

**Hooked on Books for Kids**  
**Corporate Spelling Bee Rules\***

**General Rules**

A team consists of three contestants sponsored by a participating business or company. The Corporate Spelling Bee consists of up to four rounds of regular competition, followed by a spell-off, as needed.

Correct spelling is based on *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition and other authoritative printed and on-lines resources as determined by the judges, whose decisions are final. Spell-off words may come from other unabridged dictionaries.

Before the start of the Bee, teams may purchase up to **two** SPELL AGAIN vouchers for \$25.00 each. The voucher(s) may be used at any time during the regular competition but not during the spell-off. Unused vouchers may be saved for the next year, but two is the maximum number that may be used in any bee.

The first round is practice only. Teams remain in competition whether they spell the word correctly or incorrectly in this round.

Teams may use paper and pencil while determining the spelling of a word.

If the homonym of a word on the practice list is used after the first round, the spelling on the practice list will be considered valid. We will attempt to avoid such homonyms during the competition.

**Regular Competition Rules**

A drawing determines the order of rotation for the teams. This order is used throughout the regular competition. Teams may use paper and pencil when conferring on spelling.

The Bee emcee pronounces a word, provides a definition, and pronounces the word again. The team then has 60 seconds to collaborate before spelling the word.

The team spokesperson spells the word aloud for the judges. If the spelling is correct, the team remains in contention for the next round.

After the first round, if a spelling is incorrect, the team may immediately surrender its SPELL AGAIN voucher and receive a second word to spell. If it spells the second word correctly, it remains in the competition. If it has no other voucher, it is eliminated from the spelling competition.

If the team misspells the second word and has a second SPELL AGAIN voucher to submit for a third word, it may try again. If the team spells the third word incorrectly, the team is eliminated from the Bee. Only two (2) SPELL AGAIN vouchers may be used in a bee.

If all the teams in a single round misspell their words, then all those teams remain in the competition for another round.

A round is considered complete when each team that remains in the competition has attempted to spell a word during that round.

If there are only two teams remaining at the completion of any round, the two teams move into the championship competition.

If there are two teams or more remaining at the end of three (3) rounds of regular competition, all remaining teams move into the championship competition.

If only one team remains at the completion of any round, that team is the champion.

## **Championship Competition Rules**

Each championship round consists of five words provided at the same time to all remaining teams. The emcee reads each word, provides a definition and a sentence using the word, and pronounces the word again. The clock starts when all five words have been announced.

Teams have three minutes to print the spelling of all five words on a piece of paper and to submit their entries to the judges.

The team spelling the most words correctly during a single round is the champion.

If there is no champion at the end of three rounds of championship competition, the remaining teams will move into a spell-off. Each team will be given one word with a definition and a sentence containing the word and will then have 30 seconds to collaborate before spelling the word aloud for the judges. The rules for elimination are the same as in the regular competition.

A tiebreaker for second place will be held by random drawing if necessary.

## **Awards**

Four awards will be given at the corporate spelling bee competition: spelling bee champion, spelling bee runner-up, spirit award for the team (including its supporters) that demonstrates the most team spirit, and costume award for the team with the most original or elaborate costumes. Votes by the audience determine the recipients of the spirit and costume awards.

\* These rules are adapted from those used by the Literacy Council of Wake County, North Carolina. Our thanks to the Literacy Council for permission to use and adapt these rules.

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