

Franklin Global SpellEvent

Contest Rules 2009

1. Overview

Franklin in cooperation with TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) is organizing the first global spelling competition for students who are learners of English. Up to seven countries will participate in the 2009 Franklin Global SpellEvent, which consists of two stages. First, a local event will be held in each participating country, resulting in the selection of 1st and 2nd place winners. Second, both of these winners will travel to the U.S. for the final event in New York City in August 2009, where they will compete against the winners from other countries. The champion at the final event will receive a scholarship valued at US \$10,000.

2. Eligibility

- a) Local TESOL affiliates will invite schools in each country to identify Participants for the local event. A Participant in a local event must be a student in good standing at one of these schools.
- b) A Participant must not have reached his or her 15th birthday as of December 31, 2008 (i.e., the Participant must not have been born before January 1, 1994).
- c) A Participant must not be a native speaker of English.
- d) A Participant must not have any parent or legal guardian who is a native speaker of English.
- e) A Participant must not be a citizen or dual-citizen of any English-speaking country.
- f) A Participant must not have attended school in any English-speaking country for more than one academic semester.
- g) A Participant must not attend an English-medium instruction school, or have attended such a school for more than one academic semester.
- h) A Participant must not have more than one class (outside of the language class) be in English, or more than 20% of instruction in English.
- i) A Participant must not be a 1st or 2nd place winner of a previous local event (not applicable in 2009).

Before the local event, the Participant must submit a participation form (supplied by Franklin) signed by a parent or legal guardian and an official

of the Participant's school that affirms the Participant is eligible to participate.

To participate in the final event in the U.S., a Participant:

- a) must be a 1st or 2nd place finisher at a local event, or in the event one or both of these cannot attend, a 3rd or 4th place finisher;
- b) must have submitted to Franklin a properly executed consent and release form not later than 30 days before the final event; and
- c) must obtain the necessary documents for travel to the U.S., such as valid passport and visa (if required).

3. Source of Words

Spelling words for the local event will come from *Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary*. For the final event, words will come from this source and may also be supplemented by words from *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition* (Franklin models SCD-1870, SCD-1890, and SCD-787). Franklin will provide official word lists to the Pronouncer and Judges at the start of each event.

4. Organization of Rounds

Up to 48 Participants may participate in a local event.

In the first round, each Participant will have a chance to spell a word that is read to him or her by the Pronouncer. If the Participant spells the word incorrectly, he or she will be eliminated from further rounds in the event. Each participant that correctly spells a word will return to his/her seat and wait for the next round. Each round is completed when all participants has had a word to spell.

In the second and following rounds, each remaining Participant will have a chance to spell a word correctly. These rounds will continue until we have top 8 finishers remaining. The final 8 will then move into the Championship rounds.

When two participants are remaining, if the first participant spells his/her word incorrectly the second participant must spell their word correctly in order to be declared the Champion of the local event. If the word is not spelled correctly, then both participants are returned to the round and the round is continued until one participant remains.

Each Participant who participates in championship rounds will receive a ranking from 1st to 8th place finisher in the local event.

5. Host

The Host will serve as an Emcee for the local event. The Host is responsible for helping to welcoming Participants and guests, announcing the beginning and end of each round, and assisting with the overall management of the event. The Host must be fluent in English, and explain the format of the event first in the native language of the country, and then in English. (Except for the introduction provided by the Host, the event will be conducted in English.) The Host will also introduce each Participant and the school he or she attends.

The Host will work with the Event Manager, Pronouncer, and Judges in managing the overall event. At the conclusion of the event, the Host will announce the 1st through 8th place winners, and present them with their awards.

6. Pronouncer

The Pronouncer is responsible for reading spelling words aloud clearly and properly. In addition, the Pronouncer serves as a Judge.

At the beginning of each Participant's turn, the Pronouncer will say the spelling word out loud. The Participant should repeat the word back to the Pronouncer. If the Pronouncer feels the Participant has not understood the word, he or she may repeat the word, or ask the Participant to repeat it until the Pronouncer feels satisfied that the Participant has understood the word.

At this point the Pronouncer will start the 2-minute clock; the Participant must give an answer within this time limit. The Participant may ask the Pronouncer to provide the following information for the word: 1) alternate pronunciation, if any, 2) the first dictionary definition, and 3) an example sentence. This information will be part of the word lists provided by Franklin.

If the Participant is near the end of the 2-minute period, the Pronouncer should remind the Participant of the time and instruct him or her to spell the word.

Once the word has been spelled, the Pronouncer will confer with the other Judges and inform the Participant whether the spelling was correct or incorrect. If the spelling was incorrect, the Pronouncer will provide the correct spelling.

7. Judges

The Pronouncer and two other persons will serve as Judges. Together the Judges are responsible for deciding if the answers given by the Participants are correct or incorrect, for keeping track of which Participants have been eliminated in each round, and for determining the ranking of the winners. The Judges have the authority to resolve any disputes and ambiguities that may arise during the event. Their decisions are final.

If another Judge feels that the Pronouncer has given an incorrect pronunciation of a word, the Judges will confer to reach a decision. The 2-minute clock will not start until the Judges have agreed and the Pronouncer has clarified the pronunciation for the Participant.

The main criteria for the Judges will be whether or not the Participant has correctly spelled the word within the 2-minute time limit. For example, though it is customary for a Participant to pronounce the word before and after spelling it, failure to do so would not be grounds for elimination. So if the spelling word was “contest” and the Participant said, “contest, c-o-n-t-e-s-t”, that would be judged correct, even though he or she did not repeat the word after giving the spelling.

The Judges will not allow Participants to have any writing implements or materials during the event.

If the Judges do not feel they heard the spelling correctly, they may ask the Participant to repeat it. The 2-minute time clock no longer applies during such a request.

The Judges will eliminate a Participant who starts spelling a word, then starts over and changes the original spelling given. However, the Participant may retrace his or her spelling by starting over without changing the original spelling given. The following are examples of what is and is not allowed, using “contest” as the spelling word.

Not allowed: “c-o-m...(pause)...c-o-n-t-e-s-t”

Allowed (retracing): “c-o-n...(pause)...c-o-n-t-e-s-t”

8. Awards

For each Local Event:

- 1st Place: trophy, Franklin Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary product, and all-expenses paid trip to New York City for 3 nights in August 2009 for Participant and a parent or legal guardian
- 2nd Place: plaque, Franklin Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary product, and all-expenses paid trip to New York City for 3 nights in August 2009 for Participant and a parent or legal guardian
- 3rd and 4th Place: plaque, Franklin Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Reference Set product
- 5th through 8th Place: certificate, Franklin Merriam-Webster Intermediate Dictionary product

For the Final Event:

- 1st Place: trophy, scholarship valued at US \$10,000
- 2nd Place: plaque, scholarship valued at US \$2,000
- 3rd Place: plaque, scholarship valued at US \$800
- 4th Place: plaque, scholarship valued at US \$400
- 5th Place and lower: certificate, scholarship valued at US \$100