



# The Premier's Spelling Bee Competition Procedures

The following procedures are used at the regional and state finals of the Premier's Spelling Bee. It is recommended that they be used in school level competitions as well, however this is not essential.

## Finals Procedures:

- There is a demonstration round which uses simple words to help familiarise contestants with the competition format. The first five students in each session will get a practice word to demonstrate the competition format and procedures. **Note: this is not an elimination round.**
- This is followed by elimination rounds of increasing difficulty.
- The Announcer reads out each word, followed by a sentence including the word, and then repeats the word again.
- Each contestant must repeat the word to the satisfaction of the Announcer before they spell, and say the word again to indicate they have finished spelling.
- Students have 45 seconds to spell the word. A warning bell is rung at 30 seconds and two bells at 45 seconds to indicate that the contestant's time has expired. At the second bell, any incomplete spelling is taken as the contestant's final answer.
- Contestants may ask the announcer to repeat the word within their 45 second time limit.
- Students may also self-correct within their time limit if they have not yet clearly finished by stating the word for the second time. To do this they need to indicate that they are starting again, and follow the same procedure; say the word, then spell it from the start, then say it again.
- Students will **NOT** be judged incorrectly for failing to indicate that the first letter of a proper noun is capitalised (eg Wednesday).
- When a student has finished spelling a word, the Announcer states 'That is correct' or 'That is incorrect. The correct spelling is...'
- Students who misspell a word remain until the end of that round, when the Announcer will ask those who have been eliminated to join the audience.
- Once the final contestant still in the competition has spelled a word from a particular round, the Announcer progresses to the next round, even if there are unused words left over. This ensures all students are given a word of an equivalent level.
- Once all the rounds have been used, Announcers proceed to the Final Round (unseen words), and students still in the competition spell these words in turn, until a winner is found.

## Determining a winner:

- To win the competition a contestant must spell more words correctly than all the other contestants.
- A contestant is only eliminated if at least one other contestant in the same round spells their word correctly. If all contestants in a particular round misspell their words no one is eliminated and the competition continues.
- The clearest way of ensuring this happens, without any confusion, is to have all student spellers seated on chairs. They stand up to spell at the microphone and then return. At the end of each round you should ask the students who are eliminated to leave these seats. Then one sees very clearly the number of students still spelling.
- If **all but one** of the students misspells the word, then the student who spelt their word correctly is the winner. In this instance there will need to be a play off for runner-up between the remaining contestants, using the words from the existing round.
- At Regional Finals there is one winner from each of the day's sessions. These winners compete in the State Final in Sydney in November.