

# 75th Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **75th Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held in Washington, D.C. on May 29–30, 2002, sponsored by the E.W. Scripps Company.

250 contestants participated in the competition. Thirteen-year-old Pratyush Buddiga, from Colorado Springs, Colorado won the competition in the 11th round by correctly spelling the word "prospicience".<sup>[1][2]</sup> Steven Matthew Nalley of Starkville, Mississippi placed second.<sup>[2]</sup>

This was the first year that a written test was used as a part of the competition, in order to keep the competition to two days. A three-day format was used for the first time the prior year. After making it through a first round of oral spelling on day one (where 75 spellers fell out), spellers had to take a 25-word written test which was considered round two.<sup>[3]</sup> Ninety spellers made it to the second and final day of the bee.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

The first place prize was \$12,000 (and additional non-cash prizes), and \$6,000 for second place.<sup>[2]</sup>

This was the last year in which Alex Cameron served as pronouncer, a role he had for over 20 years, since the 1981 bee. After Cameron's death in 2003, Jacques Bailly became chief pronouncer.<sup>[6]</sup>

## References

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75th Scripps National Spelling Bee	
<b>Date</b>	May 29–30, 2002
<b>Location</b>	Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C.
<b>Winner</b>	Pratyush Buddiga
<b>Age</b>	13
<b>Residence</b>	Colorado Springs, Colorado
<b>Sponsor</b>	<i>Rocky Mountain News</i>
<b>Sponsor location</b>	Denver, Colorado
<b>Winning word</b>	prospicience
<b>No. of contestants</b>	250
<b>Pronouncer</b>	Alex Cameron (last year)
<b>Preceded by</b>	74th Scripps National Spelling Bee
<b>Followed by</b>	76th Scripps National Spelling Bee

6. (25 May 2003). Spelling bee pronouncer gets 1st word (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150924181846/http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P1-74157220.html>), *The Columbian*

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**This page was last edited on 27 September 2019, at 01:58 (UTC).**

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