

# 24th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **24th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, District of Columbia on May 25, 1951, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company, at the National Press Club.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

The winner was 13-year-old Irving Belz of Memphis, Tennessee, sponsored by the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, correctly spelling the word *insouciant*. Michael Aratingi, also 13, of Brooklyn, New York placed second, misspelling *cuisine*. Mary Anne Bechkowiak (13) of Akron, Ohio placed third, misspelling *grosgrain*. The top prizes were \$500, \$300, and \$100.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

There were 51 contestants this year, 33 girls and 18 boys—4 at age 11, 11 at age 12, 28 at age 13, and 8 at age 14. Three contestants were repeat participants.<sup>[1]</sup> The competition started at 9:10am and ended at 3:15pm, with a 45-minute lunch break and three 5-minute breaks, with a total of 26 rounds and 394 words used.<sup>[5]</sup>

The winner received \$500 and trip to New York (and a stay at the Hotel New Yorker); second place received \$300; third got \$100; the next 20 spellers received \$50, and the last 28 spellers received \$40.<sup>[1]</sup>

Benson S. Alleman was the pronouncer.<sup>[6]</sup>

## References

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- (26 May 1951). Memphis Boy Wins 24th National Spelling Bee ([https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1873&dat=19510526&id=\\_lkrAAAAIABAJ&sjid=8ZwFAAAAABAJ&pg=3687,3564084](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1873&dat=19510526&id=_lkrAAAAIABAJ&sjid=8ZwFAAAAABAJ&pg=3687,3564084)), *Daytona Beach Morning Journal* (Associated Press)
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## 24th Scripps National Spelling Bee



National Press Building

<b>Date</b>	May 25, 1951
<b>Location</b>	Auditorium of the National Press Building, Washington, D.C. <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Winner</b>	Irving Belz
<b>Age</b>	13
<b>Residence</b>	Memphis, Tennessee
<b>Sponsor</b>	<i>Memphis Press-Scimitar</i>
<b>Sponsor location</b>	Memphis, Tennessee
<b>Winning word</b>	insouciant
<b>No. of contestants</b>	51 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Pronouncer</b>	Benson S. Alleman
<b>Preceded by</b>	23rd Scripps National Spelling Bee
<b>Followed by</b>	25th Scripps National Spelling Bee

6. (25 May 1951). Students Open Spelling Bee In Washington (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1310&dat=19510525&id=RjBQAAAAIBAJ&sjid=uAsEAAAIAI&pg=6647,1485842&hl=en>), *Eugene Register-Guard* (UP)

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