



Sample Wordlist for The Times Spelling Bee Championship 2010

This is a sample list of 200 words which has been compiled by the editors of the Collins English Dictionary - the official dictionary of The Times Spelling Bee. The list illustrates the range of difficulty of the words that will be used in the Local championship heats and Semi-Finals.

New features of Championship wordlist for 2010: Homophones and alternatives

Unlike last year, this year's Spelling Bee will include homophones. Homophones are words that have the same pronunciation, but different meanings and spellings, like *bow* as in "bow down" and *bough* as in the branch of a tree. They are two different words, but they sound the same.

When a word like this comes up, the Spellmaster will tell the speller it's a homophone and give the player a definition. That way the speller knows which *bough*, for example, they need to spell. It's up to the speller to know which spelling goes with which meaning; if they spell the wrong one, they don't get the points.

Homophones are not to be confused with similar-sounding words. If a word comes up and the speller correctly spells another, similar-sounding word which is not an exact homophone, the judge will decide whether the two words are similar enough to award the point. Judges may prompt the Spellmaster to give a definition if they suspect the speller has misheard the word or that the word is very likely to be confused with another word. This will be at the judge's discretion.

Alternative Spellings

This year's Spelling Bee also includes one kind of alternative spelling. If a word ends in *-ise* or *-isation*, (for example, *civilise* or *civilisation*), it usually has an acceptable alternative spelling with *-ize/-ization*. If a word like this comes up, the speller can use either spelling and get the full points. This rule does not apply to the *-yze* spelling, which is US-only, or to words like *advertise*, which can only be spelt one way.



after
blanket
chrome
drought
dwell
fiend
guild
hearth
joist
joust
lathe
leech
mould
night
ounce
phase
quince
retch
sword
twinge
verve
wheat
yearn
yield
youth
abate
babble
cabbage
dabble
eagle
feckless
gabble
hacker
icicle
jacket
karma
labour
machine
namely
obey

package
quaff
rabble
sackcloth
tabloid
ugly
vacant
wadding
yellow
zany
abandon
baize
cabaret
dative
earthquake
fabricate
galaxy
habitat
idealize
jaguar
kerb
lacrosse
magician
napalm
oasis
pacifist
quadrant
replacement
sabotage
tactful
ulcer
vagabond
warlock
yacht
yesterday
zodiac
abacus
babel
cleanliness
dais

eccentric
facilitate
galleon
hackneyed
iconoclast
jettison
kangaroo
labyrinth
madrigal
nationalize
obelisk
palatial
quadrangle
rabies
sacrosanct
tactician
ultimatum
vaccinate
wanderlust
yeti
zephyr
abbreviation
barracuda
cacophony
decelerate
echelon
facetious
gastronomy
halcyon
iambic
jingoism
kindergarten
lassitude
macabre
magnificent
necromancy
obdurate
palatable
qualitative
radiology

sacrilege
taxonomy
ulna
valuation
wildebeest
abominable
beneficiary
dalmatian
fastidious
gastropod
harbinger
identification
judiciary
laborious
maelstrom
notorious
obligatory
pandemonium
rehabilitate
sabbatical
temperamental
ubiquitous
venerable
acupuncture
baroque
calve
dahlia
ecclesiastical
fraudulent
gauche
haiku
indefatigable
megalomaniac
nadir
ostentatious
perfunctory
questionnaire
rapport
sapphire
tarot

uvula
vignette
xenophobia
zealot
accoutrements
brontosaurus
caesura
desiccate
ebullient
fluorescent
guillemot
hieroglyphic
innocuous
jurisdiction
kleptomania
liege
magnanimous
neolithic
prognosticate
reincarnation
sciatica
telekinesis
veracious
zoophyte
aegis
becquerel
camaraderie
decolletage
effervescent
haughty
ichthyology
lepidopteran
meiosis
nonagenarian
paraphernalia
rendezvous
sanctimonious
sforzando
vermicelli
xerophyte