



BEFORE WE GET STARTED

Register your attendance.

Complete this form for each session you attend.

Session numbers
are in the program.

CAP
CON
2024



Rosters

Origin of Spelling



- 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.

The Importance of Correct Spelling



When our spelling is perfect, it's invisible. But when it's flawed, it prompts strong negative associations.

--Marilyn vos Savant

Spelling mistakes in a letter are like a bug on a white shirt.

If you can spell "Nietzsche" without Google, you deserve a cookie.



Even though being a good speller has lost its ranking in some schools, we can hope there is one group of artisans who still find spelling important: the tattoo artist.







My teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be autocorrect and for that I am eternally grapefruit.



The police have no leads as yet on the person or persons who painted obscene suggestions on the buildings. One store owner said he was going to leave a dictionary on a public bench so the vandals could at least spell the obscenities correctly.

I gave her a love letter and she returned it to me by correcting spelling and punctuation.

Why so much vocabulary??



You can't build up a vocabulary if you never meet any new words. And to meet them you must read. The more you read the better.



To put it simply, spelling and vocabulary are important! Correctly spelled words, coupled with precise and compelling diction, are two of the most important aspects of effective communication.

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





Please note: The Word Power list alone is NOT comprehensive; all **bolded** forms of the word as seen in dictionary are eligible as test items.



While
“desirable”
appeared in
Word Power
as the list
word, all
forms (noted
in bold print)
are eligible as
test items.

der'ō-ga'tion *n.*

desertification (di-zur-tuh-fi-KAY-shuhn)

de·sert·i·fi·ca·tion (dī-zūr'tə-fī-kā'shən)

n. The transformation of arable or habitable land to desert, as by a change in climate or destructive land use.

desirableness (di-ZIIR-uh-buhl-nis)

noun form of desirable

de·sir·a·ble (dī-zīr'ə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Worth having

or seeking, as by being useful, advantageous, or pleasing: *a desirable job in the film industry; a home computer with many desirable features.*

2. Worth doing or achieving; advisable: *a desirable reform; a desirable outcome.*

3. Arousing desire, especially sexual desire.

n. A desirable person or thing.

de·sir'a·bil'i·ty, de·sir'a·ble·ness *n.*

de·sir'a·bly *adv.*

despoliation (di-spoh-lee-AY-shuhn)

de·spo·li·a·tion (dī-spō'lē-ā'shən) *n.* The act

of despoiling or the condition of being despoiled.

UIL Spelling and Vocabulary Contest



**PART I. PROOFREADING AND
VOCABULARY**

**PART II. SPELLING FROM
DICTATION**

PART III. TIE-BREAKER

Part I

Proofreading



Part I Proofreading



15 points - requires that contestants given 15 sets of five-word lists recognize which word 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.

Questions 1-15 of Part I are comprised of 15 Proofreading sets. Each question is worth one point each.

Word Forms on Proofreading



- After determining the misspelled word, remember that the FORM of the word must stay the same. For example, if the misspelled word is a noun, the correct answer must be a noun. If the misspelled word is a present-tense verb, the correct answer must be a present-tense verb.
- Item on Regional test: “Reichmarks” (plural of reichsmark) was a misspelled word on Part I. Even though list word was singular, answer had to be plural—reichsmark or reichsmarks.

Part I

Vocabulary



Part I Vocabulary



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

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

The Vocabulary section has **NO** misspelled words, but contestants are still responsible for the correct spelling of these words.

Questions 16-30 are comprised of vocabulary entries and are worth one point each.

Part II. Spelling from Dictation



70 points - 70 words,
pronounced at a rate of 4
words per minute - one every
fifteen seconds. A definition
will be given for every word.

Part III. Tie-breaker



20 words, pronounced at 4 words per minute with a definition given for all words.

With the exception of the State Meet, this part is scored **ONLY** in case of ties and then only those involved in the tie are scored.

Sources of Words



A minimum of **80%** of the test words for questions 1-15 of Part I and Parts II and III come from the Word Power 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.

How to prepare for those dreaded outside words...



- Study roots and affixes.
- Read widely and to PAY ATTENTION to words that are new to you.
- Go to the Internet and find lists of SAT or college vocabulary. For instance, quizlet.com has a list called “College Board Top 100 SAT/ACT Vocabulary Words.” Majortests.com also has helpful word lists. A great list of 5,000 (yes, 5,000!) words can be found at freevocabulary.com
- Take vocabulary tests on Facebook
- Sign up for “Word of the Day” with dictionary.com
- Ask Alexa for SAT Word of the Day

The Official Dictionary



The **ONLY** official dictionary of this contest is
***The American Heritage Dictionary
of the English Language, Fifth
Edition, Fiftieth Anniversary
Printing (2018 edition).***

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

NOTE: Neither the paperback nor online dictionaries are acceptable resources.

In Case of Error in the Word Power List



In the unlikely event of an error on Word Power list, the correction will be made in the online list as well as notated on the Spelling and Vocabulary page on the UIL website.

Sound out words



Q: How do you spell a really long word?

A: Sound it out!

SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS



SUPER CALI FRAGIL ISTIC EXPI ALI DO CIOUS



chemo litho auto troph

Let's practice!



austra lo pith e cine

Evolution of Spelling



- Spelling is a very recent language skill.
- Before there was a written form of language, there were words.
- The invention of the printing press in 1468 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 correspondence 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?
- coughh women natin

This is English!!



Let's take a look at the word

MERCEDES

What do you notice about the vowels?



They are the same single letter but with three different pronunciations!

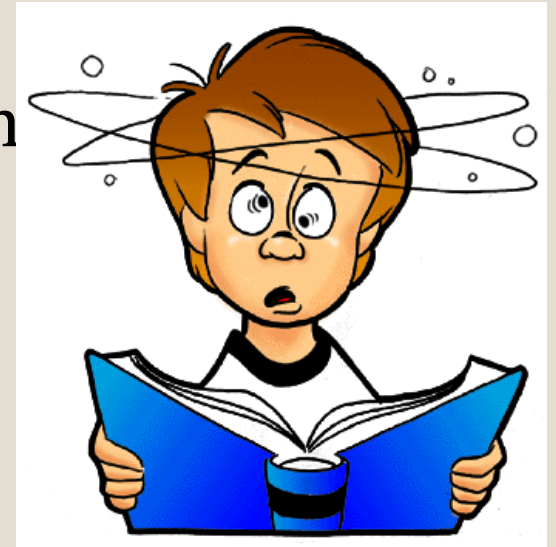
“Mer” = mûr

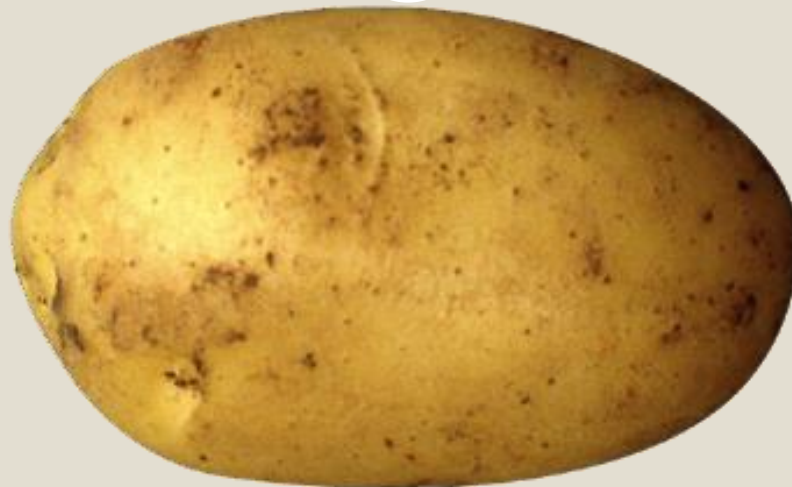
“ced” = sād

“es” = ēs



- And here's a nice one on English spelling – attributed to Oscar Wilde:
 - If GH can stand for P as in Hiccough
 - If OUGH stands for O as in Dough
 - If PHTH stands for T as in Phthisis
 - If EIGH stands for A as in Neighbor
 - If TTE stands for T as in Gazette
 - If EAU stands for O as in Plateau
- The right way to spell POTATO should be...





GHOUGHPTHTEIGHTTEEAU!





STRATEGIES FOR UPPING YOUR SPELLING GAME

Dealing with the troublesome SCHWA (ə)



- The most common sound in the English language is represented in the dictionary by the upside-down “e”.
- The schwa falls only on unstressed syllables.
- Any vowel can make the sound, and so can “y”.
- Sometimes the schwa can even show up where vowels fear to tread, as in “rhythm”.

More about the SCHWA



- And only in the English language can a single sound be so versatile!
- It's why there are no spelling contests in other languages.
- In Romance languages, like French and Spanish, vowels are predictable. Take, for example, the word “banana.” In Spanish the three “a” sounds are identical, but in English, because the stress falls on the middle syllable, the first and third “a” sounds become schwas.



“Schwa” = ə

SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS

and

SUP ə RCAL ə FRAG ə LISTICEXPIAL ə DOC ə S

ə

ə

ə

ə

ə

Watch and Listen for ...



acolyte (ăk' ə-līt')

adenoma (ăd' ən-o' mə)

babushka (bə-boosh' kə)

cacophonous (kə-kăf' ə-nəs)

distensible (dī-stīn' sə-bəl)

indecipherable (īn' dī-sī' fər-ə-bəl)

pachydermatous (păk' ĭ-dûr' mətəs)

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



Teach your brain to
remember letters.

“Coloring” Sounds



Sound Color = exaggerated “Pure” letter-sound

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

delicious > delishus

ambitious > ambishus

○ **delicious > de li CEEus**

○ **ambitious > am bi TEEus**

Speak the Spelling!

Let's "Color"!!



How would you "color"

HELLACIOUS?



hell a CEE us



What about
ROBUSTIOUS?



ro bus TEE us

Troublesome Spelling Items



- Compound words
- Words with non-alphabetical marks
- Words with alternate spellings
- Capitalized words
- Words with optional capitalization
- Words where definition determines capitalization
- Capitalization within a word
- Both capitalization and lower-case entries

Examples from this year's Word Power list

Two- and three-word test items

- **exempli grata**
- **cue card**
- **diabetes insipidus**
- **chest of drawers**
- **right-to-work law**

Non-alphabetic elements

- **béarnaise sauce**
- **malagueña**
- **Schrödinger**
- **moyen âge**
- **mise en scène**
- **façadism**
- **sunny-side up**

Capitalization

Capitalization Required

- **Kirkuk**
- **Miletus**
- **Andorra**
- **Noachian**

Capitalization Optional

- **Imam, imam**
- **Gulag, gulag**

Capitalization depends on the definition given

- **acanthus = Any of various perennial herbs**
- **Acanthus= the plant genus**
- **bolshevik=An extreme radical**
- **Bolshevik=A Communist**

More capitalization issues

Capitalization within a word

- pre-Socratic
- Saint-Tropez
- XY recorder
- McGuffey

Words with both upper and lower cases

- Krebs cycle
- Norwich
terrier

Examples from this year's Word Power List

Alternate Spellings

- **crosier, crozier**
- **Plexiglas, plexiglass**
- **anemia, anaemia**
- **artifact, artefact**
- **re-examine, reexamine**
- **faux-naïf, faux-naif**

What about compound words?



- There are three different types of compound words—those that are written as one word, those that are hyphenated, and those that are two or more separate words. Several compound words appeared on last year's spring tests (Remember charley horse and glen plaid?)
- This year's list has many compound words. Let's take a look...

Two- and three-word items



- hyoid bone
- maidenhair fern
- nip and tuck

One-word items



- gossipmonger
- hammertoe
- pallbearer
- skimobile

Hyphenated compound words



- heavy-handed
- labor-intensive
- out-of-body

HOW TO USE FOREIGN ACCENT MARKS



- The **aigu accent** points to the right and upward. Only appearing above the letter *e*, it changes the letter's pronunciation to *ay*—for example, *étouffée*
- The **grave accent** points to the left and upward. Only three French vowels can take the grave accent: à, è, and ù. The purpose of the accent depends on the letter in question. A word on this year's list which includes the grave is *musique concrète*.

TILDE AND UMLAUT (aka DIAERESIS)



- A Spanish accent mark is called a **tilde**. It is placed over the *n* in some Spanish words, like *piraña*, where it makes the *ny* sound.
- The **umlauts** are a group of sounds in German. They are written ä, ö, ü, or ë (or ae, oe, ue, ee) as in *Boötes*.
- Without the dieresis, or umlaut, those three letters are said [a], [o], [u], but when the dieresis is present, their pronunciations change.

CIRCUMFLEX



- The circumflex (^) may appear on the vowels a, e, i, o, and u.
- It affects the pronunciation of *a*, *e*, and *o*. Although it is used over the *i* and *u* as well, it does not affect their pronunciation. An example from this year's list is *tête-à-tête*.

CEDILLA



- The little hook added under the letter c in French is a diacritical mark known as a cedilla. The sole purpose of the cedilla is to change a hard c, pronounced “k”, to a soft c, pronounced “s”, as in one of last year’s words, *aperçu*.

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**
- **chrono- : time**
- **cranio- : skull**
- **dys - : unhealthy**
- **-ectomy : cutting out**
- **eu- : healthy**

- **-graphy: recording, writing**
- **hemo- : blood**
- **-itis: inflammation**
- **laryngo- :throat**
- **lipo- : fat**
- **litho- : stone**
- **mal- : bad**
- **meter : measure**
- **myelo- : muscle**

Root Words and Affixes



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

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

There are many more that you can find as they are used in the *WordPower list*.

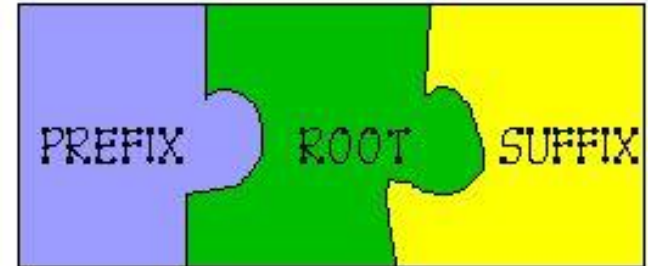
Google *Root Words* for much more on this topic.

Root Words and Affixes



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

WORD PARTS ARE
LIKE PARTS OF A PUZZLE!



Ear, Nose and Throat doctor =

Otorhinolaryngologist

Absolute have-to!



Know spelling rules!

How to add suffixes to roots:



- Words Ending in a Silent e

Before adding a suffix beginning with a vowel or *y* to a word ending in a silent *e*, drop the *e* (with some exceptions).

amaze + ing =amazing

nerve + ous = nervous

Exceptions: Words ending in a soft “g” or soft “c” sound, such as *change* + *able* =*changeable*; *courage* + *ous*= *courageous*; *replace* + *able*=*replaceable*



measurable



CONCURRENCY



variolitic

Adding Suffixes to Words Ending in a Consonant



In words of more than one syllable, double the final consonant when the word ends with one consonant preceded by one vowel **AND** when the word is accented on the last syllable.

be GIN + ing = beginning

per MIT + ing = permitting

re FER + ing = referring

Note that in the new words formed with suffixes, the stress remains on the **SAME** syllable.



regrettably



posited



In the following examples the accent does **NOT** remain on the same syllable; thus, the final consonant is **NOT** doubled.

RE fer + ence = reference

CON fer + ence = conference

PRE fer + ence = preference

How to add prefixes and suffixes to root words:



- When adding a prefix to a word, do not change the spelling of the base word. When a prefix creates a double letter, keep both letters.

ir + regular = irregular

il + logical = illogical

mis + spell = misspell

- When adding *-ness* to a word ending in *n*, keep both *n*'s.

sudden + ness = suddenness

thin + ness = thinness



recoilless



disseminate



misspoken



reexamine or
re-examine



debarred

i before e?!?



i before e...
except when you
run a feisty heist on
a weird beige foreign
neighbour

Created by:
[@mrsimontaylor](#)

Shared by:
[Grammarly.com](#)
[facebook.com/grammarly](#)



- Remember this rule learned in elementary school: *i* before *e* except after *c* or sounded long *a*.

i before *e*: thief, relieve, grieve, niece, field

except after *c*: conceit, perceive, ceiling, receipt

sounded long *a*: skein, vein, feint

Exceptions: either, weird, seize, leisure

Let's practice!



Q: h____rarchy?

A: hierarchy (Rule applies.)

Q: gesundh____t?

A: gesundheit! (Exception to rule.)

Q: g____sha??

A: geisha! (Rule applies. Vowels make long “a” sound.)

Rules for using -ible or -able



- If the root is **not** a complete word, add –ible. For example, visible, horrible, terrible, possible, edible.
- If the root **is** a complete word, add –able. For example, fashionable, laughable, suitable, comfortable.
- If the root is a complete word ending in –e, drop the final –e and add –able. For example, advisable, desirable, valuable, debatable.
- Once again, however, exceptions exist: contemptible, digestible, flexible, responsible, irritable, inevitable.

Let's practice!



Q: indel__ble? A: indelible! (Rule applies)

Q: mut_ble? A. mutable! (Exception to rule)

Q: deduc__ble? A. deducible! (Rule applies)

Q: impregn__ble? A. impregnable!

(Exception to rule)

When to use -sede, -ceed, or -cede



Only one English word ends in **-sede**:
supersede (often seen on UIL tests!)

Three words end in **-ceed**: exceed,
proceed, and succeed. All other verbs
ending in the “seed” sound are spelled
with **-cede**, as in concede, precede,
recede, and secede.

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

Ways to Study and Prepare



How to begin?



- Have fun! If you don't love words and competition, this contest may not be for you! To be an effective UIL coach, you **MUST** be excited about words.
- Understand the team aspect of UIL; encourage your students to support one another. Winning as a team is much easier than winning as an individual. At 2023's State Meet, one gold-medal winning team didn't have a single member in top three.
- Expect to devote a good deal of time to preparing for this contest. It takes work to produce winners!

Create Study Materials



- Make your own flash cards
- Make lists of all word families

Words fall into your long-term memory if you write them down!

Establish a Context



- When you have written the word, its definition, 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 out loud. Say the word.
- Say the word. Write the word. Say the word.

Ways to Study and Prepare



- **Look up new words in your reading. If they are not in the *AHD Fifth Ed. 50th Anniversary Printing*, they are ineligible.**
- **To hear words pronounced, try www.mydictionary.com**

HOW TO STUDY



SCHOOL HACKS

Peppermint
stimulates the brain
and helps with
concentration



 /nyknow



SCHOOL HACKS

While studying for a certain subject, pretend that you will have to teach the material. It helps you pay more attention.



 /nyknow



SCHOOL HACKS

Studying hard for 30 to 50 minutes at a time with 10 minute breaks in between is the most effective way to study.



 /nyknow



SCHOOL HACKS

Eating chocolate while studying will help the brain retain information easily



 /nyknow



SCHOOL HACKS

Writing something out is equivalent to reading it 7 times.



 /nyknow



SCHOOL HACKS

You're more likely
to remember
something that you
wrote in blue ink
than in black ink.



 /nyknow

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 whizbang 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!

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!

****NEW SPELLING CONTEST RULE****



These items may not be used or accessed during the contest and may not be on the testing surface:
any wristwatch that can wirelessly connect to a network or to the Internet, electronic tablets, cell phones (if brought into the contest room, electronic tablets, cell phones or wireless wristwatches must be turned off so no audible sounds are emitted and may not be accessible during testing), purses, backpacks, listening devices (headphones, earphones).

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



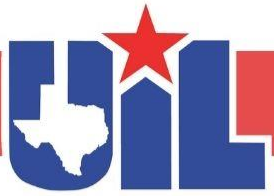
- Practice, Practice, Practice
- If you prepare,
- you will be a winner!



Logophilic Laureate Spelling Assignment



1. Copy 2024-25 Word Power from UIL website
2. Make *handwritten* lists of the following:
 - All compound words (2-word items, hyphenated items, single words)
 - All words with non-alphabetic marks
 - All words with alternate spelling
 - All words with capitals (opt. cap., definition determines case, caps inside word, upper and lower case entries)
 - All “shus,” “shul” and “shun” words
 - All ie/ei words
 - All words ending in ible/able
 - All words ending with ence and ent/ance or ant



THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

Registration link,
presentations and handouts
are available on the website.

*Remember to register your
attendance for each session.*

CAP
CON
2024



Handouts & More

