

Registration

- If I don't have a SpellPundit account, am I allowed to register kid for the online competition?
You need a SpellPundit account in order to register for the bee. Creating SpellPundit account is free.
- Do I need a separate account for each child?
Yes, you need a separate account for each child. Creating SpellPundit account is free.
- How do I get the 1000 word list?
You need to register at SpellPundit and create an account at SpellPundit. The creation of account is free. After you create an account, you should register for the Spelling Bee by paying \$35 registration fee. Then you will get access to the 1000 words list as well as SpellPundit software to prepare those 1000 words.

Written Test

- How do I check the date and time of my written test?
Please login to SpellPundit account. If you don't see, please click on 'Package Selection' on the top left hand corner, and then you will be able to see. If you still can't see, please email spellpundit@gmail.com
- How many written tests do I need to take?
Only one. There are three written tests, but you can only take one written test.
- Will the Zoom link be provided via email?
Yes, we will forward the Zoom link details closer to the written test date and time.
- How many spelling and vocab questions are there in the written test?
There will be 25 spelling and 25 vocab questions in the written test. Both spelling and vocabulary questions are in multiple choice format. Out of the 25 words, 15 words each spelling and vocabulary will come from the published list. The remaining 10 words each in spelling and vocabulary come from Online Merriam Webster Unabridged Dictionary.
- How much is the time for each question in the written test?
Time allotted for each question in the written test is 90 seconds. If the question is not answered within the time limit, the test will move to the next question and the unanswered question will be considered incorrect.

- How is cut-off score calculated?

The cut-off score will be the combined score of spelling and vocabulary tests. All questions carry equal weightage (1 point).

- How do you decide who qualifies for Semi Finals?

We will identify about 100 top spellers in each category (junior and senior) based on the written test score. The cut-off score will be determined by the combined spelling and vocabulary written test scores.

- When do I get result from the written test?

You will receive an email right after your test.

Oral Round Format

- How much is the time for each word in oral rounds?

Semi Final and Grand Finals will be oral rounds. Time allotted for each oral round word is 2 mins. The last 30 sec is for speller to give spelling, and no questions will be entertained. The time allocated is the same as many other bees.

- Will the spellers be able to see a timer or how much time they have left for oral rounds?

Speller won't be able to see the remaining time, but judges will give a warning at 30 sec.

- Will any of the oral round words come from the published word list?

The first oral round words in the semi-finals will be from the published list and the remaining rounds will be from outside the published list. The finals rounds will be from outside the published list.

Technical Issues

- How will situations be handled if there is a technical issue such as not able to access the written test, computer froze or lost internet connection during the written test?

If there is any interruption due to technical difficulties while taking the written test, please email spellpundit@gmail.com. We will accommodate you in the next slot for the written test. If you are in the last written test time slot, we will have a makeup written test to compensate.

- How will situations be handled if there is a technical issue during oral round (e.g. computer did not work, audio was not clear)?

If there is any interruption due to technical difficulties during oral round, the next word on the list will be given to the speller.

- Zoom and SpellPundit software working simultaneously during the written test?

Yes, Zoom and SpellPundit software working simultaneously during the written test. The speller need to login to the zoom meeting and minimize the zoom window or put it in the background. Then. Login to the SpellPundit website and start the test.

Zoom allows us to make sure that Speller is all alone in the room and no external help is sought or received. SpellPundit software makes sure that no additional information on the computer is used during the written test.

General Topics

- Will there be separate written test links for kids registered from the same family?

Yes, each speller has a separate written test link. When speller logs in to their SpellPundit account, they will see their written test link.

Ideally, we prefer spellers from the same family take different written tests. If that is not possible, we require spellers to be in separate rooms while taking the written test.

- During written test, are parents or others allowed in the room?

No. Parents can help set-up. When spellers are ready to take written test, we request no one else to be present in the room until the test finishes.

- During oral rounds, are parents and others allowed in the room?

No. Parents, siblings and others are not allowed in the room and are not allowed to communicate or help the speller in any way. If they do, unfortunately, the speller will be disqualified from the bee.

- Can we ask about roots during oral rounds?

Yes, spellers can ask confirmation of root(s).

Semi Finals

- When do I know, if I am qualified for the Semi Finals are or not?

We will announce Semi Final qualification results after the written tests.

- How many spellers qualify for Semi Finals?

Total about 100 spellers qualify for the Semi Finals in each category (junior and senior).

- How do spellers will be grouped into Semi Final groups?

Spellers will be grouped into four separate groups based on their score in the written test. The distribution will make sure that all four Semi Final groups are equally competitive.

- How many people from each Semi Final group qualify for the Grand Finals?

About 4 spellers from each Semi Final group will go the Grand Finals. Since there are four Semi Final groups, the total number of students in Grand Finals will be about 16.

- What if only one or two or three spellers remain in a given Semi Final round? Will there be a spell off for the remaining spellers to determine additional qualifying spellers?

Yes, if there are only one or two or three spellers remain after a round, we will have a tiebreak for the additional speller(s).

- Will the Semi Final rounds run in parallel? If sessions are in parallel, do they use the same list?

Two Semi Final sessions run in parallel in the afternoon and two Semi Final sessions run in parallel in the evening. They all use different word lists, but equal difficulty.

Grand Finals

- How many rounds will be in the Grand Finals?

It is difficult to predict. The bee will continue until there is a winner or joint winners.

- Is there a possibility for joint winners?

Yes. Once the remaining spellers in the bee is 3 or less, the bee will only continue for 10 rounds. After 10 perfect rounds with top 3 spellers, the three spellers will be declared joint winners. After 10 perfect rounds with top 2 spellers, the two spellers will be considered joint winners.

- If there are joint winners, how will the prize money be distributed?

If there are three joint winners, the sum of the top three prizes will be equally distributed ($\$1500 + \$700 + \$500 = \$2700 / 3 = \$900$ each). In this scenario, there are no additional prize money for second and third places. If there are two joint winners, the sum of top two prizes will be equally distributed ($\$2500 + \$1000 = \$2200 / 2 = \1100 each). In this scenario, the third prize winner will get \$500.