Can You Spell *Misspell*?

Try spelling some words that are commonly used but easy to misspell.

Introduction

There are some words we type out almost every day but still manage to spell incorrectly before the spell-checker fixes it for us. The funny thing about spelling is that we tend to misspell the same words—often common ones—repeatedly.

Words with double letters, like *coffee*, can be inherently confusing. For instance, is *acommodate* or *accommodate* correct? Other common mistakes arise when you have to decide whether to use an *S*, *C*, or both. Vowels that are together, such as *I* and *E*, can easily get placed in the wrong order.

According to Webster's Dictionary and Grammarly, an online spelling and grammar editor, the words used in this spelling bee are among the most misspelled, including the word *misspell*.

How To's

- Print the Spelling Bee Words for the leader.
- Print additional words from this list of commonly misspelled words if you are worried about running out of words, or use it as a discussion topic after the game.
- Some dictionaries or copied pages from a dictionary make cute props to advertise the activity—as long as one of the words for the spelling bee isn't visible. A few jumbo cutouts of letters and a picture or craft project depicting a bumblebee would look cute, too.
- Gather paper and pens if players prefer to write down the correct spelling of the word instead of reciting it aloud.
- Fold index cards or scraps of card stock and write a number on each one. Mix them in a bag and then put them on the table in front of each player randomly, so the spelling bee order is decided by chance.

Directions

1. Players sit with their number propped in front of them along with scrap paper and a pen or pencil if needed.
2. The player with the "1" card goes first.
3. Read aloud the first word to spell. Read the word in a sentence. Then, recite just the word a second time.
4. Players may ask the leader to repeat the word once as needed.

5. No other players can try to spell the word or else they are disqualified.
6. If the player spells the word correctly, play moves to the person with the card that says “2.”
7. If the player doesn’t spell the word correctly, they turn their numbered card over and sit out the rest of the round.
8. Now, the player holding the “2” gets one chance to spell the word after the leader repeats it. If player 2 cannot spell the word correctly, it goes to player 3, and so on. When the word is spelled correctly, the next player is given a new word.
9. The winner is the last person (or people) still in the game when all the words are used.
10. Make a cute paper sign that says Spelling Champion for the winner or winners to wear around their neck.

Tip: To add more words to your list, use the additional list of commonly misspelled words from Wikipedia, as cited above.

Spelling Bee Words

Absence

Some say that absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Absence

Weird

It is weird how often the phone has rung today.

Weird

Misspell

To win a spelling bee, you cannot misspell any words.

Misspell

Broccoli

Broccoli is usually planted in late spring.

Broccoli

Vacuum

I like to vacuum the floor last when I’m cleaning a house.

Vacuum

Committee

The school board makes rules by committee.

Committee

Decision

You have five minutes to come to a decision.

Decision

Accommodate

Even though it was crowded, the hostess found a table to accommodate our party.

Accommodate

Basically

Basically, I just don’t like spelling.

Basically

Zucchini

She served shredded zucchini in place of pasta.

Zucchini

Cemetery

It’s eerie to walk through the cemetery at night.

Cemetery

Consensus

We’ll keep debating the issue until we all agree and come to a consensus.

Consensus

Tomorrow

Tomorrow is supposed to be sunny all day.

Tomorrow

Achieve

She was able to achieve a perfect score on the test.

Achieve

Gauge

It can be hard to gauge when someone is being truthful.

Gauge

Definitely

He is definitely interested in journalism.

Definitely

Itinerary

The cruise ship posts a daily itinerary of activities.

Itinerary

License

To fish or hunt, you have to purchase a special license.

License

Maneuver

Can you maneuver the car into a tight parking space?

Maneuver

Occasion

On occasion, I like swimming in the ocean.

Occasion

Separate

Separate the egg yolk from the white for custard.

Separate

Temperature

I think 70 degrees Fahrenheit is the perfect temperature.

Temperature

Withhold

If he were to withhold information, it would make it much harder to decide who is guilty.

Withhold

Tendency

Dancers have a tendency to sit with their backs straight.

Tendency

Pronunciation

I get nervous about my French pronunciation.

Pronunciation

Privilege

Parents sometimes take away the privilege of using a cell phone as a punishment.

Privilege

Believe

I just don’t believe in snacking between meals.

Believe

Apparent

It is apparent she can barely stay awake.

Apparent

Entrepreneur

Some people prefer working for an established company to being an entrepreneur.

Entrepreneur