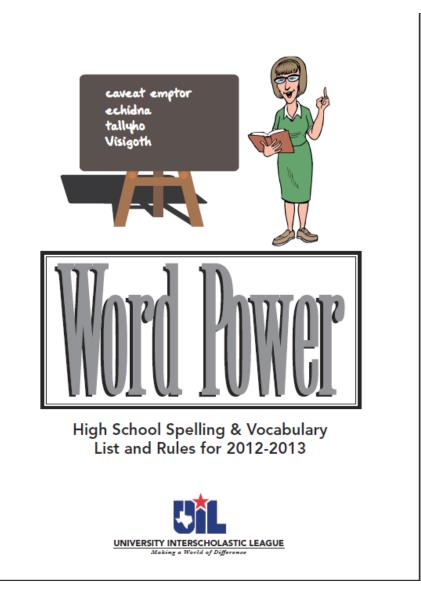
UIL Spelling and Vocabulary Contest, 2012-2013

Marcia Hilsabeck Director

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.



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

Part III. Tie-breaker

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

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 <u>The American Heritage Dictionary of</u> <u>the English Language</u>,

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

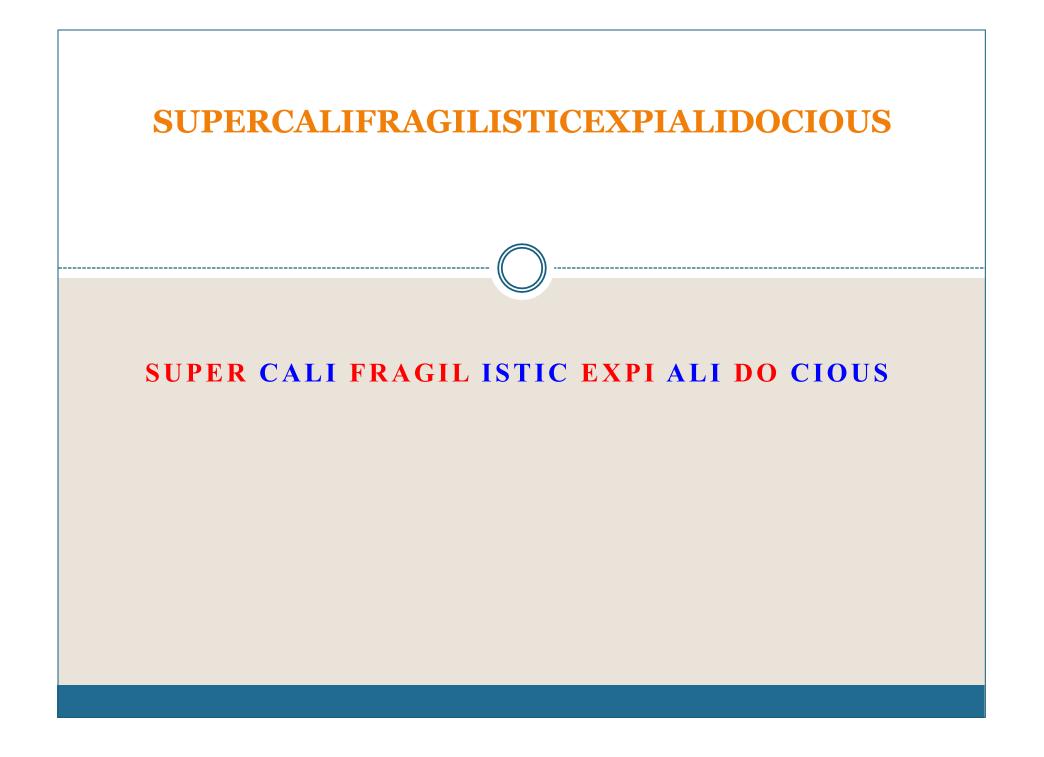
 If the WordPower List has an error in spelling, the correction is announced in the Official Notices of the *Leaguer*, the UIL's newspaper, which is now found online at the UIL website.

Using Language Skills to Build Strength in Spelling

Pronunciation

"Sounding out Words"

"Pure Vowels" "Pure consonants and blends" "Rules for long and short Vowels" "Sound/Symbol correspondence"



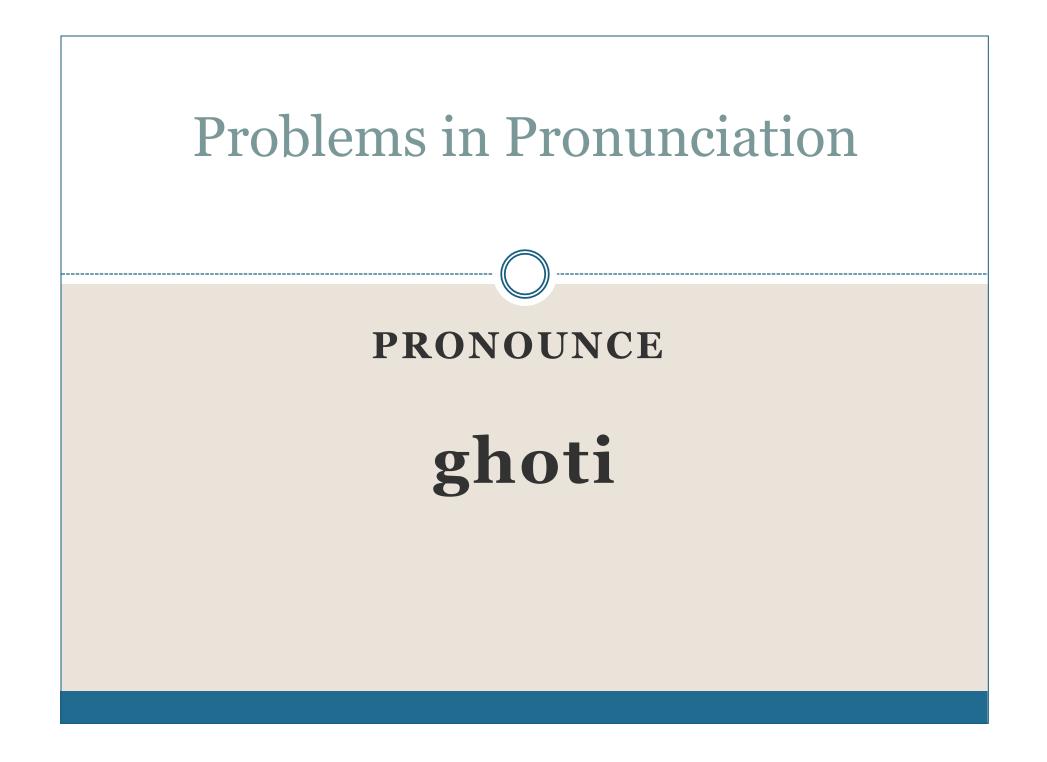
Pronunciation

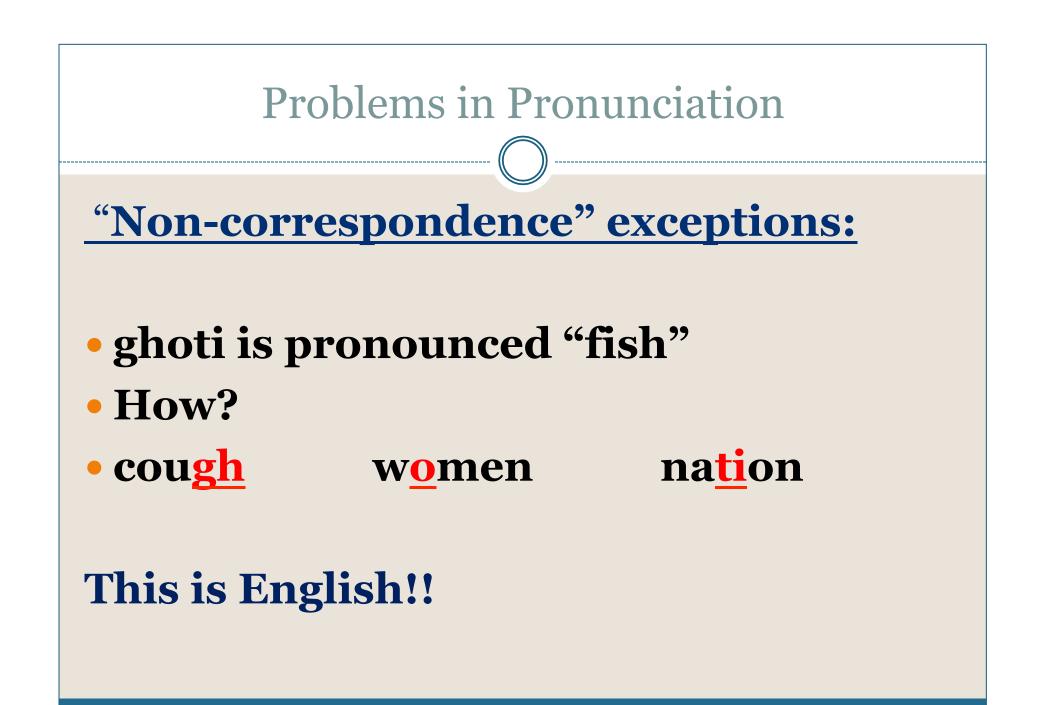
• Spelling is a very recent language skill.

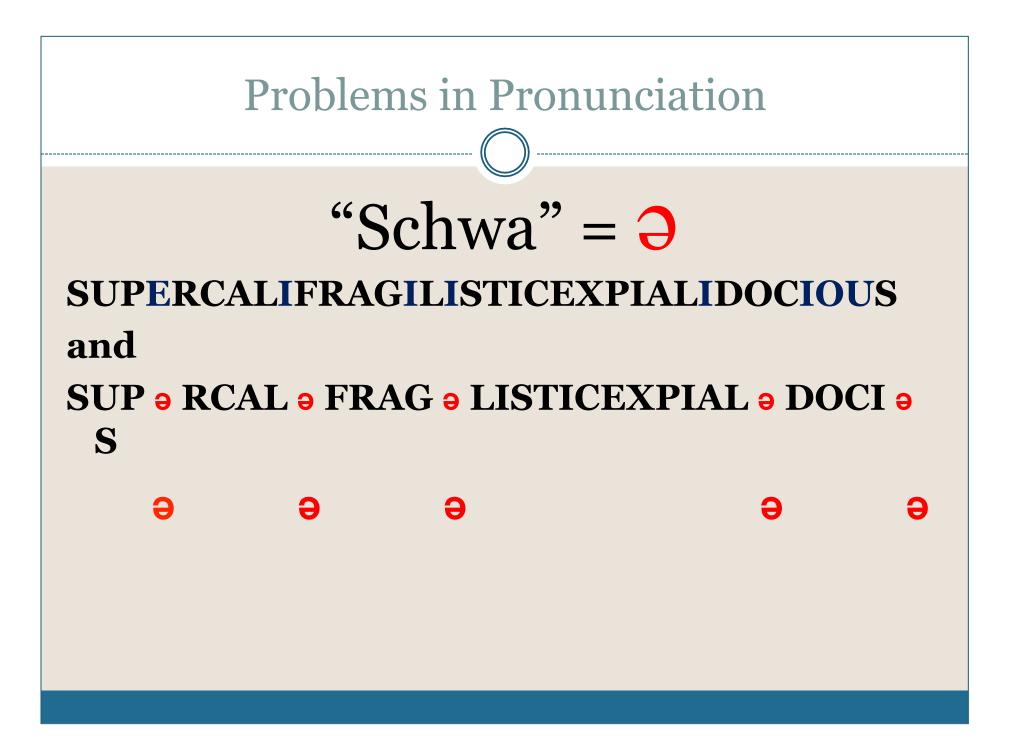
- Before there was a written form of language, there were words.
- The invention of the printing press made it necessary to come to agreement on how to present words in writing.

Sound-Symbol Correspondence

- In languages like Latin and Spanish, there is a direct 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.







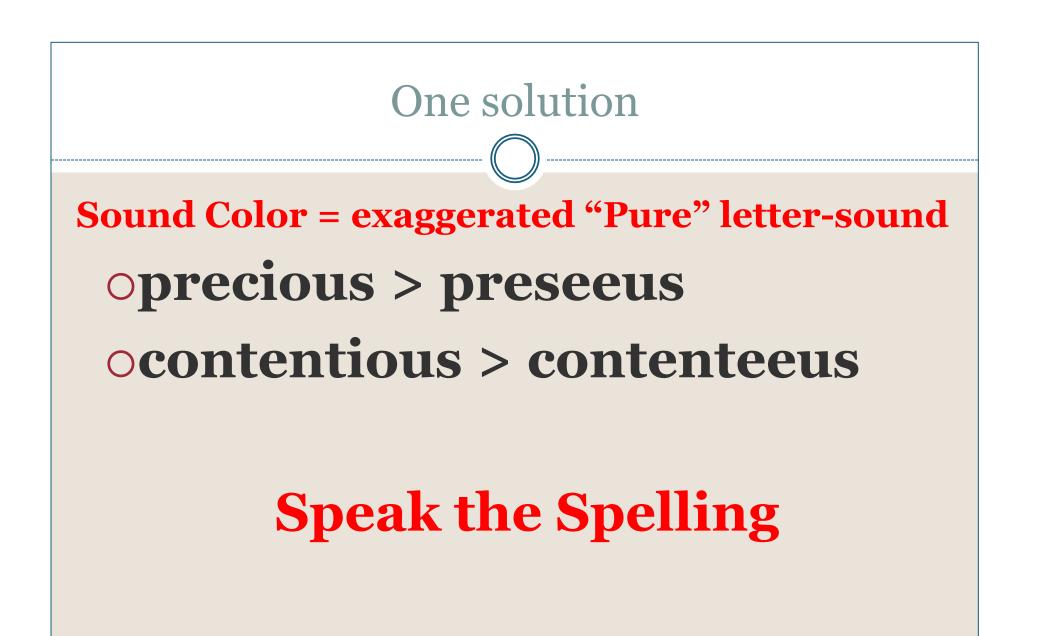
Watch and Listen for ...

acolyte (ăk'ə-līt') adenoma (ăd´ən-o´mə) babushka (bə-boosh´kə) cacophonous (kə-käf´ə-nəs) distensible (dĭ-stĭn´sə-bəl) indecipherable (ĭn´dĭ-sī´fər-ə-bəl) pachydermatous (pak'ĭ-dûr'm-t-t-s) (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.
- **Consonant/vowel blends can be more troublesome:**
- **Precious > preshus**
- **Contentious > contenshus**



Examples from This Year's Word List

- bullion (b¢l¹yen)
- carrefour (kàr'e-f¢r')
- déclassé (dâ'klä-sâ)
- fluoroscopy (fl¢-ròs¹ke-pê, flô-, flo-)
- opalesce (ō´pe-lĕs¹)
- opisthognathous (ōp´îs-thòg¹ne-thes)
- poinsettia (poin-sĕt¹ê-e, -sĕt¹e)
- sine prole (sì´nî prō¹lê, sîn´â)

Examples from this year's WordPower List

<u>Two-word test</u> <u>items</u>

- advocacy journalism
- art nouveau
- bubonic plague
- coaxial cable
- fool's errand
- faux pas
- Jekyll and Hyde

<u>Non-alphabetic</u> <u>elements</u>

- comparison-shopped
- dual-purpose
- fiancée
- meunière
- monk's cloth
- apéritif
- Creüsa

Alternate Spellings

Brailler or brailler keloid or cheloid linguine or linguini abridgment or abridgement

biretta or beretta or berretta embraceor or embracer epaulet or epaulette heartsease or heart's-ease

Capitalization

<u>Capitalization</u> <u>Required</u>

- Hebraist
- Kafkaesque
- Parcheesi
- <u>Capitalization</u> <u>Optional</u>
- Imam also imam
- art nouveau also Art Nouveau
- Lutz also lutz

<u>Capitalization</u> <u>depends on the</u> <u>definition given</u>

- acanthus= any plant of the genus
- Acanthus= the genus
- apteryx= any bird of the genus
- Apteryx= the genus

Capitalization Depends on Definition Given

• gethsemane noun

An instance or a place of great suffering.

Gethsemane

In the New Testament, a garden east of Jerusalem near the foot of the Mount of Olives. It was the scene of Jesus's agony and betrayal.

• Diaspora noun

The dispersion of Jews outside of Israel from the sixth century B.C., when the Jews were exiled to Babylonia, until the present time.

• diaspora.

A dispersion of an originally homogeneous entity, such as a language or a culture

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

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-vision = viewing
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New Needs = New words from old parts

Television Telephone Telemetry Telegraph

- 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

- 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" <u>Root Words</u> for much more on this topic.

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

Ear, Nose and Throat doctor = Otorhinolaryngologist

As you study the WordPower list, especially for Vocabulary Words, make a list 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.

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 nonalphabetic features which designate pronunciation, such as
- the tilde ~
- the circumflex ^ and caron
- the cedilla,
- the dieresis " or umlaut
- and the acute ' and grave ` accents

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

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)

Ways to Study and Prepare

Create Study Materials:

- Look up each word;
- On a 3 x 5 card:
- Write the definition;
- Write the derivation (root or origin)

Establish a Context

- Write the pronunciation given and the pronunciation that reflects the "sound color" of the vowels in unaccented syllables.
- 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
- Study Buddies
- Practice Sets
 - Word Families
 - Word Contexts
 - Word Structure
 - Words with Capitals
 - o Words with Non-Alphabetic Symbols
- Practice Rate: 1 word every 12 seconds
- Study Games Scrabble, et cetera

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
- Audiotape
 - Purchased
 - Teacher-made
- Self-made Pronounced list– Cell phone file?
- To hear words pronounced, try www.mydictionary.com

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 Prepare

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