

# 70th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **70th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. on May 28–29, 1997, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

Thirteen-year-old Rebecca Sealfon, from Brooklyn, New York won the competition in the 22nd round by correctly spelling the word "euonym".<sup>[2]</sup> Sealfon's exclamation while spelling her final, winning word has been called one of the most notable moments from National Spelling Bee history, a "made for YouTube" moment.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Sealfon was the first home-schooled student to win the Bee.<sup>[5]</sup>

Second-place went to 11-year old Prem Murthy Trivedi of Howell, New Jersey, who misspelled "cortile," and third to 13-year old Sudheer Potru of Beverly Hills, Michigan, who was unable to spell "pachymeter" in the 14th round.<sup>[6][1]</sup> Sealfon had a chance to win in the 17th round, but missed "dulcinea", causing the final two spellers to continue spelling.<sup>[7]</sup>

The first place prize was \$5000 (as it had been since 1990), with \$4000 for second place and \$2500 for third.<sup>[1]</sup>

There were 245 spellers this year, age 9 (three spellers) to age 15. 17 were home-schooled, and about one-fourth attended private or parochial school. Six spellers were making a third appearance at a national bee, and 42 were second-time participants.<sup>[8]</sup> 116 survived into the second and final day of competition.<sup>[9][10][11]</sup>

## References

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- ↑ Samtani, Hiten (23 May 2012). A spelling champ whose e-u-o-n-y-m should have been 'joy' (<http://www.wnyc.org/story/302349-a-spelling-champ-whose-e-u-o-n-y-m-should-have-been-joy/>), *WNYC-FM*
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- ↑ (2 June 2000). H-O-M-E schooling spells a winner (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2000/jun/2/20000602-011420-8826r/>), *The Washington Times*
- ↑ Riechmann, Deb (30 May 1997). 'Spelling is boring' but victory sweet (<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1298&dat=19970530&id=vesyAAAIBA&sjid=2QcGAAAIBA&pg=7003,6455233>), *Free Lance-Star* (Associated Press)
- ↑ (29 May 1997). UPI Focus: Sealfon wins National Spelling Bee (<https://www.upi.com/Archives/1997/05/29/UPI-Focus-Sealfon-wins-National-Spelling-Bee/8377864878400/>), UPI

70th Scripps National Spelling Bee	
<b>Date</b>	May 28–29, 1997
<b>Location</b>	Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C.
<b>Winner</b>	Rebecca Sealfon
<b>Age</b>	13
<b>Residence</b>	Brooklyn, New York
<b>Sponsor</b>	<i>New York Daily News</i>
<b>Sponsor location</b>	New York City
<b>Winning word</b>	euonym
<b>No. of contestants</b>	245 <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Pronouncer</b>	Alex Cameron
<b>Preceded by</b>	69th Scripps National Spelling Bee
<b>Followed by</b>	71st Scripps National Spelling Bee

8. King, Tim (26 May 1997). [Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee Returns to Nation's Capital](http://www.scripps.com/press-releases/123-scripps-howard-national-spelling-bee-returns-to-nations-capital) (<http://www.scripps.com/press-releases/123-scripps-howard-national-spelling-bee-returns-to-nations-capital>), Scripps.com (press release)
9. Greene, Robert (29 May 1997). [Contestants dwindling as spelling bee heads into final day](https://www.apnews.com/d3f2d3e38ee87de6c9637b4fa56358cc) (<https://www.apnews.com/d3f2d3e38ee87de6c9637b4fa56358cc>), Associated Press
10. (29 May 1997). [Contestants eliminated from the National Spelling Bee](https://www.apnews.com/23311d67a05ded7ce6bc25184c18652) (<https://www.apnews.com/23311d67a05ded7ce6bc25184c18652>), Associated Press (list of eliminated spellers and words missed,day one)
11. Greene, Robert (28 May 1997). [Spelling bee draws 245 contestants](https://www.apnews.com/889813bee2fbb1ac59108daff594c789) (<https://www.apnews.com/889813bee2fbb1ac59108daff594c789>), Associated Press

## External links

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- [Video footage of winning word](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6ep8KOR284) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6ep8KOR284>), CNN
- [Post-win video interview with Sealfon on stage](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd4lZwshUpE) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pd4lZwshUpE>)

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