

56th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **56th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. at the Capital Hilton on June 8–9, 1983, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

The winner was 14-year-old Blake Giddens of Alamogordo, New Mexico, correctly guessing the proper spelling of "Purim".^{[2][3]} Giddens' sister Nicole had been a contestant in the 1980 and 1981 bees, where she finished 103rd and 43rd, respectively.^[2]

Second place was captured by 13-year-old Eric Rauchway of St. Petersburg, Florida, who missed "ratatouille" by putting an "i" at the end.^[2] Third-place went to 11-year-old Tanya Solomon of Kansas City, Missouri who missed "meuniere". She who was among 17 return competitors this year, and had finished 27th the prior year.^{[1][4]}

Giddens was crowned the winner at 11 a.m. on June 9, in round 11.^[5]

There were 137 spellers this year, 83 girls and 54 boys.^[6] Ten spellers went out in the first round on day one, and 17 in the second round. After lunch on day one, 16 spellers dropped out in the third round, and 42 in the fourth round, leaving 52 spellers at 5:10pm to make it to day two. A total of 574 words were used.^{[1][5][7][8]}

The first-place winner won \$1,000.^[3] Alex Cameron was the pronouncer.^[9]

References

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56th Scripps National Spelling Bee



The Capital Hilton, site of the 56th National Spelling Bee

Date	June 8–9, 1983
Location	The Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C.
Winner	Blake Giddens
Age	14
Residence	Alamogordo, New Mexico
Sponsor	<i>El Paso Herald-Post</i>
Sponsor location	El Paso, Texas
Winning word	Purim
No. of contestants	137 ^[1]
Pronouncer	Alex Cameron
Preceded by	55th Scripps National Spelling Bee
Followed by	57th Scripps National Spelling Bee

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7. (31 May 1984). 48 survive the first day of National Spelling Bee (<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1320&dat=19840531&id=XaQRAAAAIAIJ&sjid=1ukDAAAAIAIJ&pg=6944,4921160&hl=en>), *Gainesville Sun* (Associated Press)
8. (8 June 1983). Misspeller is a spelling bee hero (<https://www.nytimes.com/1983/06/09/us/misspeller-is-a-spelling-bee-hero.html>), *The New York Times* (UPI)
9. Ferraro, Thomas (8 June 1983). Eighty-five of 137 whiz kids were eliminated Wednesday at ... (<http://www.upi.com/Archives/1983/06/08/Eighty-five-of-137-whiz-kids-were-eliminated-Wednesday-at/2298423892800/>), UPI

External links

- President Reagan's remarks to finalists on June 6, 1983 (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160919234227/https://www.reaganlibrary.archives.gov/archives/speeches/1983/60683e.htm>), from [Reaganlibrary.archives.gov](http://www.reaganlibrary.archives.gov)
 - Full order of 137 finalists and missed words (<http://www.upi.com/Archives/1983/06/09/Here-is-the-order-that-the-137-finalists-of/4835423979200/>), UPI archives
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