



Share

0

Home

AA

Print

Entertainment

# Style Invitational Week 1335: Put it in Bee-verse! Or . . .

+ Add to list

Write a short poem — or a Q-A joke — using a National Spelling Bee word



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**  
June 6

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning cut-and-paste entries)

A stratospheric butte formed by orthographic perfection eight times over: This year’s “octochamps” each picked up \$50,000 in the Scripps National Spelling Bee by clearing round after round flawlessly, as the words became progressively wha??? — until the bee declared them all winners after Round 20.

Every year the critics come out, complaining that the kids wasted sooo much time and effort and money to memorize words they’ll never use. Oh yeah? The whizzes can come right over here.

**This week: Write a humorous poem of eight lines or fewer that includes at least one of the words used in Round 9 or later** of this year’s bee.

**OR: Write a joke in Q&A form that uses at least one of the words.**

Share

0

## Start Download Now

Printable PDF (Free)

Download Here  
pdfmaker.live

OPEN

Download Here  
pdfmaker.live

OPEN

### Most Read Entertainment

- 1 Tony Awards 2019: Seven things to learn from best...



The complete set of spelling bee words is at [wapo.st/spellingbee2019](http://wapo.st/spellingbee2019). But if you don't want to wade through all those words, then use one of the following 20.

(These pronunciations and brief definitions were adapted from those at [Merriam-Webster.com](http://Merriam-Webster.com). If you find an alternative pronunciation or meaning listed online, you may use that if you include a link to that listing with your entry.)

**auslaut** (*owss-lout, rhymes with "out"*): The final sound in a word or syllable

**badderlocks** (*takes a singular verb*): A large brownish-black seaweed eaten as a vegetable in Europe

**bougainvillea** (*boogan-VILL-ya or boogan-VEE-a*): A tropical American vine or shrub with bright purple or red flowers

**calathos** (*CAL-a-thahss, rhymes with "toss"*): In ancient Egyptian and Greek art, a fruit basket worn on the head as a symbol of fruitfulness

**cernuous** (*sern-u-ous*): Describing a pendulous or drooping plant

**chocalho** (*shu-KYE-yu*): Merriam-Webster describes this Brazilian rhythm instrument as a rattling gourd, like a maraca, but YouTube videos show that the term is now used for a sort of tambourine on a flat rectangular frame

**Cytherean** (*sith-a-REE-an*): Relating to the planet Venus

**jacqueminot** (*jock-mi-NO*): Raspberry red

**mondegreen** (*MON-de-green*): A phrase, especially in a song, that results from mishearing the real words, such as "the girl with colitis goes by" instead of "the girl with kaleidoscope eyes"

**murrain** (*MUR-ren*): An archaic word for a disease afflicting livestock; some Bible translations say murrain attacked cattle in the Fifth Plague in the Book of Exodus

**odylic** (*OH-de-lic*): Referring to *od*, a word coined in the 19th century for a hypothetical power once thought to pervade nature and account for various phenomena, such as magnetism. [From Oxford Living Dictionaries]

**omphalopsychite** (*AHM-phal-o-psy-kite or ahm-pha-LOP-si-kite*): one who stares fixedly at one's navel to induce a mystical trance

**palama** (*PAL-ama*): The webbing on the feet of aquatic birds

**passepied** (*pahss-p'YAY*): A French courtly dance of the 17th and 18th centuries, similar to a fast minuet

**pendeloque** (*PON-de-lawk*), a pear-cut diamond, or a diamond-shaped crystal in a chandelier, etc.

**rhathymia** (*ra-THIGH-mia*): The state of being lighthearted or carefree

**taurokathapsia** (*TAW-ra-ka-THAP-sia*): An ancient Cretan sport in which a performer grasps the horns of a bull and somersaults over him

things to know, from bathroom humor to Elaine May's first win at 87



2 13 things to do in the D.C. area this week



3 'Big Little Lies' isn't as mysterious as it used to be. But we still have seven unanswered questions.



4 **Review**  
Migraines have plagued me for years. A new book puts my pain in perspective.



5 Tony Awards 2019: 'Hadestown' wins best musical, and 'The Ferryman' snags best play



## Post REPORTS

### Latest episode

**How the NRA directed money to the people who oversee its finances**

► Listen 22:22

Unparalleled reporting. Expert insight. Clear analysis. Everything you've come to expect from the newsroom of The Post – for your ears.

washingtonpost.com

© 1996-2019 The Washington Post

Help

Policies and Standards

Terms of Service

Privacy Policy

Print Products Terms of Sale

**tettigoniid** (TET-i-GON-i-id): An insect in the family of long-horned grasshoppers

**therblig** (THER-blig): An individual element involved in completing a manual task, such as “search,” “find,” “select,”; the backward (mostly) spelling of Gilbreth, the motion study pioneer immortalized in the book “Cheaper by the Dozen.”

**urfirnis** (*oor-furnace*): A lustrous paint or glaze found on prehistoric Greek pottery

At least for the poems, you must use the word with its real meaning and pronunciation; you can't pretend that it's something else. You may use a slightly different form of the word, such as a plural, adding “-ing,” etc. You may add a title, and the word might appear only in the title.

Submit entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1335](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1335) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the **Lose Cannon**, our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a **Bacon Odor Two-Pack**: a bar of bacon-scented soap plus a bacon-smell car air “freshener.” Both donated ages ago by Loser Pie Snelson.

**Other runners-up** win our “[You Gotta Play to Lose](#)” Loser Mug or our “[Whole Fools](#)” Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, “[Too-Weak Notice](#)” or “[Certificate of \(de\)Merit](#).” First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, June 17**; results published July 7 in print, July 3 (Wednesday) online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week's results is by Chris Doyle; Chris also wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at [wapo.st/styleconv](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

#### **DELETES WE CAN DO: CUT & PASTE FROM WEEK 1331**

In [Week 1331](#) the Empress asked you to find some article in any publication that week, then “accidentally” cut a small block of text from a sentence or headline and/or paste some text from elsewhere in the same article. In the entries below, the cuts are struck out or, if they're a very few letters, set off in brackets so the deletion is clearer; the pastes are in italics.

**First a note:** With EIGHT entries published this week, Jesse Frankovich — a sort of James Holzhauer of The Style Invitational — has scored his 500th blot of ink (and more), almost all of it in less than four years, thus rocketing himself into the Invite Hall of Fame. See an interview with Jesse in this week's Style Conversational at [wapo.st/conv1335](http://wapo.st/conv1335).

**4th place:**





Mr. Incredible: It took him about 15 minutes — well, less than four years, once he got going — for Jesse Frankovich to hit the 500-blot mark.

**Trump to unveil plan to move immigration toward ‘me[rit]-based’ system.** (David Peckarsky, Tucson)

**3rd place:**

**Big[fo]ot sightings have been described in areas across Alabama.** (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

**2nd place and the basket crocheted from Post delivery bags:**

**Amazon’s founder, Jeff**

**Bezos, owns The Washington Post every American between ages 18 and 64.** (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.)

**And the winner of the Lose Cannon:**

**Our devices steal our attention. We need to take it back DING.** (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

**Hon Deplorable mentions:**

**Paint it black and add spikes, president advises engineers of his border wall White House** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

**Paint it black and add spikes, president advises engineers of his border wall head** (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)

**“I with my Republican colleagues always want to be supportive of the most conservative candidate who can actually win a race.”** (Beverly Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

**Celebrate every type of tart, tangy, salty mom this Mother’s Day with these 7 special recipes** (Michelle Christophorou, Guildford, England)

**Filings reveal justices’ bit ter rift on death penal ty members** (Duncan Stevens)

**With fewer ‘hard [p]asses,’ will it be harder to cover White House?** (Gary Crockett; Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

**A guide to 20 inquiries Trump and his [al]lies are working to impede** (Kevin Dopart)

**Amazon Now Has Machines to Automatically Bo lli x Up Orders** (Jesse Frankovich)

**As high court overturns 40-year-old ruling, some justices ask what’s next the Constitution** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel, Md.)

**D rug-addicti on is broadly defined as a disease that needs cleansing of the mind, body, and soul.** (Jesse Frankovich)

**Decorating on a budget, bit by bit? Here’s what these**

**Decorating on a budget, bit by bit: Here's what these designers would do.** *Plug-in dimmers.* (Marli Melton, Carmel Valley, Calif.)

**Disgraced former congressman Anthony Weiner's** *Weiner's scandalous saga started in 2011.* (Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.)

**House passes measure to block ACA waivers to states** *a faint glimmer of potential cooperation* (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

**Farmer markets booming on Vancouver Island** (Jesse Frankovich)

**Fox unveils 'insanely simple' business model** *host for prime time slot* (Dinah Rokach, Silver Spring, Md.)

**He laughed when Martinez teased him for being a Yankees fan.** (Gregory Koch, Falls Church, Va.)

**House passes disaster relief bill despite Trump's opposition to funding for Puerto Rico** *American values*] (David Peckarsky)

**Keanu Reeves' Impressive Skill Set Takes Centre Stage in John Wick 3** (Jesse Frankovich)

**National service can bring us together as a nation** (Michelle Christoforou)

**She brought her business background to the task: research, resources, problem-solving,** *kicking and screaming.* (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

**This 'swimsuit season' remember that values trump appearance** (Jeff Contompasis)

**Trump takes over Fourth of July celebration, changing its location and inserting himself into the program** *portable toilets* (Michelle Christophorou)

**But two of the top House Republicans on Sunday criticized her use of the phrase "calming feeling," falsely accusing her of using the phrase to describe her views about the Holocaust itself** *top House Republicans.* (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring, Md.)

**Calif. to ban a pesticide, citing effects on infants:** *"Utter failure."* (Duncan Stevens)

**Buttigieg likens Trump's tweets to 'grotesque things'** (Ben Aronin, Washington)

**[P]lant-based Whopper could make orders impossible for small restaurants** (Frank Mann, Washington)

**U.S. tourism to Cuba doubles after Trump's 'full and complete embargo' threats** (Jesse Frankovich)

**We believe our country has a moral obligation to protect public health and our environment.** (Jesse Frankovich)

**We need good *er* English teachers** (Jesse Frankovich)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, June 10: Our contest to make a new phrase from two words in the Mueller report**

to make a new phrase from the words in the market report.

See [wapo.st/invite1334](http://wapo.st/invite1334).

**DON'T MISS AN INVITE!** [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

 0 Comments



**Read These Comments newsletter**

The best comments and conversations at The Washington Post, delivered every Friday. Join the conversation.

[Sign me up](#)

By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

**Pat Myers**



Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has

