

KMUW's *You're Spelling It Wrong* Spelling Bee - The Rules

- Contestants will be announced prior to the event. Any remaining spots will be filled by a random drawing at the venue.
- No electronic devices may be brought to the stage.
- Contest is single-error elimination. **Sort of.**
- All spellers competing in the competition are given a number to determine their spelling order. Spellers are seated in numerical order just off the stage.
- Starting with speller number one, each speller is called in turn to the front of the group and the pronouncer reads the word they are to spell.
- **At this point, the contestant or an audience member can pay \$50 for a different word.** (This is a fundraiser after all!) This can be repeated as many times as the contestant is willing to pay. There is no guarantee that the next word will be easier than the first!
- Once the contestant accepts the word, the bee master will read the word again and the timer will put 2 minutes on the clock.
- The speller is given the opportunity to ask for the word to be repeated, part of speech, the definition of the word, derivation, and for the word to be used in a sentence.
- The speller then spells the word. Once the speller has started to spell the word, he or she may stop and start over from the beginning, HOWEVER, there can be no changes of the letters already spelled or the order in which they were first spelled. **(Unless you use a mulligan, available for \$50.)**
- If contestants are in the middle of spelling at the end of 2 minutes, they will be allowed to finish at judge's discretion.
- Failure to start spelling at the end of 2 minutes will lead to elimination.
- A judge will indicate the correct or incorrect spelling of a word. A correct speller returns to their seat, an incorrect speller will join the audience and the rest of the bee.
- Or... **if a contestant doesn't know how to spell a word, an audience member can spell the word for them for \$75.**
- **One more donation opportunity: if a speller is eliminated, they or an audience member can pay \$100 for a lifeline for the speller to return to the game, immediately spelling a new word in the same round.**
- The next speller is then called to the stage and given their word to spell. Once all spellers have had a chance, the round is over and the next round begins with the remaining spellers. This is done until two spellers remain.
- The two final spellers are given words until one spells a word incorrectly. The other speller is then given a chance to spell the word that the other speller spelled incorrectly. If they spell it right they are given one more word. If they spell the second word correctly, they are declared the winner. If they spell the second word wrong then both spellers are still in the competition and the process continues.
- The last person standing is the winner.
- If no winner has been determined after 90 minutes, all remaining spellers will enter a final "spell-off," wherein each contestant will spell as many words as possible in two minutes, with the winner of the bee being the contestant who spells the most correctly in the allotted time.



We might add more quirks to the rules between now and the spelling bee. Official rules will be available at the bee.