



Spelling Bee Rules

1. Participation is limited to fifth through eighth grade students under 15. Each school may enter one contestant and one alternate per grade.
2. Oral spelling will be used, but contestant may write the word they spell.
3. The match will begin with one free round during which no contestant will be disqualified.
4. A word must be pronounced, spelled and pronounced again to be judge correct.
5. A contestant who fails to spell his/her word correctly must retire from the match. A new word will be given to the next contestant.
6. A contestant, having once started to spell a word, may repeat the letter if he/she starts at the beginning of the word, but once he/she has pronounced the letters; he/she may not change their sequence or make any substitutions. If a contestant changes the sequences of the letters, he/she has pronounced in his/her first attempt to spell the word, he/she must retire from the match.
7. A contestant may request that a word given to him/her to spell be pronounced again, defined or used in a sentence. Such requests will be granted until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant.
8. If, inadvertently, a definition of a homonym is not given, the correct spelling of either word will be accepted. When a contestant is given the definition of a homonym or it is used in a sentence, he/she must spell the word defined.
9. Obsolete and archaic spelling will be regarded as errors.
10. Judges may retire a contestant who ignores a request to start spelling a given word.
11. When the contestants have been reduced to two, the first contestant to correctly spell a word misspelled by the other and then spell a new given word correctly, they shall be declared the champion.
12. If the first of the two contestants errs, and the other spells the word correctly, but then misspells a new word, the misspelled word shall be referred to the first speller for correction. If the first speller succeeds in correcting the word misspelled by the other contestant, and then spells the next word correctly, he/she shall declare the winner.
13. If the first of the last two contestants errs, and then the other errs on the same word, both shall continue in the contest.
14. Questions relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judges immediately by the school's designated representative. No protest can be entertained after the round in which the word involved was given.
15. The judges shall be in complete control of the match at all times and their decisions shall be final in all questions.
16. The judges will have the right to decide on any question not covered or not fully covered by these rules.
17. Registered alternates are eligible to replace contestants in the absence of contestants or if contestants become ill.