

2010 Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee Rules

1. Each team must have three members. If a team member is late, the team may start the bee with only two members, but all three members must be present after the dinner break.
2. Teams will spell in alphabetical order by company or organization name. The first round of competition (5:00) will be a practice round. For all subsequent rounds (5:30 pm on) if a team doesn't spell their word, or spells the word incorrectly, then they will be eliminated.
3. Each team must select one member to spell the word aloud throughout the competition. Teams may appeal to the judges to change their designated speller once during the bee.
4. Once a word is given, each team will have 60 seconds to discuss and spell the word. A warning will be given when 20 seconds remain.
5. A speller may stop spelling a word and start over once, but must retrace the spelling from the beginning. The speller will be considered finished when the last letter in a word is given.
6. After the pronouncer gives a team a word, the speller is encouraged to pronounce the word before and after spelling it. **However, no team will be eliminated if the speller does not pronounce the word.**
7. If a word has one or more homonyms (such as 'there', 'their'), the pronouncer will indicate which one to spell by giving a definition. If the homonym is not correctly explained, any correct spelling of the homonym will be accepted.
8. The speller can ask for a word to be repronounced, defined or used in a sentence until the judges agree that the word has been made clear.

9. Words will be pronounced according to ITP Nelson's Canadian Dictionary of the English Language.
10. Spelling Bee eliminations will be on a miss-and-out basis. The competition shall be conducted in rounds. Each team remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round, except as provided by Rule 12
11. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a team immediately drops out of competition, except as provided in Rule 12. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next team.
12. ***NEW*** All teams will receive a one-time-only token when registering (Pass-the starBuck token). This token may be used at the teams' discretion during the evening to pass or skip one word, one time only – during the rounds – excluding the finals. The token may be used immediately upon hearing the assigned word. Teams must attempt to spell the next word on the word list – to be given by the pronouncer. If teams have not used this token by final rounds (2 teams left) it is no longer valid.
13. If only one of the teams remaining in the competition at the end of a round spells a word correctly during that round, that team shall be declared the winner. Otherwise (that is, if no team succeeds in correctly spelling a new word in the round), all teams in the competition at the end of the previous round shall remain in competition. A new round will then begin with these teams spelling in the original order.
14. Judges are in control of the bee. Their decisions are final. Any questions must be referred to the judges immediately. The deadline for filing a grievance is before the team affected would have received their next word if they had remained in the competition.