

Spelling Bee Senior Division

Description: Participants will compete in a science-focused spelling bee assessing knowledge of scientific vocabulary drawn from life science, chemistry, physics, earth science, and astronomy. Words are selected to reflect middle and high school curricula and emphasize root-based and etymological understanding.

Eligibility: Open to students in Grades 7–10.

- Participants must be officially registered at least one (1) hour before the competition start time.
- Students may represent a recognized school, learning center, or homeschool group, if desired.

Teams of up to: 1 Calculator: None Duration: Varies by participation count

Word List and Sources

Middle and high school science curricula, including:

Biology

Astronomy

Chemistry

Earth and Environmental
Science

Physics

Competition Format: The competition is conducted in elimination rounds.

- A. Each participant is given one definition per round. They must recall the word associated with said definition and spell it correctly.
- B. A participant is eliminated upon misspelling a word, except during designated Practice or Warm-Up Rounds
- C. Word difficulty increases as the competition progresses:
 - a. Easy (E)
 - b. Medium (M)
 - c. Hard (H)
 - d. Expert (X)

Final Round: When only two contestants remain, if one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant must spell that same word correctly, and spell an additional word correctly to win. If both contestants misspell the word, the round continues until one spells a word correctly and the other does not.

Spelling Procedure: Each speller must:

- A. Step up to the microphone.
- B. Listen as the pronouncer states the word.

C. Optionally ask for any of the following:

- a. Language of origin
- b. Part of speech
- c. Use in a sentence
- d. Alternate pronunciations

D. Spell the word clearly and slowly, letter by letter.

E. Indicate completion by restating the word.

Time Limits: Spellers have 60 seconds to ask questions and spell the word. Judges may issue a 5-second warning before time expires. Failure to begin spelling within the allotted time results in disqualification.