

SPELLING BEE RULES

1. Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in the dictionary. The pronouncer will give a definition and use the word in a sentence. With the approval of the judges, the pronouncer may give a fuller explanation of the meaning of the word to supplement the dictionary definition or definition quoted. Webster's New World Dictionary is the official dictionary for the Douglas County Bee.
2. After the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant may also pronounce the word before spelling it, and/or after spelling it, or not at all.
3. The contestant may request the pronouncer to re-pronounce the word, define it again or read the sentence again. The pronouncer shall grant the request until the judges agree that the word had been made reasonably clear to the contestant. Judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling.
4. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing **THERE CAN BE NO CHANGE OF LETTERS AND THEIR SEQUENCE FROM THOSE FIRST PRONOUNCED**. If letters and their sequence are changed in the respelling, the contestant is disqualified.
5. Upon missing, the contestant immediately drops out. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next contestant.
6. Once the field is narrowed down to those who will be advancing to the Douglas County Bee, words will be chosen from the current list of spelling words for up to two rounds. Following that time, words may be selected from an alternate spelling list which is similar in practice to the Douglas County Bee.
7. When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given the opportunity to spell the same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second contestant shall be declared champion.

If one of the last two speller misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him or her, then the misspelled new word shall be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the list, he or she shall be declared the champion.

8. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word. The contest continues under the rules listed above in 6.
9. Any questions relating to the spelling of a word shall be referred to the judges immediately. The deadline for making a protest is before the contestant would have received his next word had he stayed in the contest. No protest shall be entertained after the word has been given to another speller. When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately; that is, before the second speller has started to spell the word given him or her, or, if both have missed the same word, before the correct spelling is given to the audience.
10. The judges are in complete control of the bee. Their decision shall be final. In case there is a question as to whether a word has been spelled correctly, the operator of the tape recorder will play it over for the judges.