

**The Buzz at OLLI
Spelling Bee
2019 RULES**

Rule 1: Format

The Spelling Bee is conducted in single-elimination rounds. Each team spells one word in each round. Each team is comprised of three people, with one person designated as the team spokesperson.

Rule 2: Word List

The words used in the Buzz at OLLI Spelling Bee are a selection from the Scripps National Spelling Bee Word Lists (Webster's Third New International Dictionary) and AARP Spelling Bee Word List.

Rule 3: The Competition and Time

Before competition begins, each team must select a team spokesperson.

In competition, after the pronouncer gives the team a word, the team spokesperson will be encouraged to pronounce the word before and after spelling it.

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

If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word.

The pronouncer must respond one to two times to a speller's request for pronunciation and definition.

The team spokesperson should face the judge when spelling the word to reduce misunderstandings or misspellings.

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

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

Upon misspelling of a word, the team is immediately eliminated from the competition. The next word of the pronouncer's list is given to the next team

Please turn over for more rules.

Rule 4: The Judge's Role

The judge listens carefully, ensures a spokesperson is identified for each team, 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 Final Round

**If all teams in a round misspell, all teams remain in the competition and a new round begins.

**If only one team in a round spells correctly, a new one-word round begins and the team is given the next word on the list (anticipated championship word). If the team succeeds in spelling the word correctly, the team is declared the champion.

**If a team misspells the anticipated championship word, a new round begins with all teams from the previous round.