



Geneva Academic Boosters Club (ABC)

2022 Team Spelling Bee Rules

These rules for the 2022 Community Team Spelling Bee, are adapted from the contest rules of the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee and Reaching Heights.

1. Words used in the Spelling Bee are selected from various prior year Scripps National Spelling Bee Pronouncer guides from 2010 – 2020. Merriam Webster Unabridged is used in creating these guides.
2. Pronunciation is based on diacritical markings from Scripps National Spelling Bee Pronouncer guides, from which the pronouncer shall select a definition or definitions. With judges' approval, pronouncer may more fully explain a word's meaning to supplement the dictionary definition or definitions quoted.
3. Each team will be given 30 seconds to spell each word. The time period starts after the team's last question for more information has ended. **Only 1 team member will go up to the microphone to give their spelling of the word.** Teams that correctly spell a beginning word(s) progress to intermediate and advanced words. Spellers are encouraged but not required to pronounce the word before and after spelling it.
4. Teams may ask the pronouncer to pronounce the word again, define it, provide the part of speech, or use it in a sentence. The team may ask for the language origin of a word. No other information about the etymology or history of a word will be given. **Each team may only ask each clarifying question ONCE.** If the team has a specific root word in mind, the team may ask if the dictionary lists that word as the root of the word to be spelled. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the team. **JUDGES MAY DISQUALIFY ANY TEAM WHICH IGNORES A REQUEST TO START SPELLING.**

5. Having started to spell a word, a team 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 is changed in the respelling, the speller is eliminated.
6. The Spelling Bee is conducted in rounds. Each team remaining in the Bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round.
7. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a team is eliminated from the contest (**but remains on stage until the end of the round**). **All eliminated teams exit the stage at the end of each round.** THE NEXT WORD ON THE PRONOUNCER'S LIST IS GIVEN TO THE NEXT CONTESTANT. If none of the teams spell a word correctly during a round, all shall remain in the competition.
8. The first time a team misses a word, they will be given an opportunity to stay in the game by answering a trivia question or by completing a challenge.
9. If only one team remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, that team shall be declared the champion. Otherwise, a new round will begin with remaining teams spelling in their original order.
10. The judges are the final authority on the spelling of words. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct if the word either matches the pronunciation and definition provided by the pronouncer, or if it is clearly identified as being a standard variant of the word that the contestant has been asked to spell. Spelling at other locations having archaic, obsolete, or regional labels (such as North, South, British) that are different from those at the main entry will not be accepted as correct.
11. 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.
12. The use of technology is strictly prohibited. Use of technology by teams will be cause for elimination from the game.
13. The judges are in complete control of the Bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions.