

6/14/26

American Spellers

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

Every day, millions of people use the internet search engine GOOGLE to get information, including how to spell words correctly. Every year, using data from searches that begin with “How do you spell ...”, GOOGLE publishes a list of the top word most people have trouble spelling in each state. We’ve provided GOOGLE’S most recent list of the top misspelled word from each state. Let’s see how you fair against the GOOGLE users!

Note: Being from Massachusetts, I was dismayed to see that back in 2016, the top word people in my state asked GOOGLE how to spell was — get ready for it — “Massachusetts”! Fortunately, that’s not the word on the 2026 list!

Instructions:

Just go around the room and have one person at a time spell a word, starting with Alabama’s word. If they get it right, they can remain in play. If they spell the word wrong, they are out of the game. Those left in the game when all the states’ words have been spelled are the winners. As you’ll see, some words turn out to be hard to spell for several states. “Beautiful,” for example, was the top misspelled word for five states: Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Vermont, and West Virginia.

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American Spellers

1. Alabama - Business
2. Alaska - Beautiful
3. Arizona - Through
4. Arkansas - Beautiful
5. California - Different
6. Colorado - Color
7. Connecticut - Recommend
8. Delaware - Beautiful
9. Florida - School
10. Georgia - Chihuahua
11. Hawaii - Appreciate
12. Idaho - Necessary
13. Illinois - Color
14. Indiana - Because
15. Iowa - Character
16. Kansas - Schedule
17. Kentucky - Definitely
18. Louisiana - Restaurant
19. Maine - Definitely
20. Maryland - Business
21. Massachusetts - Schedule
22. Michigan - Which
23. Minnesota - Ukulele
24. Mississippi - Business
25. Missouri - Because
26. Montana - Appreciate
27. Nebraska - Congratulations
28. Nevada - Teacher
29. New Hampshire - Bougie
30. New Jersey - Because
31. New Mexico - Sincerely
32. New York - Judgement
33. North Carolina - Spaghetti
34. North Dakota - Adios
35. Ohio - Because
36. Oklahoma - Chihuahua
37. Oregon - Diamond
38. Pennsylvania - Maintenance
39. Rhode Island - Bougie
40. South Carolina - Quite
41. South Dakota - Congratulations
42. Tennessee - Through
43. Texas - Recycle
44. Utah - Basically
45. Vermont - Beautiful
46. Virginia - Spaghetti
47. Washington - Fiancé
48. West Virginia - Beautiful
49. Wisconsin - Business
50. Wyoming - Chihuahua