

55th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **55th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. at the Capital Hilton on June 2–3, 1982, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

The competition was won by 12-year-old Molly Dieveney from Denver, Colorado, correctly spelling "psoriasis" for the win.^[2] Dieveney was coached by the mother of Jacques Bailly (her next door neighbor), who won the bee two years prior. Second place went to 13-year-old Uma Rao of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who misspelled "contretemps".^[2] Jason Johnson, 13, of St. Joseph, Missouri, and who placed second the prior year, placed third after missing "gauleiter".^{[1][2][3]}

There were 126 spellers this year, 81 girls and 45 boys, with 54 making it to the second day of competition. Nine spellers left in the first round, 22 in the second, 8 in the third, and 33 in the fourth.^{[2][4][5]} Alex Cameron was the pronouncer.^[6] A total of 546 words were used.^[7]

The first place cash prize was \$1,000, with \$500 for second, and \$250 for third. The next five finishers got \$100, the next ten \$75, and the remaining received \$50.^[8]

References

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The Capital Hilton, site of the 55th National Spelling Bee

Date	June 2–3, 1982
Location	The Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. ^[1]
Winner	Molly Dieveney
Age	12
Residence	Denver, Colorado
Sponsor	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i>
Sponsor location	Denver, Colorado
Winning word	psoriasis
No. of contestants	126
Pronouncer	Alex Cameron
Preceded by	54th Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	56th Scripps National Spelling Bee

7. Macino, Dick (8 June 1983). District's No. 1 Speller Finds National Bee Wordy From Start (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19830608&id=Z8gdAAAIAIAJ&sjid=gGEEAAAIAIAJ&pg=3501,4017925&hl=en>), *Pittsburgh Press*
8. (1 June 1982). Contestant is excited and a little bit nervous (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1915&dat=19820601&id=DCMiAAAIAIAJ&sjid=H3UFAAAIAIAJ&pg=2633,8477&hl=en>), *The Day*

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