

# 49th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **49th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. at the Mayflower Hotel on June 9–10, 1976, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

The winner was 13-year-old Tim Kneale of Nedrow, New York, winning on the word "narcolepsy" in the 21st round. Second place went to 13-year-old Rachel Wachtel of Wooster, Ohio, who missed "yarborough". Both missed "emmetropia" and "chorography" in prior rounds before "yarborough" was used. Third place was captured by 13-year-old William Mulhern of Marysville, Kansas, who fell on "balletomane".<sup>[1][2][3][4]</sup>

The correct words spelled by Kneale also included: fatigue, conceit, opalescent, carafe, egalitarian, supernumerary, persiflage, literati, aphotic, bellipotent, physiolatry, demulcent, hagiology, and sauerbraten.<sup>[2]</sup>

A record 87 contestants participated this year, up from 79 in 1975 and 80 in 1974.<sup>[5]</sup> There were 49 girls and 38 boys ranging in age from 10 to 14. There were two repeat spellers, both from the prior year, the smallest number since 1970.<sup>[5]</sup> Sixty were eliminated in the first day of competition.<sup>[1]</sup> 525 total words were used this year.<sup>[2]</sup>

John Paola, who finished 22nd, would go on to win the next year.<sup>[6]</sup>

## References

- ↑ (10 June 1976). "Narcolepsy' is the winning word (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=860&dat=19760610&id=6UJPAAAAIBA&sjid=b48DAAAIBA&pg=6655,3982062&hl=en>), *Ellensburg Daily Record* (UPI)
- ↑ Macino, Dick (11 June 1976). "Wait Till Next Year, Defeated Speller Says (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19760611&id=1VQdAAAIBA&sjid=QVcEAAAIBA&pg=6874,3945399&hl=en>), *Pittsburgh Press*
- ↑ Cohen, Richard (1 July 1976). "Spelling plagues columnist (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1314&dat=19760701&id=FiFOAAAIBA&sjid=me0DAAAIBA&pg=6644,398452&hl=en>), *Spokesman-Review*
- ↑ Munroe, Mary (22 June 1976). "Report from Washington (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=757&dat=19760622&id=7XVaAAAIBA&sjid=AEcDAAAIBA&pg=4554,2767675&hl=en>), *Virgin Islands Daily News* (Washington News Bureau)
- ↑ (9 June 1976). "National Spelling Bee begins today (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1734&dat=19760609&id=kJUbAAAIBA&sjid=gIEEAAAIBA&pg=4092,3535215&hl=en>), *The Dispatch* (Lexington, North Carolina)(UPI)

### 49th Scripps National Spelling Bee



The Mayflower Hotel, site of the 49th National Spelling Bee

<b>Date</b>	June 9–10, 1976
<b>Location</b>	The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.
<b>Winner</b>	Tim Kneale
<b>Age</b>	13
<b>Residence</b>	Nedrow, New York
<b>Sponsor</b>	<i>Syracuse Herald-Journal</i>
<b>Sponsor location</b>	Syracuse, New York
<b>Winning word</b>	narcolepsy
<b>No. of contestants</b>	87
<b>Pronouncer</b>	Richard R. Baker
<b>Preceded by</b>	48th Scripps National Spelling Bee
<b>Followed by</b>	50th Scripps National Spelling Bee

6. Williams, Juan (10 June 1977). Sesquipedalian Speller Triumphs at Spelling Bee (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1977/06/10/sesquipedalian-speller-triumphs-at-spelling-bee/8104049f-8fa4-4407-8cb4-7079145ccfc1/>), *Washington Post*

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