

**Midwestern Ontario District of Optimist International**  
**Grade 5 Spelling Bee Rules**  
**2019**

1. The word reader will go over the rules with the contestants before the competition begins.
2. During the contest all participants will receive the words at the same time.
3. The contestants will **PRINT** the words, in **ink**, on the papers provided. Pens will also be provided.
4. Each round will consist of 10 words. There will be 5 written rounds.
5. The word reader will first say the word, use it in a sentence, then repeat the word.
6. If the contestant makes an error in writing the word, he/she will put a single horizontal stroke through the word, then re-print the word beside it.
7. The contestant may not use an eraser or whiteout to correct an error. The contestant may not go back and correct a previously read word, once the next word has been read.
8. Three judges will score the papers. The Canadian Oxford dictionary will be used as reference for authority.
9. The fewest number of errors will determine the highest score. One or more spelling mistakes in a word will count as a single error. Capital letters and punctuation must be use appropriately.
10. After 5 rounds of written words (50 words) have been read, the top six scores will advance to the oral competition.
11. If a tie has occurred and there are more than six people sharing the fewest number of errors, owners of the top six scores will advance to the oral competition.
12. In the oral round, finalists will stand at the front of the room facing the judges. The word reader will continue as in the written round. (Say the word, use it in a sentence, then repeat the word)
13. The finalists, one at a time in alphabetical order, will get a chance to spell the word the reader uses. The contestant will say the word, spell the word, then repeat the word. If a contestant wishes to make a change in the spelling of a word, he/she must do so before saying the word for the second time, which indicates that they are finished. They must tell the reader and judges that they are re-spelling the word, and complete the process by saying the word a second time.
14. If the contestant spells the word correctly, the reader will go on to the next contestant with a new word.
15. If a contestant spells a word incorrectly they will be eliminated, and the same word will then be offered to the next contestant. If all the remaining contestants spell the same word incorrectly, all those who spelled that particular word incorrectly in the round, will be allowed to continue to a new word.
16. The judges will listen for mistakes and indicate to the reader whether or not the word was spelled correctly.
17. The oral competition will determine the order of finish among the finalists. This will be done by process of elimination. Certificates will be presented to all participants, and awards will be given to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers, at the end of the oral competition.
18. All words used in the contest will be taken from the Optimist Spelling Bee list, available at:  
[Word List](#)  
Derivatives of the words on the list can also be used.
19. All contest papers will be returned to the contestants once the scoring has been completed.
20. Tournament organizers may choose not to include an oral segment in the zone and/or district competitions.