



2014 Spelling Bee Rules

1. The school champion participating in The Bee must be in grades four through eight and may not have reached his/her 16th birthday on or before March 22, 2014.
2. If the judges are unable to determine a Regional Bee Champion through the word list provided to the schools, the pronouncer will be given additional words furnished by the East Central College English Department. These words will not be part of the spelling bee list, nor will any student be given a copy of such words. These words will be used only if necessary.
3. The pronouncer will give the word, use it in a sentence, and re-pronounce it. The contestant may request the pronouncer repeat the word, its sentence and give its definition. The pronouncer shall grant the request until the judges agree the word has been made reasonably clear.
4. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant should pronounce the word **BEFORE** spelling to show he/she understands the word, and **AFTER** spelling to signal he/she has finished. (However, no contestant will be eliminated for failing to pronounce a word.)
5. The contestant must begin spelling within 30 seconds after the pronouncer is finished. Judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling.
6. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may begin again or retrace his/her spelling as long as no letters previously spoken are changed.
7. If a contestant incorrectly spells a word, he/she is immediately eliminated from the competition. The incorrectly spelled word is eliminated, also. The next word on the Spell Master's list is given to the next contestant.
8. When the contestants are reduced to 10 or fewer spellers, they advance to the **Finals**. Contestants continue to face instant elimination until reduced to two spellers. All contestants in the finals will be awarded a medal at the end of The Bee.
9. **WHEN THE CONTESTANTS ARE REDUCED TO TWO, THE ELIMINATION PROCESS CHANGES.** At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell **THAT SAME WORD**. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second contestant shall be declared the champion.
10. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him/her, then the misspelled word shall be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he/she shall be declared champion.
11. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest, and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell. The contest continues under Rules 8 and 9.
12. Any question by a participant relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judges **IMMEDIATELY**. A question raised from the audience must be referred to a regional bee representative who will contact the judges.
13. The deadline for raising a question or making a protest is **BEFORE the contestant affected would have received his/her next word had he/she stayed in the contest.**
14. When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately - that is, **BEFORE** the second speller has started to spell the word given him/her, or, if both have missed the same word, **BEFORE** the correct spelling is given to the audience.
15. The annually published word list shall serve as the final authority for the spellings of words in this bee. If a word has two or more accepted spellings, only the spelling on the word list will be accepted as correct.
16. The judges are in complete control of The Bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions.
17. Any child having once won a National Spelling Bee championship is ineligible for competition in this activity.