

2013 American Center Spelling Bee Rules

The American Center is pleased to announce its second annual Spelling Bee.

1. Eligibility:

A speller qualifying for the American Center's 2013 Spelling Bee ("the Bee") must meet these requirements:

- (1) The Speller must be a permanent resident of Vietnam.
- (2) The speller must not previously have been declared champion, First Runner-up, or Second Runner-up of the American Center's 2012 Spelling Bee.
- (3) The speller must not be currently employed by the U.S. government.
- (4) The speller must not be immediate relatives of the U.S. government's current employees.
- (5) The speller must not be under 8 years old or over 25 years old.

The American Center may disqualify prior to or during competition any speller who is not in compliance with any of the above Eligibility Requirements.

2. Structure

- **Preliminary Paper Test:** The preliminary paper test will be given on July 31, at 2 pm **sharp**. Latecomers will not be admitted. Participants will listen to the pronouncer say 40 words, which they must spell correctly to the best of their ability on the answer sheet provided. The 50 highest scores will move on to Round 1.
- **Round 1:** Round 1 will take place August 6th at 2 pm. Spellers will each have the opportunity to spell five words. Those who spell three out of five (3/5) words correctly will pass to the next round.
- **Round 2:** August 14th at 2 pm. Those who passed Round 1 will have the chance to spell five more words. Those who spell 3/5 correctly will move on to Round 3.
- **Round 3:** August 16th at 2 pm. Those who pass Round 2 will move to Round 3, the Championship round, where everyone will have the opportunity to spell one word; if a word is spelled incorrectly, the contestant is eliminated. This procedure will continue until there is one competitor left standing.

Pronouncer

"The pronouncer must respond one to two times to a speller's requests for a pronunciation, definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin, and alternate pronunciation(s)."

Judges

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

Speller

“Speller’s role: The speller makes an effort to face the judges and pronounce the word for the judges before spelling it and after spelling it. The speller while facing the judges makes an effort to utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges. The speller may ask the pronouncer to:

1. say the word again,
2. define it,
3. use it in a sentence,
4. provide the part of speech,
5. provide the language(s) of origin,
6. and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.”

“Misunderstandings: The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin; or (3) the speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms.”

(In quotations, from <http://www.spellingbee.com/contest-rules>)