

Rules for the MWO District Optimist Spelling Bee - April 24th, 2010

1. The contestants will PRINT the words in pencil on the contest papers supplied. Pencils will be provided.
2. The contest will consist of 3 stages. **Stage 1** will be a warm-up round of ten words. These will not be marked.
3. **Stage 2** will consist of three rounds. Two rounds of twenty words, and one of 10.
4. The Bee Master will say the word first, use it in a sentence, and then repeat the word again.
5. If the contestant makes an error in the word, he/she will put a single horizontal stroke through the word and then print the word beside it.
6. The papers will be scored at the end of each round in **Stage 2**. The Oxford dictionary will be used as reference of authority.
7. The fewest number of errors will determine the score. One or more spelling mistakes in one word count as one error.
8. Capitalization of words will **not** be considered. Any capitalized words will be accepted with or without capitals.
9. The letters must be correctly formed ("i" dotted, "t" crossed).
10. To enter **Stage 3**, the contestants will be grouped by number of words correct into three groups. Each contestant will have a card with three boxes on it. The top group will not have any boxes filled in. The middle group will have one box marked. The third group will have two boxes marked. All contestants will advance to this stage.
11. Each Stage 3 round will consist of 5 words. Each incorrect word will cause one box to be marked. When all three boxes are marked, the contestant is eliminated.
12. The contest will continue until a clear first, second and third place is established.
13. Due to the ever increasing intelligence of the contestants, words from an alternate word list of extra difficulty (not available to the contestants) will be incorporated into later rounds.
14. The top three contestants will receive monetary rewards of \$150/\$100/\$50. To entice students who might exit the contest prematurely, at the end of the contest, there will be four random draws for a cash prize of \$25 each, but the student must be there to collect.