

Rules – Roosevelt Middle School Spelling Bee

1. Eligibility: Any student enrolled at Roosevelt Middle School is eligible for the Roosevelt Middle School Spelling Bees (grade level and school level). To proceed to any Cook County bee, the student must meet the requirements set out by Scripps for the 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

2. Format: The spelling bee is conducted in rounds. Each speller remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round orally spells one word in each round.

3. Wordlist: The Roosevelt Middle School Spelling Bee Committee is responsible for selecting the word lists for use at each local spelling bee. The Committee may use word lists generated by the Scripps National Spelling Bee. All words on the word lists are entries in Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster, which is the official dictionary of the Roosevelt Middle School spelling bees and the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

4. Special needs: Spelling bee officials will strive to provide accommodation for spellers who have physical challenges. All requests for spelling bee officials to accommodate special needs involving sight, hearing, speech, or movement should be directed to spelling bee officials well in advance of the spelling bee date. The judges have discretionary power to amend oral and/or written spelling requirements on a case-by-case basis for spellers with diagnosed medical conditions involving sight, hearing, speech, or movement.

5. Pronouncer's role: The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in Scripps National Spelling Bee word lists and Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster.

Homonyms: If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word.

Speller's requests: The pronouncer responds to the speller's requests for a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin, and alternate pronunciation(s). When presented with requests for alternate pronunciations, a judge checks for alternate pronunciations in either Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster or Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, eleventh edition.

The pronouncer does not entertain root word questions, requests for alternate definitions or requests for markedly slower pronunciation.

Pronouncer's sense of helpfulness: The pronouncer may, but is not required to offer word information—without the speller having requested the information—if the pronouncer senses that the information is helpful and the information is presented in the entry for the word in a 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bee word list or Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its addenda section, copyright 2002, Merriam-Webster.

6. Judge's role: The judges uphold the rules and determine whether or not words are spelled correctly. They also render final decisions on appeals in accordance with Rule 11. They are in complete control of the competition, and their decision is final on all questions.

Pronouncer errors: The judges compare the pronouncer's pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the judges feel that the pronouncer's pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the diacritical markings, the judges direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.

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: The judges ensure that all spellers and audience members are given an opportunity to receive a complete copy of the rules prior to the start of the 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 pronouncer until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to 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 a spelling error has been made. The judges are not responsible for the speller's misunderstanding.