

Washington University
42st Annual German Day: April 11, 2018
SPELLING BEE RULES

1. **Who may enter?** There are two levels: a beginning level and an advanced level. Each team must consist of five students. A team in the beginning level must be made up entirely of students in first and second year German, and a team in the advanced level may be made up of students at any stage of German from first to fourth year. Native speakers or near native speakers and students beyond the fourth year are not eligible to compete. If we have enough interest, we will offer two sections on each level (A and B) and can accommodate **eight** teams in each section. Each school may enter one team of 5 students for each level (but not for each section). We will schedule the first 16 teams who contact us for each level. After that we will waitlist the teams in the order in which schools contact us.
2. The event will consist of a three-round knock-out tournament. Each team will receive a time slot for the first round and all five members of a team **must** show up on time. A team that shows up late will automatically forfeit the round. The winning teams from the first round will compete against each other in groups of two in the second round, and the two winners from the second round will compete in the final match.
3. Only teachers and fans of particular teams competing are allowed as spectators; other teams and their teachers/ fans must wait their turns outside the room. Teachers are asked NOT to record words read by the judges for the integrity of this and future competitions.
4. The spelling bee will proceed as follows: A coin toss decides which team goes first and the teams will line up facing each other. The first person on the team who wins the coin toss spells the first word and if s/he spells it correctly, the team receives one point. If s/he misses it, the first person on the other team spells the word. If s/he spells it correctly that team is awarded one point; if not, the second person on the first team spells the word and so on down the rows, back and forth between the teams. If all participants in both teams have had a chance to spell a word and no one has spelled the word correctly, a new word will be announced. The teams take turns having first chance at new words called out. We have allotted ten minutes for each match; team members can expect, therefore, that they will be given the opportunity to spell between three and four words. The team with the most points after 10 minutes wins the round.
5. There are beginning and advanced lists of words, and you will find some words on both lists. All words are at the level of a first-year college textbook.
6. If the two teams in a given round are tied when the allotted 10 minutes are up, the round will continue until the tie is broken.
7. Please take special note of the following rules. Because time is short, we will conform very strictly to these rules, and deviation from them simply counts as misspelling.
 - a. Students should use the standard German alphabet. They must pronounce the letters correctly in German. If a team wishes to use spelling variants common in Austria or Switzerland, it must be indicated before the round begins.
 - b. Capital letters must be called out as such (großes A, großes Z usw). Misspellings will be called

for a word that must be capitalized if the student fails to indicate capitalization. Likewise, words that are not normally capitalized (except as first words in a sentence) will be considered misspelled if they are falsely capitalized.

- c. Team members must say a-Umlaut, o-Umlaut, u-Umlaut, großes u-Umlaut etc. for ä, ö, ü, Ü, etc.
- d. “ß” must be pronounced “ess-tsett” without exception. Words that must be spelled with an “ß” will be considered misspelled if spelled “ss.” Please note that according to the new orthography some words previously spelled with an “ß” are now spelled with “ss”.
- e. After the judge has asked the question, the team member who is currently spelling has 20 seconds to respond. If the participant is unable to spell the word within 20 seconds, the word is considered misspelled.
- f. Team members must give their responses by saying the word, spelling it, then repeating the word, as follows:

Judge: Wie schreibt man "Wolke"?

Participant: Wolke, großes w, o, l, k, e Wolke.

Team members may ask the judge to repeat the question by saying “Wiederholen Sie, bitte!” They may correct themselves while spelling, either by clearly correcting an individual letter, or by starting over. Once a word has been said the second time, the spelling will be considered finished and judged as such. **Students may not ask the judge to use the word in a sentence, or to provide additional information (i.e. part of speech, etc.) about their assigned word.**

- 8. The decisions of the judges are final.
- 9. All members of the teams that reach final round will receive a certificate. We hope also to be able to provide prizes for the winning team(s) in each level.