

Spelling Bee Contest Rules

Identifying the Word

- The pronouncer will say the word to be spelled. The student can ask to hear the word again or for its definition. She/he can also ask the pronouncer to use the word in a sentence and to define the word's part of speech. The participant will have ten seconds to start spelling her/his word.

Homonyms

- If a word has a homonym the pronouncer is responsible for putting the word in a sentence or letting the student know the definition of the word to avoid any confusion in spelling. If the pronouncer did not indicate which word is to be spelled then any correct spelling will be accepted.

Spelling the Word

- When a student is ready to spell a word, he should first say the word to be spelled, and then spell it out. When he is finished spelling the word, he should once again pronounce it to let the judge and pronouncer know he is finished. Though judges may not disqualify a speller for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it. Spellers are encouraged to do this in order to make sure they heard the word correctly.
- A student can stop in the middle of spelling a word and start over, however he must respell the word the exact way he spelled it before starting over or risk elimination; he must spell the word without changing the order of the letters in which he spelled his word the first time. Before doing so, he must let the judges know that he wants to start all over. For example, he may ask, "May I repeat the word?"

Elimination

- Students who misspell their word are eliminated from the competition. If all students misspell their words in a round, no one will be eliminated and the round will start over.

Final Round

- When only two students are left in the competition, the rules of the game change slightly. If the first student misspells a word, the second student must spell it correctly and must also spell the next word on the list correctly in order to win the spelling bee. If the second student fails to spell the first word correctly, a new word is given to the first student to spell. The bee ends when a student successfully spells both words.

Judging the Spelling Bee

- A judge makes all the decisions regarding whether or not the words are spelled correctly. Participants in the spelling bee face the judge so that he can see their lip movements and make sure they understand what word they are spelling. If a judge feels that the speller does not understand the word, he can work with the pronouncer and speller until all parties reach an understanding of the word.