



Contest Rules of the Tanzania Spelling Bee 2017

A speller qualifying for the Tanzania National Spelling Bee 2017 Competition must meet these requirements:

1. The speller must not previously have been declared champion of the bee.
2. The speller must attend a school that is officially registered in Tanzania.
3. The speller must not have reached the age of 15 on the day of the national bee
4. The speller must not have passed beyond the 6th grade in 2017.
5. The speller must not have repeated any grade for the purpose of extending spelling bee eligibility. If the speller has repeated any grade, the speller must notify the Bee of the circumstances of grade repetition before the commencement of the competition and the Bee will, in its sole discretion, determine the speller's eligibility status on or before July 14, 2017.
6. The speller — or the speller's parent, legal guardian or school official acting on the speller's behalf — must not have declared to another entity an academic classification higher than 6th grade and the specified age for any purpose in.
7. The speller must not have any first-, second relatives (i.e., sibling, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew) who are current employees of The Coconut Foundation.
8. The speller, upon qualifying for the Bee, must submit a completed Registration form, a signed Appearance Consent and Release Agreement, and a photo to the Bee. The speller will notify the Bee, at least 24 hours prior to the first day of competition, if any of the statements made are no longer true or require updating.

The Bee may disqualify prior to or during competition any speller who is not in compliance with any of the above Eligibility Requirements; and it may — at any time during the competition require any speller who is found to have not been in compliance with any of the Eligibility Requirements to forfeit any prizes, rank and other benefits accorded to the speller as a result of participation in the Tanzania National Spelling Bee.



Speller's Role

The speller makes an effort to face the judges and pronounce the word for the judges before spelling it and after spelling it. The speller while facing the judges makes an effort to utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, provide the language(s) of origin and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.

Misunderstandings: The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless:

- (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation;
- (2) the pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin; or
- (3) the speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms.

Rule of Time

Constraints:

During the Preliminaries Test and Tiebreaker Test, the speller may make or change responses on the test form during the time that the test is being administered by the pronouncer, and for 10 minutes afterward.

During oral spelling rounds in the Preliminaries and Finals, the speller's time at the microphone has a limit of 2 minutes. Time begins when the pronouncer first pronounces the word. For the first 1 minute and 15 seconds, the speller will have the benefit of viewing a monitor displaying a green traffic light.



After 1 minute and 15 seconds, the monitor will show a yellow traffic light and the time clock as it counts down to the 30-second mark. At the 30-second mark, the monitor will show a red traffic light and a countdown of the remaining 30 seconds. The judges and pronouncer will not communicate with the speller during the final 30 seconds. The judges will disqualify any speller who does not provide a complete spelling before the expiration of time (0 seconds).

If the judges and pronouncer need to discuss a competition-related matter while a speller is contemplating a word, they may pause the time clock, and they will inform the speller when they pause and resume the time clock.

Schedule modifications: Bee officials may, in their sole discretion, announce schedule and/or location changes in response to unexpected circumstances.

Pronouncer's Role

The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in Oxford Dictionary.

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: In oral competition the pronouncer responds only to the speller's requests for repetition of the word's pronunciation, a definition, a sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin and alternate pronunciation(s). When presented with requests for alternate pronunciations, the pronouncer or associate pronouncer checks for alternate pronunciations in Oxford Dictionary. If the speller wishes to ask if the dictionary lists a specific root word as the root of the word to be spelled, the speller must specify a pronunciation of the root (not a spelling), its language and its definition. The pronouncer



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will grant all such requests as long as they are in accordance with time constraints outlined in

Pronouncer's sense of helpfulness: The pronouncer may offer word information — without the speller having requested the information — if the pronouncer senses that the information is helpful and the information appears in the 2017 Tanzania Spelling Bee word list or Oxford Dictionary

Special Needs

The Bee strives to provide accommodation for spellers who have diagnosed medical conditions. All requests for accommodation of special needs should be directed in writing to the Executive Director of the Bee **Coconut Foundation** before July 14th 2017. The judges have discretionary power to amend spelling requirements on a case-by-case basis for spellers with diagnosed medical conditions

Judges' Role

The judges listen carefully, determine whether or not words are spelled correctly, and uphold the rules. The decisions of the judges are final.

Misunderstandings: The judges will not respond to the speller's question(s) about the word and its pronunciation but, if the judges sense that the speller has -misunderstood the word, the judges will direct the speller and pronouncer to interact until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word within the time constraints outlined in pronouncer rule .

It is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until a spelling error has been made, and the judges are not responsible for the speller's misunderstanding.



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 will direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.

Disqualifications for reasons other than clear misspelling:

The judges will disqualify a speller

1. Who does not approach the microphone when it is the speller's time to receive the word unless there are extenuating circumstances that, in the judges' sole discretion, merit holding the speller's word in reserve and offering it to the speller after all other spellers in the round have spelled and before the close of the round;
2. Who engages in unsportsmanlike conduct;
3. Who, in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered; or
4. Who, in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds.

Speller activities that do not merit disqualification:

The judges may not disqualify a speller

1. For failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it;
2. For asking a question; or
3. For noting or failing to note the capitalization of a word, the presence of a diacritical mark, or the presence of a hyphen or other form of punctuation.



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TANZANIA NATIONAL SPELLING BEE 2017 COMPETITION SCHEDULE

1: Preliminaries Format

The Preliminaries takes place on 14th August - 19th August, 2017 and is the first of two distinct segments of the competition, Preliminaries and Finals.

The Preliminaries consists of a test with written spelling items and multiple choice vocabulary items (Preliminaries Test) administered by the particular school using the list of Tanzania Spelling bee words

2: Finals Format

The national and final competition will take place in October 2017 where the national winner will be found and prized. However the top ten pupils will be the national representative in the East African Spelling Bee Challenge in Kenya that is planned to be held in December 2017.

