

EURASIAN SPELLING BEE LEXICAL SKILLS COMPETITION 2023

Introduction and Goals

This competition is organised by ELPC Olympiad International LLC to promote Lexical skills in English language, and challenge students learning English as a foreign language from the countries around the world to improve their lexical skills, particularly in respect to spelling. It inspires students to read more, in line with the theme “Read to Succeed”, in order to encourage them to learn the major principles and patterns of English, expand their vocabulary and work on their pronunciation. It also enhances students’ development of poise and communication under pressure and provides an opportunity for them to get exposed to the national limelight. It also brings attention to the schools’ pressing literacy needs and prepares and equips teachers with the skills to teach English. The main goal is to create and nourish friendly relations and national understanding between young people interested in English language from private and public schools around the world.

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Rule and guideline 1: Territory and Eligibility

The competition is open to students studying in grades 2 – 11 from the countries around the world. **There is an exception rule for the students in grade 1 and 12 that grade 1 is eligible to join the same level as grade 2, and grade 12 is eligible to join the same level as grade 11.** There are two categories (Regular and Special Category). Only the students who go to state or private schools and study English as a second/foreign language are eligible to participate in the Regular Category. *Bilingual students will not be admitted to the regular category. Students that are considered bilingual are the ones who were born or have lived and attended school for at least 3 years in an English-speaking country as well as those who live in a non-English speaking country but attend an English/American International school and Presidential schools and schools specialized for English language. Should a student who is considered bilingual according to the above definition apply for this category through another school, ELPC organisation reserves the right to disqualify them from the Competition. Bilingual students are only eligible to take part in Special category which has only 5 levels. Please read Rule and guideline #8 for more information about Regular and Special Category.*

Rule and guideline 2: Competition Dates and Venues

The opening date of the Registration for the Competition is **1 January 2023, 10:00h local GMT** and the closing date is **20 March 2023, 17:00h local GMT**, or a later date if you obtain special approval from ELPC. Any registration received before the opening date or after the closing date will not be included in the Competition. The ELPC organisation accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or

malfunction or any other problem with any system, server, provider or otherwise that may result in any registration being lost, delayed or not properly entered.

The competition will be run in **three** rounds: preliminary round, semi-final round and final round.

No	Round	Date	Country	Tasks	Results
1	Preliminary	1-2 April online/paper-based	Respective country	written, listening, brainstorm	10 working days later
2	Semi-final	10-11 June online/paper-based	Respective country	written, listening, oral spelling	10 working days later
3	Final	4-5 November paper-based	Penang, Malaysia	written, listening, oral spelling	the day after the exam if paper-based

No online competition will be conducted for the World Final Round of ESB 2023, only physical attendance in Penang, Malaysia.

The dates stated above are tentative. There might be few changes in the dates due to the extreme situation in respective countries. Preliminary and Semi-final rounds will be run online or paper-based in some countries. The country coordinators are responsible to decide for exam mode for preliminary and semi-final rounds. If the exam is to be run paper-based, the **venues** for the preliminary and semi-final rounds will be selected for each participating country by the country coordinators. Task 1 (written) and Task 2 (listening) and Task 3 (Brainstorm) will be taken by the school coordinators while the local and national coordinators take the responsibility for the Task 3 (oral spelling) in the **Semi-final** round.

The top 15% of participating students from each participating country will be invited to the semi-final round. A minimum of 100 students of the total participants will be invited to the final round if the number of registered candidates reach 10 000 (ten thousand) for ESB 2023. The number of semi-finalists and finalists might increase or decrease slightly depending on the number of participants or equal points. The finalists will be chosen according to the scores received in the semi-final round. Should a country does not have any candidate qualified for the final round, ELPC organisation will give Wild Card to the country depending on the number of candidates from participating country. Wild Cards will be given to only the countries which meet the minimum requirement of registration.

Three-day accommodation including breakfast will be provided for all the candidates free of charge in the final round.

Force majeure – in case of force majeure, such as severe acts of nature or weather events including floods, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, or explosions; war, acts of terrorism, and epidemics, the trip will be postponed until the situation gets better. However, the final decision will be made by the ESB team considering the situation.

Rule and guideline 3: Candidate Registration and Fee

Candidates are able to register online via the online registration link individually or with a group through the national coordinator of the country. The details of the candidates must be entered accurately only in Latin letters.

NB: Please contact your coordinator regarding the registration fee. Candidates are kindly requested to only cancel their registration in case of health condition. There will be NO REFUND of the registration fee unless a medical certificate is provided.

Rule and guideline 4: Competition Tasks and Time allowed

Candidates in the preliminary round will be given **4 (four) tasks** (written text, written vocabulary, listening and brainstorm), and in the semi-final and final round **4 (four) tasks** (written text, written vocabulary, listening and **oral**):

1) Task 1 Written – participants read the text and identify and correct 10 misspelled words (time allowed 10 minutes);

2) Task 2 Written – Bee Levels 1-2 – participants need to identify and correctly spell 10 words based on a picture and scrambled up letters. (time allowed 10 minutes);

Bee Levels 3-6 – participants need to identify and correctly spell 10 words based on a definition and scrambled up letters. (time allowed 10 minutes);

3) Task 3 Listening – participants listen to a short recording, read the text and complete 10 gaps with correct spelling of the words (approximate time 10 minutes);

4) Task 4 Brainstorm – **this task is given only in the preliminary round.** This task will be taken together with written and listening task at the same time. **It is similar to crossword** and participants need to think carefully and guess missing letters in 5 (five) words that start and end with specific letters, and number of words required will be given in the tasks. In this task, participants are required not to write any names (country, city, famous people, etc.) and numbers (one, two, fifty, thousand, million etc.). Only closed compound nouns (joined to form a single word, e.g., *football*, *blackboard*) are acceptable as a single word in this task while open compounds (spelled as two words, e.g., *ice cream*) and hyphenated compounds (two words joined by a hyphen, e.g., *long-term*) are not allowed. (time allowed 10 minutes)

5) Task 4 Oral – **candidates will not take oral spelling exam in the preliminary round**, and in the semi-final and final round each participant will be given **five or more** words to spell orally. However, there is an exception rule for the oral spelling exam in the final round, please read **Rule 6** for further details. *(time allowed: the spellers have total 1 minute and 45 seconds to think and spell each word after the clear pronunciation and all information are given. The judges and pronouncer will not communicate with the speller during the final 30 seconds. The judges will disqualify any speller who does not provide a complete spelling before the expiration of time (0 seconds). If the judges and pronouncer need to discuss*

a competition-related matter while the speller is contemplating a word, they may pause the time clock, and they will inform the speller when they pause and resume the time clock.)

NB: For paper-based exam mode all the answers for written and listening tasks need to be transferred on to the answer sheet by the candidates. The scores for oral spelling task will be recorded by the invigilators. The answer sheets will be provided for each candidate during the exam.

Rule and guideline 5: Marking

No	Round	Tasks			Remarks
		Written	Listening	Oral/Brainstorm	
1	Preliminary	<p>Task 1 (3 points for each word correctly spelled–10 questions a total of 30 points)</p> <p>Task 2 (3 points for each word correctly spelled–10questions total of 30 points)</p>	<p>Task 3 (3 points for each word correctly spelled – 10 questions a total of 30 points)</p>	<p>Task 4 (Brainstorm) (2 points for each word correctly spelled – 5 questions a total of 10 points)</p>	The exam level for the semi-final round will be one Bee level higher than the one in the preliminary round, and will remain the same at the final round.
2	Semi-final	<p>Task 1 / Task 2 as above</p>	<p>Task 3 as above</p>	<p>Task 4 (Oral) 1 correct word (2 points each)</p>	
3	Final	<p>Task 1/ Task 2 as above</p>	<p>Task 3 as above</p>	<p>Task 4 (Oral) 1 correct word (2 points each)</p>	

Rule and guideline 6: Oral Spelling - Judge’s, Pronouncer’s and Speller’s role

- The Judges and Pronouncers will be in complete charge of the contest. Their decision will be final in all questions. Any problem relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the Judges immediately during the competition at the relevant stage. No complaints or appeals will be considered after the contest has ended.
- The judges listen carefully, determine whether or not words are spelled correctly, and uphold the rules. The decisions of the judges are final.

- **Misunderstandings:** The judges will not respond to the speller's question(s) about the word and its pronunciation but, if the judges sense that the speller has misunderstood the word, the judges will direct the speller and pronouncer to interact until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word within the time constraints outlined in Rule 4. It is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until a spelling error has been made, and the judges are not responsible for the speller's misunderstanding.
- **Pronouncer Errors:** The judges compare the pronouncer's pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the judges feel that the pronouncer's pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the diacritical markings, the judges will direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.
- **Spellers** are allowed to bring a note pad and pen or pencil to practise the words before the competition (for their use only), but the **speller** must then spell the word orally during the competition. Extra paper and pencil are not allowed.
- In competition, **spellers** may pronounce words before spelling, after spelling, or not at all. However, you are encouraged to pronounce the word BEFORE spelling to ensure that you heard the word correctly. For example, if you are given the word **baseball** and you spell **baseballs**, your spelling will be considered **incorrect**. Or, if you are given **absence** and you spell **absent**, your spelling will be considered **incorrect**. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, provide the language(s) of origin and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.
- The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in ESB word lists.
- The pronouncer responds to the speller's requests for a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin and alternate pronunciation(s) as listed in the competition word list produced by ESB. The pronouncer does not entertain root word questions, requests for alternate definitions or requests for slower pronunciation.
- **Homonyms:** If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word.
- At any time, the speller may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined or used in a sentence, or they may ask for the part of speech or the language of origin. But the pronouncer shall grant the request(s) until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller. The pronouncer will not syllabify (divide into syllables) the word.
 - Once you begin to spell a word, you will not have a chance to change letters once pronounced. A speller may repeat the word orally, provided letters and their sequence are not changed. The speller must indicate words with apostrophes, capitals and other punctuation marks, and any accent marks either over the letter or at the end of the word.
 - Judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling the word within a reasonable time outline in Rule 4.
 - **Misunderstandings:** The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provided incorrect information

regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin; or (3) the speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he or she must spell the word which is defined.

- When a speller fails to spell a word correctly after all additional assistance as permitted by the rules of the competition has been provided, and / or the maximum time has expired, they must drop out of the competition. The pronouncer will announce the correct spelling of the word and a greeter will present a certificate of participation to the student. Another word shall be given to the next speller in line. The winner(s) will be announced accordingly.

- **There is an element of chance in this contest.** When only two spellers remain with equal points, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when a speller misspells a word, the other speller will be given the opportunity to spell the other word. If the second speller spells the word correctly, the second speller will be declared the winner of Gold/Silver or Bronze medal. If both spellers misspell the same word, both will continue in the contest with a new word until the judges make final decision.

- In the event of a protest or dispute, decisions shall be based on “*Macmillan Dictionary of English*” the official contest dictionary. No other source shall be allowed.

- To minimize disruptions during this competition we ask audience members to turn off cell phones and pagers.

Rule and guideline 7: Prizes

All participants will receive a certificate of participation in the preliminary and semi-final round. The finalists who achieve the highest points in each category will be awarded as follows: **Champion, 1st runner up, 2nd runner up and 2 merit winners.** The rest of the finalists who pass the final round tests will also be awarded an internationally recognized certificate in English by Gatehouse Awards United Kingdom. Additional memorable gifts for the top winners will be included to the parcel upon awarding.

Rule and guideline 8: Competition Categories (Regular and Special)

The participants by categories are required to expect any random word for **oral spelling** from Bee 1 to their current Level. For example, if a speller is in Bee 5 Level, they can expect any random word from Bee 1 to Bee 5. **Special category is not available for grade 11 and grade 12.**

Special category participants are considered as bilinguals, and will take the exam one level higher than Regular Category. For example, Special Category student in grade 2 will compete with Regular Category student in grade 3. Results for both categories will be considered together.

Regular Category		Special category	
Grade	Bee Level	Grade	Bee Level
1-2	Bee 1	N/A	Bee 1

3-4	Bee 2	1-2	Bee 2
5-6	Bee 3	3-4	Bee 3
7-8	Bee 4	5-6	Bee 4
9-10	Bee 5	7-8	Bee 5
11-12	Bee 6	9-10	Bee 6

Rule and guideline 9: Competition Materials

Sample papers to practise are available to download on www.eurasianspellingbee.org . For further info please contact us via email info@eurasianspellingbee.org .Exam papers including instructions for the preliminary and semi-final round will be delivered to the country coordinators 3-4 days before the competition date and need to stay closed until the exam start time. The exam papers including answer sheets need to be sent back to ELPC organisation within 4 working days. The materials delivered after this date will not be marked.