

Armenia Spelling Bee Rules

IN-ROOM PROCEDURE

- No talking.
- No papers or bags. Bags can be stored under the seat or in the back of the room. All papers must be put away before the competition can begin.
- American judge reads a word from the list, Armenian judge repeats word. (Lists will be provided in randomized order, or words from list will be drawn in a randomized order.)
- Student can ask for a repetition, or a translation. Students may only ask once for each.
- If a repetition is asked for, both judges repeat the word.
- If a translation is asked for, only the Armenian judge translates the word.
- The student must repeat the word, spell the word, then repeat the word again.
- Words must be spelled in order, using letter names (not sounds). If a student once begins spelling a word, they cannot repeat. Once an incorrect letter is said, the word is misspelled.
- The judges should not give correct spellings when they judge a spelling to be incorrect.
- American and British spellings are both accepted. “Ash” and other “h”-like names are not acceptable for “h”, nor “ah” for “r”, or “key” for “q”, but “zed” is acceptable for “z”.
- “Double t”, “double o” and so on are accepted. “Double u” (as in vacuum) is not accepted.
- All incorrect spellers from one round must remain in the back of the room until the round is over. Then all exit at one time, at the round’s end.
- All spelling bee events will be recorded using an audio recorder. Students who do not agree to be recorded may not participate.
- All persons attending the spelling bee should be quiet and respectful. Audience members who mouth the correct spelling of the word or in any other way interfere with the competition will have to leave. If teachers or parents shout or are disrespectful to contest organizers or judges, their students/children will be removed from competition, and any prizes revoked and given to the next student.

JUDGES

- Judges are responsible for keeping order in their rooms. Expulsion is legitimate and the judge’s decisions will not be questioned. If a student disagrees with the judges’ decision, they should stand to the side of the room and wait for the end of the round - the judges will replay the recordings for all students who dispute their elimination and either confirm or emend their decision. Students who are rude to the judges or disruptive will be disqualified, regardless of their spelling ability.
- Judges should appear pleasant, but disinterested. Judges should not emote. Ideally they will project professionalism and confidence.
- Judges should not hint whether a student’s spelling is correct or incorrect. Allow the student to finish spelling, and then indicate whether the word was spelled correctly or incorrectly.

FINAL ELIMINATION

- If all but one student is eliminated at the end of a round, the one not eliminated wins first place. Competition continues with those eliminated in that round until two remain.
- If all but two students are eliminated at the end of a round, all those who were eliminated are seated in the room while the remaining two face-off. When one student misspells a word, the other student must correctly spell the misspelled word and the next word on the list. If either word is misspelled, the first student has a chance to correctly spell the misspelled word and the next word on the list. The first to correctly spell two words is the winner, and the other is the second place. Then the students eliminated in that round compete for third place.
- If all but three students are eliminated at the end of a round, all eliminated students exit. These three are the three finalists. The competition proceeds normally until one or two are eliminated in one round (if all three are eliminated in a round, the round is repeated). Then follow #1 or #2 above.
- Certificates will be handed out at the end of the competition. Students should not leave until they have received their certificate.