

*The BUZZ at OLLI*  
A spelling bee for adults  
May 2, 2019

## WORD LIST

The words used in the *Buzz at OLLI* spelling bee for adults are a selection from the Scripps National Spelling Bee Word Lists (Webster's Third New International Dictionary) and AARP Spelling Bee Word List.

Words on the **Easy to Moderate** and **Moderate** lists will be used in the early elimination rounds with pronouncers moving along the continuum.

During the championship rounds, words on those lists may continue to be used; but words on the **Moderate to Difficult** list may be accessed as well.

### EASY to MODERATE

Shivery- frigid; cold

Scratched- scraped or rubbed lightly with something pointed or rough in order to relieve itching

Shriek- a shrill, usually wild or unintentional cry

Locusts- migratory grasshoppers that often travel in vast swarms and strip the areas they travel through of all vegetation

Griddle- a flat surface that is used to cook food using dry heat

Jerkily- in a manner marked by jolting

Rickety- weak in the joints; tottering

Shrewd- marked by cleverness or discernment; astute

Blathering- foolish or nonsensical talk or writing

Spectators- people watching an exhibition

Pronounce- to declare solemnly

Swiveled or swivelled- swung or turned on or as if on a part that pivots freely on or as if on a headed bolt or pin

Scaffolding- a system of temporary or movable platforms that workers use to sit or stand on when working above ground

Mockingly- in a manner marked by scorn, contempt or ridicule

Doffing- lifting (the hat)

Banishment- legal expulsion from a country

Dismissal- the fact or state of being removed from employment, enrollment, position or office

Rebuked- criticized sharply; reprimanded

Garret- unfinished part of the house immediately under or within the roof

Prickliness- the quality or state of being easily irritated

Ruefully- in a pitiable or woeful manner

Fulcrum- a prop; a support; specifically the support about which a lever turns

Alabaster- heaving a nearly white color and a surface that spreads out light

Scrimmage- a minor battle between small forces; skirmish

Miniature- being or represented on a small scale

Calculus- a branch of mathematics involving some intricacy

Cooperage- the place of work of one that makes or repairs wooden casks or tubs

Humanitarian- a person who is actively concerned in promoting human welfare and especially social reform

Diabolical- of or relating to the devil or devils

Garbanzo- the seed of an Asian herb of the legume family; chickpea

Miscreant- one who behaves criminally or viciously

Cavil- to object or criticize for silly reasons

Guava- the globular yellow fruit of a small shrubby tropical American tree

Vexation-the quality or state of being distressed

Diminutive- tiny

Clavicle- a bone in humans situated just above the first rib on either side of the neck

Barbarous- lacking culture or refinement

Sagacity- quickness or acuteness of sense perceptions

Chilblains- instances of redness and swelling of toes, fingers, nose or ears or sometimes cheeks in cold weather accompanied by itching and burning of the skin

Hibiscus- any plant or flower of a large widely distributed genus of herbs, shrubs or small trees with dentate or lobed leaves and large showy flowers

Pegasi- fabulous winged horses

Xanadu- an idyllic, exotic or luxurious place

Gondolier- one who propels a long narrow flat-bottomed boat with a high prow and stern used on canals of Venice

Salutation- a speech of honor or praise; tribute

Wastrels- things rejected or discarded as useless or imperfect

Redundancy- the quality or state of being in excess of what is necessary or normal

Felicitous -pleasant, charming, delightful

Treacle- a blend of molasses, sugar and corn syrup

Valise- a traveling bag

Piedmont- lying or formed at the base of mountains

Sumptuous- involving large outlay or expense; costly; lavish

Portentously- in a marvelous manner

Antecedents- substantive words, phrases or clauses referred to by pronouns, typically followed by pronouns

Metallurgy- a science and technology that deals with the extraction of metals from their ores, refining them and preparing them for use

Kelpies- water spirits in Scottish folklore that delight in drowning travelers

Phalanx- a group or body in close formation

Noisome- offensive to the smell or other senses

Munificent- very generous in giving; lavish

Glutinous- having the physical properties of glue

Tetrarch- any of four officials or directors jointly in control

Frippery- affected elegance; ostentation

Grenadier- a soldier who carries and throws handheld missiles fitted with a priming charge and a bursting charge and filled with a destructive agent

Rapacious- given to seizing or extorting what is coveted

Balaclavas- hood-like knitted caps covering the head, neck and part of the shoulders

Aphorism- an adage

Eviscerated- deprived of essential or vital content or force; weakened decisively

Canapés- appetizers consisting of a piece of bread or toast or cracker topped with savory food

Courteous- well mannered

Cinnabar- artificial red mercuric sulfide used principally as a pigment

Unguents- lubricants or salves; ointments

Asseveration- solemn declaration

Lobelia- any plant or flower of a large genus of herbaceous plants of wide distribution that have the corolla tube split

Balustrades- rows of short columns topped by rails to serve as open parapets

Flambeau- a flaming torch usually made by combining thick wicks saturated with a quick-burning substance

Ambuscade- an ambush

Proboscis- the very long, flexible snout of some mammals, especially the trunk of an elephant

Exordium- the introductory part of a discourse or composition

Phaeton- an open automobile with two cross seats

Beryllium- a steel-gray light strong brittle toxic metallic element

Ichor- an ethereal fluid taking the place of blood in the veins of the gods

Offal- the parts of a butchered animal that are removed in dressing that consist largely of the viscera and trimmings

Ligatures- things that are used to bind such as threads, wires, or other materials used in surgery

Voltaic-relating to or producing direct electric current by chemical action

Solomon- a very wise man

Fuchsia- any plant of a genus of decorative shrubs with pendulous flowers found chiefly in tropical America

Electrolysis- the destruction of hair roots with an electric current

Expiation- something done as an act of atonement

Acclamations- loud eager expressions of approval, praise or assent

### **MODERATE LEVEL WORDS:**

Inveigh- (verb) speak or write about something with great hostility or criticize someone or something very strongly

Hubris- excessive pride or self confidence

Phyllode- (noun) a winged leaf stalk which functions as a leaf.

Maillot- (mi-yo)- a pair of tights worn for dancing or gymnastics or a woman's one piece swimsuit.

Lanuginous-covered with lanugo or soft downy hairs

Casein- the main protein in milk and in coagulated form in cheese.

Lisle- a smooth tightly twisted thread usually made of long-staple cotton (lil)

Guillotine- a machine with a heavy blade sliding vertically in grooves, used for beheading people or as a verb to execute someone by guillotine.

Extirpate- to destroy completely; to wipe out; to pull up by the root; to cut out by surgery.

Tracheole- fine respiratory tube of the trachea of an insect or spider; part of the respiratory system

Anorexigenic- an agent used to reduce appetite, resulting in weight loss; causing loss of appetite

Uncus-a hooked anatomical part or process; the anterior extremity of the para hippocampal gyrus

Garderobe - a wardrobe or its contents; a toilet or room in a medieval building; most common use now is as a term for a castle toilet

Buccinators- thin broad muscles forming the wall of the cheek and serving to compress the cheek against the teeth and to retract the angle of the mouth

Conurbation- an aggregation or continuous network of urban communities. (sentence: beyond these coastal conurbations, the outlook is dimmer)

Hegemony- preponderant influence or authority over others; domination.

Chignon- a knot or coil of hair that is worn at the back of the head and especially at the nape of the neck (sheen-yon)

Solstitial- relating to or characteristic of a solstice and especially the summer solstice.

Piscatory- Relating to or dependent on fish or fishing.

Lackadaisical- lacking life, spirit or zest

Viridity- way to say "greenness" in both its literal and figurative senses

Halycon- (as adjective) denoting a period of time in the past that was idyllically happy and peaceful. (as noun) a tropical Asian and African kingfisher with brightly colored plumage

Mucilaginous- sticky, viscid; relating to, full of, or secreting mucilage

Tuatara- a large spiny quadrupedal reptile off the coast of New Zealand

Skosh- a tiny bit or a small amount

Rictus- a fixed grimace or grin; the gape of a bird's mouth

Gigots- legs of meat such as lamb especially when cooked

Orecchiette- a small ear-shaped pasta

Surreptitiously- done, made or acquired by stealth; secretly

Oenophile- a lover or connoisseur of wine

Spumy- frothy matter on liquids; foam, scum

Amphibology- a phrase or sentence that is grammatically ambiguous

Bilabiate- having two lips

Crepuscular- relating to or resembling twilight

Chiffonier- a high narrow chest of drawers

Irrefragable- impossible to refute; indisputable

Flageolet- a small wind instrument resembling a recorder but with four finger holes on top and two thumb holes below

Charcuterie- a store selling dressed meats and meat dishes; also the products sold in such a store

Radicchio- a chicory of a red variety with variegated leaves that is used as a salad green

Ariary- the basic monetary unit of Madagascar

Orchidaceous- relating to or resembling orchids; showy or ostentatious

Nystagmus- rapid involuntary movements of the eyes

Gangrel- vagabond, vagrant, wandering beggar; lanky loose-jointed

Alstroemeria- Peruvian lily or lily of the Incas

Saccadic- referring to small rapid jerky movement of the eye

Daube- a stew of meat, typically beef, braised slowly in wine

Terreplein- the level space behind a parapet of a rampart where guns are mounted

Palliasse- a thin straw mattress used as a pallet

Scumble- to modify a painting or color by applying a very thin coat of opaque paint to give a softer or duller effect

Ictus- a rhythmical or metrical stress; a stroke or seizure

Tournedos- a small fillet of beef usually cut from the tip of the tenderloin

Curettage- surgical scraping or cleaning by means of a curette

Exogamous - marriage outside of a specific group especially as required by custom or law

Peculate-embezzle or steal money, especially public funds

Picot- one of a series of small ornamental loops forming an edging on ribbon or lace

Huaraches- leather-thonged sandals, originally worn by Mexicans

Disembogued- emerged or discharged into the sea or a large river

Rorqual- a baleen whale of streamlined appearance with pleated skin on the underside

Scagliola- imitation marble used for floors, columns, and ornamental interior work

Racemose- having or growing in a form like that of a cluster of grapes

Mummichog- a small killifish found along the Atlantic coast of the US and Canada



## **MODERATE TO DIFFICULT:**

Abaxial- facing away from the stem of a plant

Accumbent- leaning or reclining especially at meals; in botany lying edgewise against the folded radicle in the seed

Acedia- spiritual or mental sloth; apathy

Achondroplasia- a genetic disorder that is marked by abnormally slow conversion of cartilage to bone during development resulting in a form of dwarfism

Adipocyte- a cell specialized for the storage of fat

Agrology- the application of science to agriculture

Amnesiac- a person experiencing a partial or total loss of memory

Antimacassar- a cover to protect the back or arms of furniture

Apatetic- imitative in color or form serving as natural camouflage

Auricular- relating to the ear or hearing

Baccalaureate- a college bachelor's degree

Bellicosity- warlike or hostile in manner or temperament

Blepharitis- inflammation of the eyelid

Booboisie- stupid people as a class

Cacophonous- involving or producing a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds

Carotenoid- any of various usually yellow to red pigments found widely in plants and animals

Catarrh- excessive discharge or buildup of mucus in the nose or throat

Chatelaine- a mistress of a household or large establishment; a clasp or hook for a watch, purse or bunch of keys

Chemurgy- the chemical and industrial use of organic raw materials

Comestibles- items of food; edible

Crapehanger- a gloomy person; a pessimist

Crepitate- make a crackling sound

Decalescence- the decrease in temperature when the rate of heat absorption during transformation exceeds the rate of heat input while heating metal through a transformation range

Decrepitude- the state of being decrepit

Bacteriophage- a virus that parasitizes a bacterium by infecting it and reproducing inside it

Deliquescence- becoming liquid or having a tendency to become liquid

Desquamate- to peel off in the form of scales (eg skin)

Drogue- sea anchor; a cylindrical or funnel-shaped device towed as a target by an airplane

Effendi- a man of high education or social standing in an eastern Mediterranean or Arab country

Efflorescence- the action or process of developing and unfolding as if coming into flower; blossoming

Effulgent- radiant splendor; brilliance

Entrepreneurial- having to do with the creation and development of economic ventures

Eremitic- hermit especially a religious recluse

Falciform- curved like a sickle, hooked

Fluviomarine- formed by the joint action of river and sea

Gallimaufry- a confused jumble or medley of things

Geniculate- bent at a sharp angle

Fungible- able to replace or be replaced by another identical item; mutually interchangeable

Glaciologist- one who studies any of the branches of science dealing with snow or ice accumulation, glaciation or glacial epochs

Googol-equivalent to ten raised to the power of a hundred

Herbivorous- feeding on plants

Hierarchize- rank according to relative status, authority or importance

Ichthyosis- congenital skin condition that causes the epidermis to become dry and rough

Inexpugnable- incapable of being subdued or overthrown

Intenerate- to make tender; to soften

Intravasation- the entrance of foreign matter into a vessel of the body, especially a blood vessel

Iridectomy- a surgical procedure to remove part of the iris

italicization- to print in italics or underscore with a single line

kuchen- a cake, especially one eaten with coffee

lentissimo- at a very slow tempo

liquefaction- the process of making or becoming liquid

lithology- the study of the general physical characteristics of rocks

longueur- a dull and tedious portion in a book or other work

lucubrate- produce scholarly written material

luminaria- a traditional Mexican Christmas lantern originally consisting of a candle set in sand inside a paper bag

manageability- capable of being managed or controlled

mascarpone- a soft mild Italian cream cheese

mellifluous- sweet or musical; pleasant to hear

millesimal- quotient of a unit divided by 1000

mirepoix- a mixture of sautéed chopped vegetables used in various sauces, soups and stews

molluscoid- belonging to or resembling the mollusks

myasthenia- a condition causing abnormal weakness of certain muscles

nociceptor- a sensory receptor for painful stimuli

nomothetic- relating to the study or discovery of general scientific laws

non prosequitur- a judgment entered against a plaintiff for failure to appear to prosecute a suit

nullah- a dry river bed or ravine

obovate- a leaf ovate with the narrower end basal

obliquity- deviation from moral rectitude or sound thinking; deviation from parallelism or perpendicularity

odontology- the scientific study of the structure and diseases of teeth

oribi- a small antelope of the African savanna

pachydermatous- relating to the pachyderms; thick, thickened skin

palimpsest- a manuscript or piece of writing material on which the original writing has been effaced to make room for later writing but of which traces remain; something having usually diverse layers or aspects apparent beneath the surface

paraparesis- partial paralysis of the lower limbs

parsimonious- unwilling to spend money or use resources; stingy or frugal

patelliform- resembling a limpet; shaped like a limpet shell; disk-shaped with a narrow rim

patrilineage- lineage based on or tracing descent through the paternal line

polysemy- the coexistence of many possible meanings for a word or phrase

Perestroika- the policy or practice of restructuring or reforming the economic and political system

pimpernel- any of a genus of herbs of the primrose family

plenipotentiary- invested with the full power of independent action on behalf of their government

postdiluvian- relating to the period after the flood described in the bible

preeclampsia- a condition in pregnancy characterized by high blood pressure and proteinuria

proscenium- the part of a theater stage in front of the curtain

pterodactyl- a pterosaur of the late Jurassic period with a long slender head and a very short tail

rampageous- to rush wildly about

rickettsiosis- any of a various gram-negative parasitic bacteria that are transmitted by biting arthropods and cause a number of serious diseases

saliferous- of rock or strata containing a large proportion of salt

sanctification- to set apart to a sacred purpose or to religious use; consecrate

saprophagous- feeding on or obtaining nourishment from decaying organic matter

scalariform- in botany, having thickened bands arranged like the rungs of a ladder

scrobiculate- having numerous shallow grooves or depressions; pitted

semilogarithmic- having one logarithmic scale and one arithmetic scale

simulacrum- an image or representation of someone or something; an unsatisfactory imitation or substitute

Sisyphean- of a task such that it can never be completed

somniloquy- the action or habit of talking in one's sleep

supercilious- behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others

ventriloquial- the production of the voice in such a way that the sound seems to come from a source other than the vocal organs of the speaker

totalitarianism- a system of government that is centralized and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state

tumefacient- producing or tending to produce swelling

unpaginated- unpagged

vassalage- a position of subordination or submission

vituperation- bitter and abusive language

xenogamy- fertilization of a flower by pollen from a flower on a genetically different plant

xenolith- a piece of rock within an igneous rock that is not derived from the original magma but has been introduced from elsewhere

zedonk- a zebroid hybrid that is the offspring of a male zebra and a female donkey

wahine- a Maori or Polynesian woman

zygodactyl- of a bird's feet having two toes pointing forward and two backward

vizier- a high official in a Muslim government

vernacularize- translate into the vernacular of a country or region