Spelling Better for Teachers

Spelling Bee Judging Sheet

Judges and organizers of classroom and school spelling bees

Judging notes

These notes describe practices that many school bees use. Your organizer decides the rules for your event, so check them before the bee begins.

- Letter order: a word is correct only if every letter is said in the correct order.
- Write as you listen: note each letter in the 'Spelling heard' column while the speller is talking.
- Restarts: in many bees a speller may stop and start again from the beginning, but cannot change letters already said or their order. Agree on this rule before the bee.
- Unclear letters: if a letter was hard to hear, the judges talk together before ruling. Some organizers allow judges to ask the speller to repeat; decide this in advance.
- The final word: a speller usually says the word again at the end. Decide in advance whether this is required.
- Consistency: apply every rule the same way for every speller.
- Challenges: if a speller or teacher questions a ruling, listen politely, check the word in the agreed dictionary, and write the outcome in the last column.

Judge's record

Word	Speller	Spelling heard	Correct? (✓/✗)	Ruling notes	Challenge notes

Word	Speller	Spelling heard	Correct? (✓/✗)	Ruling notes	Challenge notes

Judge's name _____

Event and round _____

Agreed rules for this bee

- [ ] Restarting from the beginning is allowed.
- [ ] Spellers must say the word before spelling it.
- [ ] Spellers must say the word after spelling it.
- [ ] Time limit per word: _____ seconds.
- [ ] Dictionary used for checking: _____.
- [ ] Challenges are heard: during the bee / after the round (circle one).

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