

**Optimist Club of Rolla  
Spelling Bee  
Official Contest Rules**

1. The Spelling Bee is an oral competition with elimination on a “miss and out” basis in the traditional spelling bee manner.
2. The word list will be compiled by Optimists from a variety of resources including previous lists from past national Spelling Bees, school spelling books, and commonly misspelled words and so on. There is no study list and the words will not be published in advance.
3. Contestant order will be determined by drawing. Contestants will line up and compete in that order. Contestants who misspell a word will be seated for the remainder of the contest.
4. In competition, the pronouncer will give the word to the contestant then use it in a sentence. The contestant may pronounce the word before spelling, after spelling, or not at all.
5. The contestant may request that the word be re-pronounced and/or used in a sentence. The pronouncer will grant the request until the judge agrees the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller. The judge may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to begin spelling. No definition or root of the word will be given.
6. Upon missing a word, the contestant drops out and the next word on the list is given to the next contestant in line.
7. Having started spelling, the contestant is given NO opportunity to change letters once they have been spoken. The contestant may start over, but the letters and their sequence may not be changed.
8. It is the responsibility of the contestant to say the letters clearly and loud enough to be heard by the judges.
9. When the number of contestants is reduced to two, the following procedure will be observed:

If one contestant makes a mistake, the other must correctly spell the previously missed word AND the next word on the list. If either word is misspelled, the contest continues until one contestant spells the two words correctly.
10. The top two finalists in each grade will be place finishers and will be awarded prizes.
11. The judges and pronouncer will have complete control of the Spelling Bee and shall have the final decision in all matters. A commonly recognized dictionary may be used as the authority for the spelling of the words.