

**The 2020 BUZZ at OLLI
Words, Words and more Words!
A Spelling Bee for Adults**

**April 30 Kellogg Eye Center
1000 Wall Street Ann Arbor, MI
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

2020 RULES

Rule 1: Format

Spellers may compete as individuals, a two-person team or a three-person team. When competing as a team, one person is designated as the team spokesperson. After hearing the word, the team confers among its members. Only the team spokesperson, however, will spell the word during the competition. This person is identified to the judge prior to competition beginning. *

The 2020 BUZZ at OLLI is conducted in single-elimination rounds.

*For the purposes of this spelling bee, the term speller refers to an individual speller or the spokesperson for a two or three person team

Rule 2: Word List

The words used in the 2020 BUZZ at OLLI Spelling Bee are a selection from the 2020 Scripps National Spelling Bee Word Lists.

Rule 3: The Competition and Time:

In competition, after the pronouncer gives a word to the speller, he or she will be encouraged to pronounce the word before and after spelling it.

The speller will have 60 seconds to spell a word. The timer announces **begin and informs** the speller **when 15 seconds remain**. The timer will signal when time is up, and the speller must submit an answer immediately. The 60 seconds begins at the end of the pronouncer's instructions to the speller.

The pronouncer will respond no more than two times to a speller's request for pronunciation and definition.

The speller should be facing the judge when spelling the word to reduce misunderstandings or misspellings.

Spellers, be careful. . .speak slowly and distinctly. The speller may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning. In the retracing, however, there can be no change of letters or their sequence.

Spellers may not use any electronic devices or paper and pencil.

Upon misspelling a word, the speller (and, where applicable, his or her) team is immediately eliminated from the competition. The next word on the pronouncer's list is given to the next speller.

Rule 4: The Judge's Role:

The judge ensures a speller is identified for each team, listens carefully, determines whether or not words are spelled correctly and upholds the rules. The decisions of the judge are final.

The judge will disqualify a speller who:

- **refuses a request to start spelling
- **engages in unsportsmanlike conduct
- **in the process of retracing a spelling, alters the letters from those first uttered
- **in the process of spelling, utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds.

Rule 5: The Championship Round

**The championship round will include two spellers.

**If both spellers in a championship round misspell the word, both remain in the competition; and a new round begins.

**If one of the two spellers responds correctly to the word, a new one-word round begins; and that speller is given the next word on the list (anticipated championship word). If the speller succeeds in spelling the word correctly, that speller is declared the champion.