

2010 BUTTE COUNTY JUNIOR HIGH SPELLING BEE RULES

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- This is a written competition.
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- Paper and pencil are available for the spellers to write the word. No personal materials will be allowed in the competition area.
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- A study word list is provided, however, the words used in the competition are chosen randomly prior to the competition from many sources deemed appropriate by the Spell Master and Judges. During the competition, words used in each successive round will increase in difficulty.
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- The Spell Master will read the word, may use it in a sentence, and may read the word again. This will be followed by a pause to make sure the word is clearly understood. The Spelling Bee Coordinator will then say BEGIN and students may write the pronounced word.
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- During the pause, a student may raise his hand and request that a word be re-pronounced, defined, or used in a sentence before the start signal is given. The Spell Master shall grant the request until he/she feels that the word has been made reasonable clear to the students.
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- Students may begin spelling the word at any time, and may write the word as many times as needed before a 15-second STOP signal is given. However, all words except the one to be corrected must be crossed out at the time the STOP signal is given.
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- Proctors may disqualify any speller who ignores the request to start or stop the spelling of any word within the announced time period.
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- If, no definition of a homonym is given, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he or she must spell the word defined.
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- All capitals, spaces, apostrophes or other accent marks included in the normal English spelling of the word must be included.
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- During the competition, proctors will check each word and note whether the word is spelled correctly or not. Words will be marked with a "C" if they are correct and an "X" if they are incorrect. The student may not tell the Proctor any questionable letters. Words should be printed clearly!
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- When a student fails to spell two words correctly, he/she must drop out of the contest. It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to signal any discrepancies to the Spell Master immediately, before the next word is given. In such cases, the Spell Master, in consultation with the Proctor and Student, will make the final ruling. No protest will be entertained after the contest has ended.
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- When only two spellers remain, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, as soon as one speller misspells a word, the other speller will be given the opportunity to spell the same word.
- If the second speller spells the word correctly PLUS the next word on the Spell Master's list, the second speller will be declared the champion.
 - If one of the last two spellers misses a word and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted, then both spellers will continue in the contest with a new word.
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- In the event of a protest or dispute, decisions will be based on the Webster's Third New International Dictionary, the official contest dictionary. No other source will be allowed.
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- Once the competition begins, spellers must remain in the competition area until excused by the Judges or Spell Master. Breaks will be called during the competition.