



## Spelling Bee Rules

### General Rules

1. **Eligibility:** Participants must meet the age and grade level requirements set by the competition organizers.
2. **Word Selection:** Words will be selected from an official word list provided before the competition or chosen by judges during the event.
3. **Order of Competition:** Spellers will compete in a **pre-determined order**, rotating through rounds until a winner is determined.
4. **Pronouncer's Role:** The pronouncer will say the word, use it in a sentence (if requested), and repeat it once.

### Spelling Process

5. **Repetition:** The speller may ask for the **word to be repeated, its definition, or a sentence** before spelling.
6. **Starting the Spelling:** Once the speller begins, they must **spell the word out loud clearly**.
7. **Corrections:**
  - A speller **cannot change letters once spoken**.
  - However, they may start over as long as the letters remain the same.

### Elimination & Advancement

8. **Correct Spelling:** If the word is spelled correctly, the speller advances to the next round.
9. **Incorrect Spelling:** If a speller misspells a word, they are eliminated from the competition unless the competition allows a second-chance round.

## Championship Round

10. **Final Two Competitors:** When only **two spellers remain**, they enter the **championship round**, where standard spelling rules still apply.
11. **Head-to-Head Format:**
  - If a speller correctly spells their word, the next speller is given a new word.
  - If a speller misspells a word, the other speller must correctly spell a **new word** to win.
12. **Winning the Competition:**
  - To be declared the **champion**, a speller must correctly spell **one word after their opponent has misspelled**.
  - If the second speller also misspells, both continue competing until one correctly spells a **final word**.
13. **Tiebreaker Rounds:** If multiple rounds pass without a winner, judges may select **challenging words** or use a **written spelling test** to determine the champion.

## Additional Rules

14. **Time Limit:** Spellers have a **time limit** (e.g., 30 seconds) to start spelling after the pronouncer finishes.
15. **Judge's Decision:** All judge decisions are final regarding spelling accuracy, rule enforcement, and eliminations.
16. **Behavior:** Spellers must conduct themselves respectfully—disruptive behavior may lead to disqualification.