

92nd Scripps National Spelling Bee

The **92nd Scripps National Spelling Bee** was held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, from May 26 to 31, 2019.^[1] The finals were held on May 30, 2019, and televised on ESPN2 and ESPN.^[2] It featured 565 total contestants and was won by eight co-champions who had lasted through twenty rounds.^[3]

Contents

Field

Competition

Rule changes

References

Field

There were 562 contestants for the 92nd edition, a sizeable jump over the 515 who competed in the previous year. Eleven spellers who made the prime-time finals last year are back.^[4] 270 spellers won regional bees, and about 292 applied through the RSVBee program. There are nine sets of twins in the competition. 162 spellers are return contestants. The youngest speller, Faizan Zaki, was 7, and the oldest spellers were 15.^[5]

Competition

Spellers took a preliminary written test (Round One) on Monday, May 27. On-stage spelling began on Tuesday May 28, 2019. After one round of oral spelling (Round Two), 44 spellers were eliminated (of which 25 were RSVBee entrants), leaving 518 spellers.^[6] Speller Max Greenspan of Arizona was reinstated in the first oral round after being prematurely rung off for spelling "not just" as "mot just"; it was determined that it was not clear that he had finished spelling.^[7] This ambiguity may have been caused by a rule that states that spellers cannot be eliminated for failing to repeat the word once they are finished spelling;^[8] Greenspan's long pause led the judges believed that he had done so.

The field was reduced to 369 at the end of the second oral spelling round on Wednesday May 29. Late in the day, a group of 50 finalists was announced, which consists of spellers who spelled both of their words on stage correctly, and were the top scorers on the written test. Spellers had to get 30 out of 36 on the written test to make the finals this year. Three of the finalists got 35: Simone Kaplan, Shruthika Padhy, and Sohum Sukhatankar.^{[9][10][11]}

The finals began at 10am EDT on Thursday May 30. After the first morning round, 10 spellers were eliminated, leaving 40. Six more were eliminated in the next round, leaving 34. Five and four left in the next two rounds (down to 25). The fifth round of the day proved more harsh when 8 of the first 16 spellers failed to advance. The morning session was supposed to end at 2pm, but ran over 90 minutes, until the field was reduced to 16. The final 16 include seven who reached the prime time finals last year, and two doing it for third year in a row.^[12]

92nd Scripps National Spelling Bee



Date	May 27–30, 2019
Location	Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland
Winner	Eight co-winners
No. of contestants	565
Pronouncer	Jacques Bailly and Brian Sietsema
Preceded by	91st Scripps National Spelling Bee

The final rounds began on Thursday evening. After over three hours, the competition ended in an unprecedented eight-way tie, the winners being dubbed the "Octochamps".^[13] Although the Bee's rules only anticipate up to a three-way tie,^[14] officials began planning for the contingency of more winners earlier in the day due to the performances in earlier rounds. On the other hand, the founder of the South Asian Spelling Bee suggested the Bee's finalist words simply were not hard enough.^{[15][16]}

Last word ^[17]	Name	Sponsor	Sponsor's location
<u>auslaut</u>	Rishik Gandhasri	Bay Area Regional Spelling Bee	San Jose, California
<u>erysipelas</u>	Erin Howard	Adventure Travel	Huntsville, Alabama
<u>bougainvillea</u>	Saketh Sundar	Howard County Library	Clarksville, Maryland
<u>aiguillette</u>	Shruthika Padhy	Rosa International Middle School	Cherry Hill, New Jersey
<u>pendeloque</u>	Sohum Sukhatankar	Dallas Sports Commission	Dallas, Texas
<u>palama</u>	Abhijay Kodali	Dallas Sports Commission	Flower Mound, Texas
<u>cernuous</u>	Christopher Serrao	Discover Lehigh Valley	Whitehouse Station, New Jersey
<u>odylic</u>	Rohan Raja	Dallas Sports Commission	Irving, Texas

Rule changes

The first place prize is being raised from \$40,000 (which it has been from 2016) to \$50,000 this year. In the event of a tie, the two winners will split the first and second place (\$25,000) awards (\$37,500 each).^[18]

A few weeks before the competition, spelling bee organizers declared that the tiebreaker test, established in 2017 to declare a champion in the case of all 25 championship round words being exhausted, would no longer be administered, due to the pressure and difficulty it imposes upon the speller.^[18]

This was the second year that spellers could qualify through the RSVBee program if their school is part of the National Spelling Bee Program and the speller has won a school or community bee, although he/she has not won a regional bee.^[19] RSVBee participants do not have a sponsor, and have to pay a \$1,500 entry fee plus their own travel, lodging, and expenses, and another \$600 if they do not stay at the site hotel.^[7] The program raised concerns this year that some spellers were getting in merely because they are able to pay their way. Some wild-card spellers were eliminated in the first two oral rounds on simple words (compared to the normal level at the national bee): tendon, vestibule, allocation, and gyro. Seventeen RSVBee entrants were 9 or younger, and none made it to the finals.^[20]

References

1. Miller, Valerie (November 13, 2018). Scripps National Spelling Bee Introduces Changes and New Opportunities Through RSVBee (<http://scripps.com/press-releases/1205-scripps-national-spelling-bee-introduces-changes-and-new-opportunities-through-rsvbee>), Scripps.com, Retrieved April 3, 2019
2. Miller, Ryan W. (May 28, 2019). <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/28/scripps-spelling-bee-how-watch-espn-live-stream-see-2019-word-list/1256418001/> (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/28/scripps-spelling-bee-how-watch-espn-live-stream-see-2019-word-list/1256418001/>), *USA Today*
3. Donovan-Smith, Orion (May 31, 2019). "8 National Spelling Bee co-champions named in unprecedented competition" (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2019/05/30/an-expanded-field-private-coaches-national-spelling-bee-field-is-whittled-down-finalists/?noredirect=on>). *The Washington Post*. Retrieved May 30, 2019.
4. Nuckols, Ben (May 25, 2019). At the spelling bee, the most common sound is the toughest (<https://apnews.com/0c4acaf4ce174f9782487a8e81293880>), Associated Press
5. Media information (<https://spellingbee.com/media>), Spellingbee.com, Retrieved May 28, 2019

6. (May 28, 2019). [Round 2 is a Wrap \(https://twitter.com/ScrippsBee/status/1133472825656979456\)](https://twitter.com/ScrippsBee/status/1133472825656979456), Scripps National Spelling Bee (Tweet)
7. Nuckols, Ben (May 28, 2019). [The bell rings twice: Spelling bee competitor gets reprieve \(https://apnews.com/367270b7b9a649d09a167c0219638be3\)](https://apnews.com/367270b7b9a649d09a167c0219638be3), Associated Press
8. http://spellingbee.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/Contest_Rules_of_the_2019_Scripps_National_Spelling_Bee.pdf
9. (May 29, 2019). [Going to the Finals \(https://spellingbee.com/blog/#!/going-finals?nid=2106\)](https://spellingbee.com/blog/#!/going-finals?nid=2106), spellingbee.com
10. (May 29, 2019). [Summary Results for the Preliminaries \(http://cdn.spellingbee.com/bee/summary_results_for_the_prelims.pdf?1490751\)](http://cdn.spellingbee.com/bee/summary_results_for_the_prelims.pdf?1490751), spellingbee.com (includes list of 50 finalists)
11. Teproff, Carli (May 29, 2019). [Broward teen know for her spelling prowess and bumblebee fashion makes it to Bee finals \(https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article230956233.html\)](https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article230956233.html), *Miami Herald* (article on finalist Simone Kaplan)
12. Nuckols, Ben (May 30, 2019). [Too good: Top spelling bee kids humble dictionary in finals \(https://apnews.com/31123142c2dd4349b7e11649270dc3e6\)](https://apnews.com/31123142c2dd4349b7e11649270dc3e6), Associated Press
13. Zimmer, Ben (31 May 2019). [How Eight Middle Schoolers Toppled the Scripps Spelling Bee \(https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2019/05/scripps-spelling-bee-wasnt-ready-octochamps/590749/\)](https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2019/05/scripps-spelling-bee-wasnt-ready-octochamps/590749/), *The Atlantic*
14. [Competition Information \(https://spellingbee.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/Competition%20Information.pdf\)](https://spellingbee.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/Competition%20Information.pdf), Spellingbee.com, (Retrieved May 28, 2019)
15. May, Patrick (May 27, 2019). [That's a word?! What to know before the Scripps National Spelling Bee starts \(http://www.mercurynews.com/2019/05/27/thats-a-word-what-to-know-before-the-scripps-national-spelling-bee-starts/\)](http://www.mercurynews.com/2019/05/27/thats-a-word-what-to-know-before-the-scripps-national-spelling-bee-starts/), *The Mercury News*
16. Nuckols, Ben (31 May 2019). [Elite 8: National Spelling Bee too easy for octet of champs \(https://apnews.com/31123142c2dd4349b7e11649270dc3e6\)](https://apnews.com/31123142c2dd4349b7e11649270dc3e6), Associated Press
17. Orion Donovan-Smith (May 31, 2019). ["8 National Spelling Bee co-champions named in unprecedented competition" \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2019/05/30/an-expanded-field-private-coaches-national-spelling-bee-field-is-whittled-down-finalists/?noredirect=on\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2019/05/30/an-expanded-field-private-coaches-national-spelling-bee-field-is-whittled-down-finalists/?noredirect=on). *Washington Post*. Retrieved May 31, 2019.
18. Nuckols, Ben (May 1, 2019). ["National Spelling Bee ditches its tiebreaker" \(https://www.columbian.com/news/2019/may/01/national-spelling-bee-ditches-its-tiebreaker/\)](https://www.columbian.com/news/2019/may/01/national-spelling-bee-ditches-its-tiebreaker/). *The Columbian*. Associated Press. Retrieved May 2, 2019.
19. Tyrrell, Joie (March 20, 2019). ["Sophic": A perfect word for a wise Long Island spelling bee champion \(https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/long-island-spelling-bee-1.28697729\)](https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/long-island-spelling-bee-1.28697729), *Newsday*
20. Nuckols, Ben (May 29, 2019). [Spelling bee veteran offers master class in composure \(https://apnews.com/f030e48b555b41b4b5998c51ccb400ba\)](https://apnews.com/f030e48b555b41b4b5998c51ccb400ba), Associated Press

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=92nd_Scripps_National_Spelling_Bee&oldid=918304816"

This page was last edited on 28 September 2019, at 01:02 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.