

50th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **50th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. at the Mayflower Hotel on June 8–9, 1977 sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

The competition was won by 13-year-old eighth-grader John Paola of Glenshaw, Pennsylvania, correctly spelling "cambist" (a dealer in foreign bills of exchange).^{[1][2]} Paola had finished 22nd in the prior year's bee,^[3] where he missed svengali.

Second place went to 14-year-old Joan O'Leary of Yonkers, New York, who fell on sesquipedalian. Both O'Leary and Paola had missed "futtock" and "yizkor" before "sesquipedalian" came up. Third-place was captured by Joseph Fumic of North Olmsted, Ohio, who misspelled "triage".^{[2][4]} Fourth place went to Roxanne Taylor of Forest Hills, New York, who misspelled "mecometer".^[5]

Frank Neuhauser (then 63), winner of the 1st Bee, was in the audience at the finals.^[2]

This year's competition had 94 spellers (another record), with 57 girls and 36 boys.^{[2][4]} After seven rounds in the first day of competition, the field was reduced to 26, 17 girls and 9 boys.^[4]

A taped version of the finals appeared on television on PBS this year (last previously done in the 1974 bee).^[6]

References

- ↑ (9 June 1977) Pa. Student Wins Spelling Bee (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1979&dat=19770609&id=8YsxAAAIAIAJ&sjid=UqoFAAAAIAIAJ&pg=2253,5312232&hl=en>), *Sumter Daily Item* (Associated Press)
- ↑ Williams, Juan (10 June 1977). Sesquipedalian Speller Triumphs at Spelling Bee (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1977/06/10/sesquipedalian-speller-triumphs-at-spelling-bee/8104049f-8fa4-4407-8cb4-7079145ccfc1/>), *Washington Post*
- ↑ Levin Steve (6 July 2003). Past winners spell out pain and glory of 'The Bee' (<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/nation/2003/07/06/Past-winners-spell-out-pain-and-glory-of-The-Bee/stories/200307060016>), *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
- ↑ (9 June 1977). Second time is charm for national spelling champion (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=799&dat=19770609&id=nZZPAAAAIAIAJ&sjid=RFIDAAAAIAIAJ&pg=6812,1282528&hl=en>), *Bryan Times* (UPI)
- ↑ (9 June 1977). Boy Wins National Spelling Bee With Cambist (<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1906&dat=19770609&id=H-UfAAAAIAIAJ&sjid=QtkEAAAAIAIAJ&pg=6183,2197839&hl=en>), *Fort Scott Tribune* (AP)

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The Mayflower Hotel, site of the 50th National Spelling Bee

Date	June 8–9, 1977
Location	The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.
Winner	John Paola
Age	13
Residence	Glenshaw, Pennsylvania
Sponsor	<i>Pittsburgh Press</i>
Sponsor location	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Winning word	cambist
No. of contestants	94
Pronouncer	Richard R. Baker
Preceded by	49th Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	51st Scripps National Spelling Bee

6. [History \(http://spellingbee.com/history\)](http://spellingbee.com/history), Spellingbee.com, Retrieved 24 August 2016

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