

Spelling Bee Rules

1. Rules 1-14 will be read aloud before the beginning of each contest. When the number of competitors has been reduced to two, rules 15 and 16 will be read.
2. The moderator and judges will be in complete charge of the contest. Any questions or protests about the spelling of a word or the running of the contest must be referred to the officials immediately (before the beginning of the next round). Their decisions will be final in all matters.

NO PROTEST WILL BE ENTERTAINED AFTER THE CONTEST HAS ENDED.

3. For each contest there will be an arbiter whose duty is to hear any protests as they arise and decide on them before the contest continues. The arbiter's decision shall be final.
4. The competition will be held in rounds. If a competitor's spelling of an assigned word is correct, the student takes his or her seat – if incorrect the speller leaves the stage. If all of the competitors in a round misspell, then all of the competitors will continue into the next round.
5. The preliminary round will use words from the distributed lists provided to the schools.
6. The Canadian Oxford Dictionary (Second Edition) is the final spelling authority for the competition. If a word has more than one acceptable spelling, any spelling listed for that word on the distributed list or in the Canadian Oxford Dictionary (Second Edition) will be accepted.
7. If there is a tie for third place a tie-breaker round will be held before the championship round. Each student will be given an assigned word and the one who does not misspell will be declared the third place finisher.
8. The competition will be oral; contestants must spell the words orally. No devices will be allowed to assist.
9. Students may or may not choose to pronounce their words before spelling them.
10. If a word taken from the list distributed is unclear to a contestant, he or she may ask for the word to be re-pronounced, but will not be given the word in a sentence, unless the word is a homophone, in which case the moderator must give an example sentence. The contestant must give the spelling of the word as indicated, not a homophone of the word.
11. For words following the preliminary rounds a speller may ask for a word to be re-pronounced or used in a sentence.
12. Once a student has begun to spell a word he or she may not ask for a word to be re-pronounced, defined or used in a sentence. Also, having started to spell a word, a student will not be given any opportunity to change letters already pronounced. A speller may retrace provided that letters and their sequence are not changed in retracing. Spellers are required to indicate capitals. Apostrophes and other punctuation are not required.

13. Officials may disqualify any student who ignores a request to start spelling his or her word within one minute. A STUDENT WHOSE SPELLING OF A WORD IS NOT AUDIBLE TO THE OFFICIALS MAY HAVE HIS OR HER SPELLING WORD RULED INCORRECT.

14. If the word is misspelled, the moderator will give the correct spelling of the word.

To be read when only two students remain

15. The elimination procedure changes when the number of students is reduced to two. At this point, when one student misspells a word, the other contestant will be given the opportunity to spell the same word.

16. If the second student spells the word correctly, the second student will be given the next word on the moderator's list. If he or she also spells that word correctly, then he or she shall be declared the champion. If the student misspells the word on the moderator's list, then both spellers continue in the contest. If both contestants misspell the same word, then both continue in the contest.