

Preface

The *Consolidated Word List* is a compilation of over 100 Scripps National Spelling bee word lists dating as far back as 1950. There are 23,413 unique words in this 2004 edition. Parts of speech, language origins, pronunciations, definitions, and sentences are provided for 43% (10,139) of these words. The words are divided into three categories:

- **Words Appearing Infrequently**
(6,615 words; 22% with word information)
- **Words Appearing with Moderate Frequency**
(9,058 words; 40% with word information)
- **Words Appearing Frequently**
(7,740 words; 66% with word information)

When using this resource, please keep the following in mind:

- The **only** complete source for the study of words given in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., is *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* and its Addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster. **Mastery of the *Consolidated Word List* will certainly improve a speller's chances of progressing to the championship but is **no guarantee of success: At any point a speller may be asked to spell a word that appears in *Webster's Third* but does not appear in the *Consolidated Word List*.****
- Some words appear repeatedly on Bee word lists for the sole reason that they are good spelling bee words. However, **Bee officials do not consult the *Consolidated Word List* when composing word lists for the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.**
- Spellers should not limit their study to the *Consolidated Word List*. Advanced spelling bee success depends in large part on one's knowledge of roots, prefixes, suffixes, spelling rules, and patterns in languages. Carolyn's Corner, a spellingbee.com Web site feature, offers excellent study tips for advanced spellers.
- It is possible that a few words appearing in the *Consolidated Word List* may not appear in *Webster's Third*. Spellers will not be asked to spell such words at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.
- In the *Consolidated Word List*, the pronunciation provided is usually the first given in *Webster's Third*. Although some words can be more than one part of speech, only one part of speech is provided in the *Consolidated Word List*. The part of speech provided matches that of the definition listed and coincides with the word's use in the illustrative sentence.
- The *Consolidated Word List* also provides language of origin information. If you feel that a word needs further explanation or additional definitions and pronunciations, look up the word in *Webster's Third*.

Guide for Language of Origin

The citations for languages of origin in this book are a simplification of those given in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster. For example, *Webster's Third* gives OE, ME, and E, but we give only E. With New Latin (NL) and International Scientific Vocabulary (ISV), however, we tend to provide information that supplements that provided in *Webster's Third*. Where *Webster's Third* lists NL as the language of origin, we attempt to list the origin of the roots used to form the new word. We list ISV only when it is difficult to determine instead the languages from which the ISV element came.

We do not always list all of the languages a word passed through before it entered modern English. Only those languages that significantly altered the word are listed, with the earliest language listed first and a greater-than sign (>) connecting the subsequent language(s). An ampersand (&) joins two languages and indicates that each contributed to one stage of the word's history, while the word *or* indicates it is impossible to be certain which language is the true language of origin. A question mark (?) following a language indicates uncertainty about the information provided. We give the separate etymologies of each word element regularly used in *Webster's Third*, with one exception: combining form(s) [cf(f)]. Combining forms are word elements regularly used in English or another language to make a new word, but they do not by themselves constitute words. Examples include: *-ly*, *-ing*, *-ment*, *-en*, *-o-*, *en-*, *non-*, etc. The separate word element etymologies are joined by a plus sign (+). Page 16a in *Webster's Third* contains more detailed information about etymological entries.

Example	Explanation
[L > F + L]	The first part of the word was originally Latin. It then passed through French. The second part is from Latin.
[L&F > E]	The word was originally formed from a combination of French and Latin and then became English.
[L or F > E]	The word came from either Latin or French (we do not know which), and then it became English.
[(E + Fcf) > G]	The first part of the word is English. The second part is a French combining form. It was formed in German, from which we got it.
[Ecf + E + Ecff]	The first part of the word is an English combining form. The second part is English. The ending consists of English combining forms.
[F? > Sp]	The word might have come from French, but we got it from Spanish.

Abbreviations for languages and other etymological information found in this book are those used in *Webster's Third*. A comprehensive list of these abbreviations can be found on pages 52a–54a of *Webster's Third*. Some of the more frequently used abbreviations that appear in this book and what they stand for are listed below.

Ar	Arabic	It	Italian
cf(f)	combining form(s)	Jpn	Japanese
D	Dutch	L	Latin
E	English	Norw	Norwegian
F	French	O	old
G	German	Per	Persian
geog	geographical	Pg	Portuguese
Gk	Greek	Pol	Polish
Gmc	Germanic	Russ	Russian
Heb	Hebrew	Skt	Sanskrit
imit	imitative	Sp	Spanish
Ir	Irish	Sw	Swedish
ISV	International Scientific Vocabulary	W	Welsh