



ARTESOL National Spelling Competition

October 25, 2014

Event Overview

The ARTESOL Annual Spelling Competition is a national spelling event for nonnative English speaking students under the age of 15 sponsored and organized by Argentina TESOL. ARTESOL organized the first local Spell Event in 2009 sponsored by Franklin Electronic Publishers in association with TESOL Inc.

ARTESOL Annual Spelling Competition for 2013 will consist of a national event that will be held in Buenos Aires, resulting in the selection of four placement winners.

Rules

School Eligibility

ARTESOL will invite and select schools to participate in each province. The schools may be private or public. Schools must not:

1. Be a dual-language school
2. Be an English-medium school
3. Teach more than 2 classes in English (in addition to an English-language class)

If the school is later found to be ineligible, it will be disqualified.

Student Eligibility

1. ARTESOL will invite schools in each province to identify participants for the national event. A participant in a national event must be a student in good standing at one of these schools.
2. A participant must not have reached his or her 15th birthday as of December 31, 2013 (i.e., the participant must not have been born before January 1, 1999).
3. A participant must not be a native speaker of English.
4. A participant must not have any parent or legal guardian who is a native speaker of English.
5. A participant must not be a citizen of, or have dual-citizenship with, Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, the United States, the United Kingdom, or any country where English is an official language.
6. A participant must not have attended school in any English-speaking country for more than one academic semester.
7. A participant must not attend an English-medium instruction school or have attended such a school for more than one academic semester.
8. A participant must not have more than two classes (outside of the language class) be in English.
9. A participant must not be a first place winner of a previous national or international spelling competition.

If any student is later found to be ineligible, he/she will be disqualified

Before the national event, the participant must submit a participation form signed by a parent or legal guardian and an official of the participant's school that affirms the participant is eligible to participate. No registration forms will be accepted on-site at the competition.

Word Source

All spelling words for the event will come from Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary, or from Collins COBUILD Advanced Dictionary. ARTESOL will provide official word lists to the pronouncer and judges at the start of the event. **American spelling will be accepted only.**

Organization of Rounds

Up to 60 registered participants may participate at the national event. Each national event will begin with a practice round providing each participant a chance to spell a practice word. This round will not count as a competition round, but will give each participant the opportunity to review the procedure and understand the flow of the event. There are no eliminations in the practice round.

In Round 1, 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 who correctly spells a word will return to his or her seat and will continue in the next round.

Each round is completed when all participants had a word to spell. In Round 2 and succeeding rounds, each remaining participant will have a chance to spell a word. These rounds will continue until there are four competitors remaining. The final four will then move into the championship rounds.

During the championship rounds, when more than one participant is eliminated at the same time, there will be a “spell-off” in order to determine their ranking prior to moving on to the next round. When two participants are remaining, if the first participant spells his or her word incorrectly, the second participant must spell his or her word correctly in order to be declared the champion of the local event. If the word is not spelled correctly, then both participants return to the stage and the round is continued until one participant remains.

Each participant who participates in a championship round will receive a ranking from first to fourth place in the national event.

Contest Rules

Participants are not allowed to have any writing implements or materials during the event.

At the beginning of each participant’s turn, the pronouncer will say the spelling word aloud. The participant must 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.

If a judge feels that the pronouncer has given an incorrect pronunciation of a word, the judges will confer to reach a decision. The judges have the authority to throw a mispronounced word out, if necessary. The 2-minute clock will not start until the judges have agreed and the pronouncer has clarified the pronunciation for the participant.

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, including part of speech
3. An example sentence. This information will be part of the word lists provided by ARTESOL.

If the participant has not begun spelling his or her word when there are approximately 30 seconds remaining of his or her 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 judges and inform the participant whether the spelling was correct or incorrect. If the judges do not feel they heard the spelling correctly, they may ask the participant to repeat it. The participant may not, at this point, change his or her original spelling of the word. The 2-minute time clock no longer applies during such a request. If the spelling was incorrect, a judge will ring the bell and the pronouncer will provide the correct spelling of the word.

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; 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 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”