

HOW TO STUDY FOR THE SPELLING BEE

SEE SAY HEAR WRITE

Practice spelling the words:

Look at the word and say the letters out loud. Cover the word and repeat spelling without looking. Do one word at a time until you feel like you have it. Then include the next word. Do 5 words then go back to the beginning and try those 5 words again. When you feel comfortable with those 5, start the next 5.

Practice spelling while writing the word; say the letters out loud while you write them.

Practice a little every day – even 15 minutes if that is all the time you have. Always go back over the words you learned before then add in new words.

Break the word list into parts, try to put words with similarities together in each part to help you remember spellings, like words with double letters, words that end in a silent e, compound words or whatever helps you. Learn one group of words at a time.

Only letter order matters, **not** capital letters or punctuation. You only have to learn the letters in the correct order. You will **not** be required to say whether it starts with a capital letter or if it has a punctuation mark like a dash - .

For the words that have 2 spellings like spick-or-span OR spic-or-span, you only need to learn **one** spelling, whichever seems more natural to you or easier to remember.

Start with the words for your grade level. When you feel good about those words, move on to the next grade level words. There is a word list for grade 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. There are a total of 300 words! The more of them you know, the better you will do in the bee. No one is expected to learn them all!

The QR code for all the word lists are available at meadpac.org (and is printed below), including word lists with definitions and pronunciations to help you learn the words. You will **not** be tested on the definitions at the school spelling bee. Spelling ONLY.

QR code to access the spelling lists.



You may also use the Word Club app available on your school ipad.

This app has 5 different ways to help you study your words. It is best to use this app after you are familiar with the words from the lists.

SAY THE WORD / SPELL THE WORD / SAY THE WORD

When the judge tells you the word to spell repeat the word back to the judge. This lets both you and the judge know that you heard the word correctly. If you would like a definition or to hear the word used in a sentence, ask before you start to spell. Think about the word and picture it written in your mind. When you are ready take a deep breath and spell slowly. **You cannot go back and start over if you say the wrong letter by mistake,** so it is important to go slowly. Many kids misspell because they go too fast and/or get lost in the middle of the word.

When you finish spelling, say the word back again to the judge so that the judge knows you are finished spelling.

Example: say the word, then spell, then say the word again.

Ex: say Brooklyn, b r o o k l y n, Brooklyn

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE SCHOOL SPELLING BEE

Each child is given a number at random. Then the words are chosen from a randomized list that we get from Scripps. This is so there can be no favoritism in who gets which word. All the children, in numerical order, will get a chance to spell a word. That is called a Round. When Round 1 is done, those who spelled their words correctly will go on to Round 2. And so on. The spellers who misspelled in any Round are finished and do not get another chance to spell another word. If all the spellers in a round misspell their word then all those spellers will get a chance again in another round. The Bee is over when there is only one speller left. The winner will go on to the Regional Spelling Bee in Boulder on March 11th. The winner of the regional bee wins an all expense paid trip to Washington DC to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee! The winner of the National Bee wins \$50,000!

Need help? Email me at marycat716@gmail.com

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