

Lesson #4: Winning Words



According to Scripps, one of the national bee spellers' favorite words is humuhumunukunukuapuaa, which is the name of a small Hawaiian triggerfish.

Below are some of the Scripps National Spelling Bee winning words that determined champions. There is one from each decade. Learn their spellings as well as their pronunciations and definitions, adapted from Merriam-Webster's Dictionary.

Gladiolus, \gla-dē-ō-l s\, (1925): A type of African plant with sword-shaped leaves and colorful flowers.

Knack, \nak\, (1932): A clever trick or way of doing something.

Initials, \i-'ni-sh(-)s\, (1941): The first letters of each word in a full name.

Vignette, \vin-'yet, vēn-ly\, (1952): A small design, such as a vine of grapes, at the beginning or end of a title page or chapter in a book.

Abalone, \a-b -'lō-nē, 'a-b -ly\, (1968): A type of edible sea snail that clings to rocks.

Incisor, \in-'sī-z r\, (1975): A front tooth that is adapted for cutting.

Sarcophagus, \sär-'kā-f -g s\, (1981): Limestone that is turned into coffins.

Lyceum, \lī-'sē- m, 'lī-sē-ly\, (1992): A public lecture hall.

Demarche, \dā-'märsh, di-', 'dā-ly\ (2000): A course of action or diplomatic maneuver.

ACTIVITY:

Now find the winning words in the word search to the right.

O	A	O	S	H	E	U	Y	D	T	E	S	N	I
T	M	O	C	D	L	O	S	S	I	A	N	D	E
D	G	C	S	Y	I	N	C	L	R	G	U	H	T
D	C	A	C	U	E	R	N	H	E	A	C	I	T
I	A	E	E	L	L	I	E	L	O	R	E	U	E
S	U	G	A	H	P	O	C	R	A	S	M	E	N
M	L	E	L	I	I	T	I	M	R	G	A	S	G
O	U	A	A	I	G	C	E	D	R	B	L	I	I
C	N	O	I	P	U	D	C	H	A	I	L	N	V
E	N	E	V	T	K	U	A	L	I	L	H	B	M
S	A	I	N	C	I	S	O	R	A	U	G	A	K
R	N	B	A	E	I	N	C	K	A	K	U	T	I
M	C	N	O	N	E	T	I	E	T	A	S	A	R
U	K	M	R	U	S	S	N	S	N	S	V	O	I

abalone
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sarcophagus
vignette

Educators: It's not too late to register your school to participate in the Scripps Spelling Bee. Visit nie.newsok.com/spellingbee today for more information!