

When studying for a classroom bee:

1. **DON'T** worry too much about memorizing which words are capitalized, as you will **NOT** be eliminated for not saying that a letter is capitalized. (You don't need to worry about spaces, dashes or accent marks, either.)
2. If you can, get a study helper (relative, classmate, etc.) for at least some of your study time. It's often easier to study that way, and often more fun, too!
3. If studying by yourself, though, the Word Club app can be very useful—especially the "Flash Card" mode, which you can use to either test yourself or learn everything you can about a word (definition, origin, pronunciation, part of speech).
4. **Before** you start studying: **SET A GOAL** for yourself. Do you think you're a pretty good speller? Perhaps your goal should be to get to be in your school spelling bee; this means you will need to study--and learn--**all** the words from your study list. Not such a good speller? Then perhaps you should study just the easier words in your grade's list, and your goal should be to be able to spell at least **half** of the words correctly. Here's my point: **EVERYONE** who learns something new is a winner—so **don't** sell yourself short and not even try!
5. Try to get through **all** the words from your word list at least once **as soon as possible**. For words that you don't know how to pronounce, either check the Merriam-Webster online dictionary at www.m-w.com, as it has a sound clip for most of the words on the lists, or use the Word Club flashcards. (FUN FACT: Word Club sound clips are said by Dr. Jacques Bailly, the **actual pronouncer** of the National Spelling Bee!) If your helper can listen along, that's even better: they'll hear the words pronounced correctly, and might learn the meanings of a few new words too.
6. If there is **any question** in your mind on how to spell a word, go ahead and ask that it be marked "wrong" or "for review" for now (you might guess **incorrectly** next time!). If you get it right twice in at least two different practice sessions, then you can probably **quit** being asked that word until the final review a few days before the classroom bee. (NOTE: in "Flash Card" mode, the Word Club app has the option for you to **bookmark** words you want to review. In game mode, you can **email** your game results to someone else after finishing a game; the email will show which words you got right and which ones you missed.)
7. Don't get upset with your study helper if you get a bunch of words wrong. Remember: the **helpers** are there to **help** you! (NOTE to study helpers: give your speller a break if they're tired, cranky, etc.—and **DON'T** just say, "No, that's wrong...!" This is supposed to be exciting, not a drudge!)
8. Ask your helpers to tell you the **correct** spellings of words **right away**, and to make notes on the errors you're making (underline misspelled vowels, double letters, etc.).
9. Practice sessions can be anywhere from 5 to 30 minutes long; please try to allow enough time during a session to go back over words you had trouble with in a **previous** session until you get them spelled correctly at least once.
10. Try different ways of learning the words: spelling out loud, writing them down (on paper, a cookie sheet covered with pudding, or the bathtub with shaving cream--!), using the Word Club app, making up songs (rap or other) about the words, typing them into a computer, moving while you spell...see which ways work better for you! You might even trade places with your study helper sometimes, and ask **them** the words!
11. Since the best way to learn words is to see them in action, see if you can read at least one of the sources of this year's study words: the books on the [2025-2026 Great Words, Great Works](#) list.