

— CORVALLIS-BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS —
SIP & SPELL
— A SPELLING BEE FOR ADULTS (AGES 18+) —



OFFICIAL RULES

Contestants must be 18 years or older.

Contestant order is in the order of registration. Sign-up begins 45 minutes before start of Spelling Bee, and will stop when Bee starts.

Words are drawn from The Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 11th Edition, which serves as the final authority for 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(s), or if it is clearly identified as being a standard variant of the word that the contestant has been asked to spell. Spellings from other locations having archaic, obsolete, or regional labels (such as North, Midland, Irish) that are different from those at the main entry will not be accepted as correct.

When the word is a homonym or homophone, only the correct spelling for the word defined and used in a sentence will be accepted.

No electronic devices may be brought to the stage.

Contest will be single-error elimination.

The Pronouncer will say the word, use it in a sentence and then pronounce it once more. Contestants may ask for the word's definition, language of origin.

The contestant may ask for only one additional pronunciation of the word.

The contestant is encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it.

Contestants will have 30-60 seconds to spell their word depending on the round. Time limits for spelling a word will change as the rounds progress and will be announced before the start of each round.

If the spelling is incorrect, the judges will sound the buzzer and contestant will leave the stage and have hand stamped "WITHDRAWN."

Having started to spell a word, the contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning; however the letters and/or sequence may not be changed in the respelling. If they are, the spelling will be judged as incorrect.

An oral appeal must be made before the next contestant is given a new word.

The judges' decision shall be final on all questions.

The competition shall be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the Spelling Bee at the start of a round will spell one word in the round. If none of the contestants remaining in the Spelling Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, all will remain in the competition with the contestants spelling in the original order. All contestants eliminated in the same round will be tied for the same place.

End-of-Bee Procedure: If all contestants in a round misspell, all remain in the competition and a new round begins with the contestants spelling in their original order. If only one contestant in a round spells correctly in a round, a new one-word round begins and the contestant is given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list (anticipated winning word). If the contestant succeeds in correctly spelling the anticipated winning word in this one-word round, the speller is declared the champion. If the contestant misspells the anticipated winning word in a one-word round, a new round begins with all the contestants who spelled correctly and incorrectly in the previous round: these contestants spell in their original order.

CHEATS

Limit of one type of each cheat per contestant. Cheats may not be used in the final round.

There are 3 options to cheat:

1. \$3.00: Ask a Friend. You may call on someone in the audience to spell the word for you. Your friend will stand where seated and spell the word. Your friend cannot use any reference materials including phone, books or computer.
2. \$5.00: Thirty Seconds with the Dictionary. You will be handed the dictionary and timed by the judge. You may spell your word during or immediately after the 30-second buzzer.
3. \$10.00: Mulligan Card. Purchase at registration to use to buy yourself back into the contest after misspelling your word. May be used one time only.

ABOUT SIP & SPELL

This contest is a fundraiser for The Friends of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, whose funds benefit all branches of the Library. There is a \$5 entrance fee for each participant in the Spelling Bee. Audience members or other contestants may sponsor entrants who may not be able to afford the fee by donating \$5 to the cause.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places.

By participating/attending, contestants grant organizers permission to use each contestant's voice, likeness and/or image in conjunction with this event and future events on television, radio, the internet and/or print.