



— CORVALLIS-BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS —

# SIP & SPELL

— A SPELLING BEE FOR ADULTS (AGES 18+) —

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## Sip & Spell Official Rules

Contestants must be 18 years or older.

Contestant order is in the order of registration. Sign-up begins when the doors open before the start of the contest and will end 15 minutes before the contest begins.

Words are drawn from dictionary.com, whose main source is the Random House Unabridged Dictionary. This serves as the final authority for the spelling of words. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct if the word either matches the pronunciation and definition provided by the Pronouncer(s), or if it is clearly identified as being a standard variant of the word that the contestant has been asked to spell. Spellings from other locations having archaic, obsolete, or regional labels (such as North, Midland, Irish) that are different from those at the main entry will not be accepted as correct.

When the word is a homonym or homophone, only the correct spelling for the word defined and used in a sentence will be accepted.

No electronic devices may be brought to the stage.

Contest will be single-error elimination. To avoid elimination, contestants may purchase Cheats during registration. See more information about Cheats on page 2.

The Pronouncer will say the word, use it in a sentence and then pronounce it once more. Contestants may ask for the word's definition and language of origin. The contestant may ask for only one additional pronunciation of the word.

The contestant is encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it.

Contestants will have at least 30 seconds to spell the word; time limits are subject to change, depending on the round, and will be announced at the start of each round.

Having started to spell a word, the contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning; however, the letters and/or sequence may not be changed in the respelling. If they are, the spelling will be judged as incorrect.

An oral appeal must be made before the next contestant is given a new word. The judges' decision is final on all questions.

**CHEATS:** *There is a limit of one type of each cheat per contestant. Cheats must be purchased before the event. The contestant will be given a card for each of the following cheats. These cards may be used one time only and must be turned in once used. Cheats may not be used in final rounds.*

1. **\$3: Ask a friend.** Contestant may ask someone in the audience to spell the word. The friend may not use any reference materials, including phone, books or computer.
2. **\$5: Next word, please.** Once a word is given to a contestant, and before starting to spell, contestant may ask for the "next word".
3. **\$5: Rewind.** If contestant realizes they've made an error midway through the incorrect spelling of a word, he/she gets one chance to start over.
4. **\$10: Big Cheat Deal.** Get one each of 3 cheats: "Ask a friend", "Next word please", and "Rewind".
5. **\$15: Mulligan.** Contestant may remain in the contest after misspelling the word.

The contest will be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the Spelling Bee at the start of a round will spell one word in the round. If none of the contestants correctly spells a word in that round, all will remain in

the competition and continue spelling in their original order. All contestants eliminated in the same round will be tied for the same place.

**End-of-the-Bee Procedure:** If all contestants in a round misspell, all remain in the competition and a new round begins. When only one contestant spells correctly, a new one-word (anticipated winning word) round begins during which the contestant will draw the word from a container containing 20 words of varying difficulty. If the contestant correctly spells the word, the speller is declared the champion. If the contestant misspells the anticipated winning word in the one-word round, a new round begins with all contestants who spelled correctly and incorrectly from the previous round; contestants will continue spelling in their original order.

**Exception to End-of-the-Bee Procedure:** If unable to eliminate to only one contestant in a timely manner (as determined by Bee organizers), the start of championship rounds will be declared and all spellers remaining will be a part of these rounds. In the championship rounds, contestants will take turns spelling a predetermined number of words. Contestants will continue spelling until eliminated or there are no more words left, whichever comes first. Contestants not eliminated after all words have been used would be declared champions.

### **About Sip and Spell**

Any proceeds from Sip & Spell go to the Friends of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, whose funds benefit all library locations. There is a \$5 entry fee for each contestant in the Bee. Audience members are admitted free, but donations are welcome. Audience members may sponsor entrants; please let staff at the registration table know.

A prize will be awarded to the first place winner.

By participating and/or attending, contestants grant organizers permission to use each contestant's voice, likeness and/or image in conjunction with this event and future events on television, radio, the internet and/or in print.