



Junior Beta Spelling Bee

The Beta Spelling Bee is a competition designed for one student from a club to compete in by completing an online multiple choice spelling test. The Top 8 individuals will advance to the oral rounds. The online test, as well as the oral rounds, will require the student to spell a broad selection of words, usually with a varying degree of difficulty. **A student may take only one Academic test to include Creative Writing, Poetry and Beta Spelling Bee.**

Written Test Guidelines - Online Competition Only

Time Limit: 30 Minutes

- 1 One member from a club will take an online multiple-choice test with a time limit of thirty minutes.
- 2 Completion time of the test will be recorded. In case of a tie, the student that finished first will be the winner.
- 3 The member that takes the written test should be the same member that participates in the oral rounds.
- 4 The top eight individuals will advance to the oral rounds. Oral rounds will ONLY be conducted at onsite conventions.
- 5 We hold all parties responsible for the integrity of the testing environment. No consultation is allowed during the testing time. Supervision by school personnel is strongly recommended during all testing sessions.

Oral Round Guidelines - Onsite Competition Only

- 1 A Code of Conduct must be signed by all participants and coach/parent prior to the start of the oral rounds.
- 2 The pronouncer announces the word to be spelled according to the diacritical markings in the

word lists.

- 3 The speller listens carefully to the pronouncer and may request for the word to be repeated, a definition or part of speech, used in a sentence, and/or alternate pronunciation(s) as listed in the competition word list. The pronouncer does not have to provide the root word.
- 4 If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer must indicate which word is to be spelled by defining the word.
- 5 When the speller is sure he/she understands the word, the person must pronounce it, spell it, and then say the word again. The speller must say it loudly enough for the judge to hear it.
- 6 The judge(s) determines whether or not the word was spelled correctly.
- 7 If the correct spelling was given, the speller remains in the Beta Spelling Bee. The speller will move to the next round of the competition.
- 8 If a student asks to start over when spelling, that is acceptable. Be sure to remind them that they can't change the letters they have already said or the order they said them in.
- 9 If the spelling was incorrect, the speller is eliminated. The pronouncer will give the correct spelling of that word. Then, the pronouncer reads a new word to the next speller.
- 10 If none of the spellers remaining in the Beta Spelling Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly, all remain in the competition and a new spelling round begins. The spellers spell in the original order.
- 11 When there are only two spellers left, if one speller misspells a word, the other must spell that word correctly, plus one more word to be declared the winner of the Beta Spelling Bee.

Rules and Additional Guidelines

Judges' role - The judges uphold the rules and determine whether or not words are spelled correctly.

Appeal Procedure - Only the person designated for the responsibility of the competitor or the competitor may appeal for the following reasons.

- 1 A correct spelling was given but was stated to be incorrect.
- 2 The speller correctly spelled an alternate spelling of the word.
- 3 Officials did not adhere to the Beta Spelling Bee end of Bee procedures.
 - For Appeals, the designated person or competitor would appeal following the determination that the word was spelled incorrectly.

Interaction with the speller: Because seeing the speller's lip movements may be critical in detecting misunderstandings or misspellings, the judges encourage spellers to face them when pronouncing and spelling the word.

Notice of rules: All spellers and coaches/sponsors should be aware of the rules and guidelines prior to the start of oral rounds of the Beta Spelling Bee.

Misunderstandings: The judges participate in the exchange of information between the speller and pronouncer if they feel that clarification is needed. Also, the judges listen carefully to the speller's pronunciation of the word; and, if they sense that the speller has misunderstood the word, the judges work with the speller and assist the speller in understanding the word. While the judges are responsible for attempting to detect a speller's misunderstanding, it is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until an error has been made. The judges are not responsible for the speller's misunderstanding.

Disqualifications for reasons other than error: The judges will disqualify a speller (1) who refuses a request to start spelling (2) who does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word (3) who, or whose family, engages in conduct that does not promote a fair and honest competition, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of competition results; (4) who, in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered; or (5) who, in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds.

Speller activities that do not merit disqualification: The judges may not disqualify a speller (1) for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it; (2) for asking a question; or (3) for noting or failing to note the capitalization of a word, the presence of a hyphen or other form of punctuation or spacing between words in an open compound.

Ties: All spellers eliminated in the same round are tied for the same place. After the champion has been determined, spelling officials may opt to conduct tiebreakers (of their own design) or use the written test results to determine placement.

How to Enter

- Visit www.betaclub.org/events/conventions and follow directions.
- Register students and then select competitions to enter.

National Eligibility

All Plaques Awarded at State Convention

Page last modified at: 09/20/2023

Copyright © 2022 National Beta Club.

