

UIL Spelling and Vocabulary Contest~ 2014-2015



Linda Berrey
Director

Origin of Written Language



- Man is separated from all other animals by the ability to communicate across Space and Time.
- This ability is made possible by Written Language.
- Communication in Writing is made possible by Man's agreement on the symbols he uses.



- The Agreed sequence of those written symbols is called
Spelling.

This is the Official Word list for this Contest. It also contains the rules and procedures for the contest as well as a sample test. The UIL Constitution is the source for all the rules.



Word Power

High School Spelling & Vocabulary
List and Rules for 2013-2014



UIL Spelling and Vocabulary Contest



PART IA. PROOFREADING

PART IB. VOCABULARY

**PART II. SPELLING FROM
DICTATION**

PART III. TIE-BREAKER

Part Ia. Proofreading



15 points - requires that contestants given sets of five-word lists recognize the word which is misspelled in each list and write it spelled correctly

Most of the words from this section of the test are from Word Power

Up to twenty percent (20%) of the words on this part of the test may be from other sources



Part Ib. Vocabulary



15 points - multiple choice test of word origins and meaning.

The **350 words** designated for this part of the test are **marked** in the WordPower list with a • DOT.

The Vocabulary section has no misspelled words, but contestants are also responsible for the correct spelling of these words.

Part II. Spelling from Dictation



70 points - 70 words, pronounced

at a rate of 5 words per minute - one every twelve seconds

****Starting this year:** All words will be defined.

Part III. Tie-breaker



Twenty words pronounced at 5 words per minute -
This part is scored **only** in case of **ties** and then only those involved in the tie are scored.

As with Part II, all tie-breaker words will be pronounced at least twice and defined.

Sources of Words



80% of the test words for Part Ia and Parts II and III come from the WordPower list.

Up to **20%** come from

- Common Usage,
- Words from school course materials, such as textbook glossaries,
- News and Current Events - Words and Proper names
- Vocabulary Builders - roots and affixes which appear in the list as other parts of speech,
- and other words of interest.

The Official Dictionary



The **official dictionary** of this contest is

**The American Heritage Dictionary of
the English Language,**

either the Third or Fourth edition.

This contest is based **only** on the definitions,
pronunciations, and usages in **this dictionary**.


All the contest words are in **this dictionary**.

In Case of Error in the WordPower List



- If the WordPower List has an error in spelling, the correction is announced in the Official Notices of the *Leaguer*, the UIL's newspaper, which is now found online at the UIL website.

Using Language Skills to Build Strength in Spelling

A decorative graphic consisting of a white circle with a blue outline, positioned at the center of a horizontal dashed blue line that separates the title from the subtitle.

**Phonics, Pronunciation,
and
Spelling**

“Sounding out Words”



“Pure Vowels”

“Diphthongs – Vowel pairs”

“Rules for long and short Vowels”

“Pure consonants and blends”

“Sound=Symbol correspondence”

“Sound Color”

A Riddle...



- Question: How do you eat an elephant?
- Answer: One bite at a time!

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Pronunciation



- Spelling is a very recent language skill.
- Before there was a written form of language, there were words.
- The invention of the printing press made it necessary to come to agreement on how to present words in writing.

Sound-Symbol Correspondence



- In languages like Latin and Spanish, there is a direct correlation between sound and symbol: each sound is represented by a specific symbol.
- In other languages, including English, a speech sound may be represented by several symbols and a symbol may represent several sounds, depending on the letters around it.

Problems in Pronunciation



PRONOUNCE

ghoti

Problems in Pronunciation



“Non-correspondence” exceptions:

- **ghoti is pronounced “fish”**
- **How?**
- **cough** **women** **nation**

This is English!!

Problems in Pronunciation



“Schwa” = ə

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Watch and Listen for ...



acolyte (ăk' ə-līt')

adenoma (ăd' ən-o' mə)

babushka (bə-boosh' kə)

cacophonous (kə-kăf' ə-nəs)

distensible (dī-stĭn' sə-bəl)

indecipherable (ĭn' dī-sī' fər-ə-bəl)

pachydermatous (păk' ĭ-dûr' mətəs)

(These words are not from this year's list)

Problems in Pronunciation



Consonant Blends

Consonant pairs (*bl-,br-, ch, etc.*) have blended sounds that are different from that of the letters pronounced separately.

Diphthongs (Vowel pairs) such as *-ae, -ai, -au, -ea, etc.* are the same issue.

Separating these pairs into their component sounds, exaggerating each sound, facilitates spelling.

One solution



Sound Color = exaggerated “Pure” letter-sound

Consonant/vowel blends can be more troublesome; they may sound the same but look different:

Precious > preshus

Contentious > contenshus

○ **precious > preseesus**

○ **contentious > contenteesus**

Speak the Spelling!

Examples from Old Word Lists



- **brucellosis** (br̄oo-sə-lō'sīs)
- **convalescence**(kòn'və-lēs'əns)
- **devolatilize**(dē-völl'ə-tl-īz)
- **escarole** (ěs' kə-rōl')
- **parley** (pär'lē)
- **reptilium** (rěp-tīl'ē-əm)
- **unflappable**(ŭn-flăp'ə-bəl)
- **vampirism**(văm'pīr'īsm)

Examples from this year's WordPower List

Two-word test items

- cheval glass
- bel canto
- bona fide
- ex libris
- bossa nova
- obiter dictum
- torchon lace

Non-alphabetic elements

- fiddle-faddle
- open-ended
- Brasi'lia
- Alençon
- neat's-foot oil
- fête
- fräulein

Examples from this year's WordPower List

Alternate Spellings

aneurysm *or* aneurism

cadastre *or* cadaster

caftan *or* kaftan

caliper *or* calliper

forebear *or* forbear

**godforsaken *or*
Godforsaken**

lip-synch *or* lip-sync

nagana *or* n'gana

skepticism *or* scepticism

Tehran *or* Teheran

wushu *or* wu shu

Capitalization

Capitalization Required

- **Jamaica**
- **Kyoto**
- **Celotex**

(trademark)

Capitalization Optional

- **Druid, druid**
- **Angelus, angelus**

Capitalization depends on the definition given

- **agave = any plant
of the genus**
- **Agave = the genus**
- **nemesis = a source
of harm or ruin**
- **Nautilus = the
goddess of
vengeance**

Capitalization Depends on Definition Given



- **pueblo**

a permanent village or community of any of the Pueblo peoples

- **Pueblo**

Native American peoples, including the Hopi, Taos, and Zuñi, living in established villages in the Southwest United States

- **annunciation**

an announcement or proclamation

- **Annunciation**

The angel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation

Root Words, Language History, and Spelling



Words can be put together from source words and root words to form words that never existed before:

Tele = distance

-metrics = measurement

-phony = sound

-graphy = writing

-vision = viewing

New Needs = New words from old
parts



Television

Telephone

Telemetry

Telegraph

Root Words and Affixes



- **a- : without**
- **angio- : pain**
- **arterio- : artery**
- **arthro- : joints**
- **cardio- : heart**
- **cranio- : skull**
- **dys - : unhealthy**
- **-ectomy : cutting out**
- **eu- : healthy**
- **-graphy: recording, writing**
- **hemo- : blood**
- **-itis: inflammation**
- **laryngo- :throat**
- **lipo- : fat**
- **litho- : stone**
- **meter : measure**
- **myelo- : muscle**

Root Words and Affixes



- **neuro-** : nerve
- **-ology**: study
- **oto-** : ear
- **-otomy** : cutting into
- **patho-** : illness
- **-pathy** : disease
- **peri-** : around
- **-pnea** : breathing
- **rhino-** : nose

- **thoraco-** : chest
- **thrombo-** : clot
- **trauma-** : damage or injury

And there are many more that you can find as they are used in the **WordPower list**

Google **Root Words** for much more on this topic.

Root Words and Affixes



- Oto- = ear
- -rhino- = nose
- -laryng- = throat
- -ologist = One who studies

Ear, Nose and Throat doctor =

Otorhinolaryngologist

Root Words and Affixes



As you study the WordPower list, especially for Vocabulary Words, make lists of the Root Words, prefixes, and suffixes you identify.

That way you **learn the pieces once** and have them every time you need them, such as when you take the SAT.

Organize for Learning



All of these features of words in the WordPower list can be used to organize the words to help you learn them.

Put words with similar features together in Word Families.

Word Families



- Words with common or similar characteristics
- Word forms
- Words with non-alphabetic elements
- Alternate spellings
- Capitalization (Required, Optional, for Definition)
- Root words and Affixes
- Contexts

Contexts and Word Families



- Trademarks
- Medical terms
- Legal terms
- Food terms
- Political terms
- Musical terms
- Words from the same language
- Words with non-alphabetic elements

Non-Alphabetic Written Symbols



- Words which have come in to English from other languages may have non-alphabetic features which designate pronunciation, such as
- the tilde ~
- the circumflex ^ and caron ˇ
- the cedilla ,
- the dieresis ¨ or umlaut
- and the aigu ´ and grave ` accents

These are Pronunciation features and must be used correctly in spelling the word correctly.

Ways to Study and Prepare



**(IN OTHER WORDS, HOW
TO PREPARE TO WIN!)**

Create Study Materials



- Word Cards and Practices sets
 - Look up each word;
 - On a 3 x 5 card:
 - ✦ Write the definition;
 - ✦ Write the derivation (root or origin)
 - ✦ Write the pronunciation given and the pronunciation that reflects the “sound color” of the vowels in unaccented syllables.

Establish a Context



Write sentences with the words that are clues to their meaning - that way, you remember the entire idea, the sound of the context sentence, and the clue to the meaning. This can help with vocabulary and proofreading questions.

Instead of skipping the words you do not know when you come to them, write them down or highlight them and look them up. (That works for reading for your classwork, too)

Establish a Context



- When you have written the word, its definition, derivation, and pronunciation on the card, write a sentence that uses the word in its appropriate context.
- Pronounce the word and listen to the way it sounds; repeat it several times if it is a hard word.
- Say the word. Spell the word. Say the word.
- Say the word. Write the word. Say the word.

Ways to Study and Prepare



Word Cards

- **Practice Sets**
 - Word Families
 - Word Contexts
 - Word Structure
 - Words with Capitals
 - Words with Non-Alphabetic Symbols

Study Buddies

- **Practice Rate: 1 word every 12 seconds**
- **Study Games – Scrabble, et cetera**

WORD WARS??



- Lydia: You are such a tatterdemalion! Go rusticate!
- Kendall: I hope you get the screaming meemies, you varlet!
- Lydia: You wisenheimer! You think you're a whiz-bang wonk but vox populi says you're really just a boondoggling Walter Mitty!
- Kendall: You are gauche and lack erudition! Go fall off a cuesta and catch kyphosis!
- Lydia: Your floruit is over! I hope you become an old feme covert making feijoada and falafel!

Ways to Study and Prepare



- **Source-of-Error Check: “How did I make that mistake?”**
- **Look up new words in your reading**
- **Mix-and-Match Roots and Affixes – a New Game?**
- **Audiotape**
 - Purchased or Teacher-made
- **Self-made Pronounced list– Cell phone file?**
- **To hear words pronounced, try www.mydictionary.com**

Ways to Study and Prepare: UIL Resources



The Spelling section of the **UIL Website** also contains a **correlation** of the Spelling Contest and the TEA requirements for spelling, as well as sample lessons for improving spelling.

- URL for UIL Sample Spelling lessons:

<http://www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/SpellingVocab-Sample-Lessons.pdf>

URL for **vendors of practice materials:**

<http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/resources/additional-resources>

Cautions for Practice



- Speakers may omit sounds or add sounds in such words as **different, leverage, surprise, temperament, recognize, history.**
- Speakers may transpose (switch) letters in pronouncing such words as **irrelevant, tragedy, hundred, realtor.**
- **Make sure you are hearing the word as it is to be written**
- **Use Competition Rate** of pronunciation
 - five words a minute = twelve seconds per word

Practice writing legibly



If graders can't tell what a letter is, they isolate it from the rest of the word by placing their thumbs or cards on either side of it.

If it is unrecognizable, it is incorrect. Two of the three graders must agree that the letter is correct or it is a missed word.

Use standard handwriting or print.

Make a **clear distinction** between upper- and lower-case letters – **DO NOT USE ALL CAPITALS!**

Winners Double-check Results



- At contests, always use the fifteen minute **Verification Period** between the scoring of the papers and the announcement of Final Results to check the computation of your score.

Winners Prepare



Practice, Practice, Practice
If you prepare,
you will be a winner!

Evaluate this session



- Please help us make these sessions more helpful: Fill out the Evaluation Form at

<http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/student-activity-conferences>