

SAMPSON BLADEN SPELLING BEE RULES

1. The Spelling Bee shall be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the Bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round.
2. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant will be encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it. However, no contestant will be eliminated for failing to pronounce a word.
3. The contestant may request the pronouncer to pronounce the word again, define it, or use it in a sentence.
4. If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer will indicate which word is to be spelled. If the listed word is not properly identified, either by defining it or by distinguishing the homonyms, any correct spelling of any homonym of the word will be accepted.
5. If none of the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spell a word correctly during the round, all shall remain in the competition.
6. 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 or their sequence from those first pronounced. If letters or their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
7. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next contestant.
8. If only one of the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, the contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list. If the contestant succeeds in correctly spelling the new word, the contestant shall be declared the champion. *Otherwise, all the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of the round shall remain in the competition. A new round will begin, with all of the contestants spelling in their original order.*
9. Webster's Intermediate Dictionary shall serve as the final authority for the spellings of words in the finals.
10. The judges are in complete control of the Bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions.