

Sample Wordlist for The Times Spelling Bee Championship 2011

This is a sample list of 105 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.

As in 2010, the Spelling Bee Championship includes homophones and alternative spellings.

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

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.

badge	extract	wistful	cavil	gyrate
beast	impact	withering	cede	imaginary
blot	invite	wizened	comparison	liaise
cheap	learned	ballet	democratic	masquerade
cling	recall	combustion	mania	premature
faint	recount	galvanized	purloin	rehabilitate
frank	retail	naturalized	reconstitute	accelerator
great	subtract	pasteurized	regurgitate	antediluvian
gruff	verge	rogue	repatriate	counterfeit
least	acoustic	seasonal	scholarly	courteous
page	arena	vigilant	secede	desultory
plain	bionic	vocational	substantiate	ecclesiastical
proud	bountiful	voluntary	utilize	egalitarian
quick	callow	weighty	apprehend	esoteric
shrewd	canal	whimsical	commission	fraught
acute	equate	wooded	dynamic	gauche
basic	feral	workable	enigma	miscible
cloak	react	written	enunciate	opportunity
complex	stylish	acquaintance	expectant	pessimism
essay	voluble	annual	expiate	rhetoric
excuse	winsome	berate	expurgate	unpredictable