

General competition guidelines



1. The competition is for students in grades 9th-12th Spanish Level I-IV. Heritage speakers or students who have studied abroad for more than 6 months are not eligible to participate.
2. Words selected for the General Spelling Competition are found in the word lists by level of study (I-IV). All the words used for the General Spelling Competition and the Lead Letter Spelling Competition are found in sources such as the Real Academia dictionary, Diccionario abreviado del español actual, the Pequeño Larousse Ilustrado dictionary, or a Spanish dictionary of the same quality.
3. Each speller will receive a pad and pen which they will use during the competition. The competition will begin with a practice round. No one will be eliminated during this round, even if they misspell a word.
4. The word written by the participants should be correct and complete. Special marks must be included (i.e., accents, diéresis {ü}, capital letters, etc). Such marks should be included while writing the word.
5. A participant may be disqualified for writing a word, part of a word, or special marks either before the judges say "ADELANTE" or after the judges say "ALTO".

CONTEST MECHANICS:

There will be 2 judges per room and 1 accountant.

Each judge will read the word once.

Contestants will listen to the word twice, each time uttered by one of the judges.

A contestant may ask the judges to define a word from a Spanish dictionary, by saying "DEFINICION".

The Accountant will say the word: "ADELANTE".

Contestants, using the pens and pads provided, will write the word on their pads.

Contestants will have 30 seconds to write the word down.

After 30 seconds, contestants will hear: "ALTO".

Contestants will put their pens down on the table and show their word to the judges.

Any contestant misspelling a word will be eliminated.

Contestants eliminated will remain in their seats until the end of the rounds.

Eliminated contestants are eligible to compete in the Lead Letter Spelling Competition.

Rounds continue until there are three remaining contestants, who will proceed to the finals.

Any question or objection concerning the spelling of a word should be immediately brought to the attention of the judges.

The judges will render a decision, with a member of the Spanish Spelling Bee as a tie-breaker if necessary.

No objections may be raised after the next round begins.