

## SPELLING CONTEST RULES

1. The spelling bee shall be an oral competition with elimination on a miss-and-out basis.
2. If contestants exhaust the word list for their level, words from the next higher category shall be used.
3. Contestants shall line up, step forward, and compete in the order assigned.
4. Contestants are not required to say the word before spelling it, but it would be in their best interest to do so. This way the pronouncer can stop them if they have misunderstood the word.
5. The contestant may request the pronouncer to repronounce a word, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant the request until the judge declares the word has been made clear. The judge may disqualify any contestant who ignores the request to start spelling.
6. The pronouncer will pronounce and then use each word in a sentence in the first and second grade competition.
7. The pronouncer shall define and/or use in a sentence all homonymns/homophones. No homonymns/homophones for 1st and 2nd grades.
8. A contestant may start over by requesting permission to begin again if no letter has been missed up to that point.
9. The contestant shall say the letters clearly and distinctly enough for the judge and pronouncers to determine spelling.
10. The contestant must say "space" between words consisting of two or more words. Example: Santa Claus.
11. The contestant must say "capital" before a proper noun.
12. The contestant must pronounce the word after spelling it, thus signaling to the judges that he/she has completed spelling the word.
13. If a word is missed, the contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word is given to the next contestant.
14. The final elimination procedure changes when the contestants are reduced to two. When one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant will be given the opportunity to spell the word.
15. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the next word given, 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, that person shall be champion.
16. If both spellers misspell the same word, both continue.
17. WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY is the final authority. Such variants and reformed spellings as appear in small type at the bottom of the page will not be accepted. Obsolete and arcaic spellings will be regarded as errors.
18. If the two judges disagree, the pronouncer will go to the next word.
19. Any questions related to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judge immediately by saying "Question." No protest can be entertained after the contest.
20. The judges are in complete control of the contest. Their decision is final.