  
pueblo  
hacienda  
fandango  
quesadilla<sup>3</sup>  
flotilla  
tornado  
flamenco<sup>4</sup>  
vigilante  
adios  
cabana

gordita  
peccadillo  
filibuster  
tortilla  
vanilla  
cilantro  
fiesta  
anchovy  
mesa<sup>5</sup>  
ramada  
junco  
cafeteria  
bongo  
castanets  
mantilla<sup>6</sup>  
oregano  
lariat  
chalupa  
buffalo<sup>7</sup>

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

## Tip from the Top

The good news about words from Spanish is that they are often spelled the way they sound. There is no need to throw in any silent letters in most cases! Be sure to have a look, though, at the spelling tips on this page.

## Now You Try!

1. One of the two words beginning with *j* on our study list also begins with a \j\ sound, but the letter *j* does not always have this sound in words from Spanish. What is the initial consonant sound in these four non-study-list words, which also come from Spanish?  
**jalapeño      jipijapa      jinete      jojoba**
2. Why do you think English uses either *c* or *qu* but not *k* to spell the \k\ sound in words of Spanish origin?
3. You can see from the words in the list that *ch* is common in words from Spanish and that it usually has the same pronunciation as English normally uses for *ch*. In which word from the list does *ch* sometimes have a different pronunciation?
4. We have seen already that *c* often represents a \k\ sound in words from Spanish. In which three words on the list does *c* have a different pronunciation, and what sound does it have?
5. The two *l*'s in alligator are not the usual *ll* that you often see in the middle of words from Spanish. When this word was borrowed, the Spanish masculine definite article *el* ("the") was borrowed along with it. *El legarto* in Spanish became *alligator* in English. Do you remember in what other language the definite article is often borrowed along with the word when it enters English?

# Key to Exercises

## Words from Latin

1. The adjective is *curricular*.
2. English words from Latin ending in *xious* include *anxious*, *noxious* and *obnoxious*.
3. There are several such plurals in English. The most common ones are probably *alumnus/alumni*, *nucleus/nuclei*, *cactus/cacti* and *fungus/fungi*.
4. The words are *subject*, *reject*, *project* and *object*.
5. Some other words with a silent *g* include *assign*, *benign*, *impugn* and *reign*.

## Words from Arabic

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 in *Qatari*), *que* (as in *mosque*), *ch* (as in *alchemy*) and *kh* (as in *mukhtar*).

## Words from French

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 \wä\.
3. The two words are *mirror* and *miracle*.
4. Some words ending with long *a* (\ā\ ) are *entree*, *lycée* and *soiree*. Some words ending with long *e* (\ē\ ) are *agree*, *apogee*, *degree*, *disagree*, *lessee*, *pedigree* and *refugee*. The endings of the words *divorcee* and *repatee* can be pronounced with either a long *a* (\ā\ ) or a long *e* (\ē\ ).
5. The three eponyms are *leotard*, *clementine* and *chauvinism*.

## Words from Slavic Languages

1. The *-nik* suffix occurs in *beatnik*, *peacenik*, *refusenik* and in other words that people coin from time to time, such as *folknik* and *neatnik*.
2. *Cravat* is the odd one out; it is the only one of the group that did not enter English via Yiddish.

## Eponyms

1. The six eponyms based on characters from Greek or Roman mythology are *narcissistic*, *tantalize*, *hector*, *vulcanize*, *cupid* and *mentor*.
2. Answers will vary; your teacher can help you.

## Words from German

1. The breeds are *drahthaar*, *poodle*, *affenpinscher* and *Doberman*.
2. The terminal sound \əl\ is spelled *el* in the German style and *le* in the more English style.
3. The word *autobahn* has a more anglicized pronunciation, probably because of the influence of *auto* and *automobile*.

## Words from Italian

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 Dutch

1. *Cranberry*, *alpenglow* and *smearcase* are all part translations from German. *Grosbeak* is from French.

## Words from Old English

1. *arrow*
2. *marrow*
3. *sparrow*
4. *yarrow*
5. *shallow*
6. *tallow*
7. *mallow*
8. *fallow*
9. *loathe*
10. *seethe*
11. *writhe*
12. *scythe*
13. *bristle*
14. *thistle*
15. *trestle*
16. *epistle*

## Words from Asian Languages

1. The sound is \ü\ and is spelled with *oo* in *oolong*, *mongoose*, *shampoo*, *typhoon*, *loot* and *bamboo*.
2. Long *e* (\ē\ ) is spelled with *y* (in *cushy* and *gunnysack*), *ey* (in *chutney*) and *i* (in *basmati*, *batik*, *gourami*, *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.

## Words from Japanese

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 New World Languages

1. *Pennyroyal*, *brooklime* and *chickling* all are results of folk etymology.
2. *Catalpa* and *guava* are from New World languages.

## Words from Greek

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. *diadem*, *diagonal*, *diagram*, *diaphragm*
4. *isopropyl*, *isosceles*, *isotherm*, *isotope*
5. *pentagram*, *pentagon*, *pentameter*, *Pentateuch*, *Pentecost*
6. *decagon*, *hexagon*, *heptagon*, *pentagon*, *nonagon*, *octagon*, *orthogonal*
7. *hyperthermia*, *hypothermia*, *isotherm*, *thermometer*

## Words from Spanish

1. The initial consonant sound is \h\.
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*.