

SPELLING BEE RULES

1. Spellers must be at least 50 years old on the date of the bee. Spellers need to bring proof of age. Former champions of the national bee held in Cheyenne, Wyoming are not eligible. The entry fee is \$30 until June 25 (postmarked date) and \$40 after that. Thanks to some generous donors, we can have a lower fee this year!
2. All words used in this Bee will be taken from the A-Z main section (not the appendices in the back) of the printed version of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition (2011). Hyphenated entries will not be used, but capitalized words, primary variants (e.g. likeable **or** likable) and secondary variants (e.g. cancellation **also** cancelation) will be. Words with variant spelling must have the same or very similar pronunciations to be accepted (e.g., "ipecac" would not be accepted for "ipecacuanha", even though they are variants of each other). Capitalized words will be used (spellers do not need to write or say that the first letter is capitalized.) Words with diacritical marks may be used (e.g., malgré or do-ña). Spellers do not need to say the diacritical mark. Singular, plural, and inflected forms of words will also be used.
3. The Bee has both Written and Oral segments.
The Written segment will consist of 60 words in 3 rounds of 20 words each. Half of the spellers in the written contest will make the oral contest, with the caveat that there will be a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 24 in the oral contest.
4. The Bee will provide pencil and paper for the Written segment; spellers will not be permitted to take **any** materials or utensils on stage for the Oral segment.
5. Spellers must take special care to print or write legibly; questionable or illegible spellings may be judged as incorrect.
6. Written tests will be returned to spellers promptly. Spellers who disagree with the grading are responsible for consulting the Scoring Judge during a brief period before the Oral segment commences. Decisions of the Scoring Judges are final.
7. A drawing will determine the order in which spellers are asked to spell. Each speller will be given a word to spell; he/she will be eliminated after misspelling **three** (3) words. When a speller misspells a word, the bell will sound and the correct spelling will be given.
8. The Pronouncer will pronounce each word twice. He/she may also indicate its part of speech, number, language of origin, definition, usage in a sentence, and pronounce it a third time if requested to do so before the speller begins to spell.
9. Spellers must speak clearly and intelligibly enough to be understood by the judges. Spellers should pronounce the word **before** spelling so judges know they have heard the word correctly. Spellers should pronounce the word **after** spelling to indicate they have finished. Passing a cordless microphone to the next speller or stepping away from a fixed microphone will also indicate the speller is finished. There is no fixed time limit, but spellers may not stall. The head judge has the right to ask a speller to begin spelling immediately after a sufficient time has passed.
10. Spellers may change a spelling once before indicating they have finished spelling.
11. Spellers who wish to challenge a word judged incorrectly spelled must do so before they would receive their next word in the next round.
12. A spell-off will be held if more than one speller ties for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th place. Spellers eliminated in the same round are tied in the final results.
13. The following are the minimum prizes: First place--\$1000, second place--\$500, third place--\$300, fourth place--\$200.