

UIL Spelling and Vocabulary Contest , 2012-2013



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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.



Word Power

High School Spelling & Vocabulary
List and Rules for 2012-2013



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

**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



Pronunciation

“Sounding out Words”



“Pure Vowels”

“Pure consonants and blends”

“Rules for long and short Vowels”

“Sound/Symbol correspondence”

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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 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?**
- **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' mə-təs)

(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

One solution



Sound Color = exaggerated “Pure” letter-sound

○ **precious > preseesus**

○ **contentious > contenteeus**

Speak the Spelling

Examples from This Year's Word List



- **bullion** (bɔ̃l¹yen)
- **carrefour** (kàr¹e-fɔ̃r¹)
- **déclassé** (dâ¹klä-sâ)
- **fluoroscopy** (flɔ̃-ròs¹ke-pê, flô-, flo-)
- **opalesce** (ô¹pe-lës¹)
- **opisthognathous** (ôp¹îs-thòg¹ne-thes)
- **poinsettia** (poin-sët¹ê-e, -sët¹e)
- **sine prole** (sì¹nî prô¹lê, sîn¹â)

Examples from this year's WordPower List

Two-word test items

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

Non-alphabetic elements

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

Alternate Spellings

**Braille or
brailer**

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

Capitalization Required

- Hebraist
- Kafkaesque
- Parcheesi

Capitalization Optional

- Imam also imam
- art nouveau also Art Nouveau
- Lutz also lutz

Capitalization depends on the definition given

- 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

-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 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 ˇ
- 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
 - 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!**