

EURASIAN SPELLING BEE ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETITION 2020

Introduction and Goals

This competition is organised by ELPC – English Language Proficiency Competition LTD Uzbekistan in cooperation with Gatehouse Awards LTD United Kingdom to promote English language, and challenge students from Asia and Europe to improve their lexical skills, particularly in respect to spelling. It inspires students to read more, in line with the theme “Read to Succeed”, in order to encourage them to learn the major principles and patterns of English, expand their vocabulary and work on their pronunciation. It also enhances students’ development of poise and communication under pressure and provides an opportunity for them to get exposed to the national limelight. It also brings attention to the schools’ pressing literacy needs and prepares and equips teachers with the skills to teach English. The main goal is to create and nourish friendly relations and national understanding between young people interested in English language from private and public schools in Asian and European countries.

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Rule and guideline 1: Territory and Eligibility

The competition is open to students who are studying in grades 2 – 11 from the **countries in Asia and Europe**. Only the students who go to state or private schools and study English as a foreign language are eligible to participate in this competition. *Bilingual students will not be admitted to this Competition. Students that are considered bilingual are the ones who were born or have lived and attended school for at least 3 years in an English-speaking country as well as those who live in a non-English speaking country but attend an English/American International school. Should a student who is considered bilingual according to the above definition apply for a regular category through another school, ELPC organisation reserves the right to disqualify them from the Competition.*

Rule and guideline 2: Competition Dates and Venues

The opening date of the Registration for the Competition is **20 February 2020, 10:00h local GMT** and the closing date is **15 June 2020, 17:00h local GMT**. Any registration received before the opening date or after the closing date will not be included in the Competition. The ELPC organisation accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or malfunction or any other problem with any system, server, provider or otherwise that may result in any registration being lost, delayed or not properly entered.

The competition will be run in **three** rounds: preliminary round, semi-final round and final round.

No	Round	Date	Country	Tasks	Results
1	Preliminary	27-28 June	Locally registered country	written, listening, oral spelling	12 July
2	Semi-final	25-26 July	Locally registered country	written, listening, oral spelling	12 August
3	Final	5-6 September	Gdańsk, Poland	written, listening, oral spelling	the day after the exam

The **venues** for the preliminary and semi-final rounds will be selected for each participating country by the country coordinators.

The top 20% of participating students from each participating country will be invited to the semi-final round. A minimum 10 students from each grade (**2-11**) will be invited to the final round. The number of finalists might increase depending on the number of participants. The finalists will be chosen according to the scores received in the semi-final round.

Three-day full-board (breakfast, lunch, dinner) accommodation will be provided for all the candidates and their teachers free of charge.

Rule and guideline 3: Candidate Registration and Fee

Candidates are able to register online via the online registration link individually or with a group through the national coordinator of the country. The details of the candidates must be entered accurately only in Latin letters.

NB: Please contact your national or regional coordinator regarding the registration fee. Candidates are kindly requested to only cancel their registration in case of health condition. There will be NO REFUND of the registration fee unless a medical certificate is provided.

Rule and guideline 4: Competition Tasks and Time allowed

Candidates in all rounds (preliminary, semi-final and final) will be given three tasks:

1) Task 1 Written – participants read the text and identify and correct 10 misspelled words (time allowed 10 minutes);

1.1) Task 2 Written – Bee Levels 1-4 – participants need to identify and correctly spell 5 words based on a picture and scrambled up letters. (time allowed 5 minutes);

Bee Levels 5-11 – participants need to identify and correctly spell 5 words based on a definition and scrambled up letters. (time allowed 5 minutes);

2) Task 2 Listening - participants listen to a short recording, read the text and complete the gaps with correct spelling of the words (approximate time 5 minutes);

3) Task 3 Oral – in the preliminary and semi-final round each participant will be given only two words to spell orally, but for the final round the number of words will double. For further details, please read Rule 6. *(time allowed: the spellers have total 1 minute and 45 seconds to think and spell each word after the clear pronunciation and all information are given. The judges and pronouncer will not communicate with the speller during the final 30 seconds. The judges will disqualify any speller who does not provide a complete spelling before the expiration of time (0 seconds). If the judges and pronouncer need to discuss a competition-related matter while the speller is contemplating a word, they may pause the time clock, and they will inform the speller when they pause and resume the time clock.)*

NB: All the answers for tasks 1-3 need to be transferred on to the answer sheet by the candidates. The scores for task 4 will be recorded by the invigilators. The answer sheets will be provided for each candidate during the exam.

Rule and guideline 5: Marking

№	Round	Tasks			Remarks
		Written	listening	oral	
1	Preliminary	Task 1 (1 point per each word correctly identified and each word corrected – a total of 20 points)	Task 1 (2 points for each word correctly spelled – a total of 10 points)	1 correct word (5 points each)	The exam level for the semi-final round will be one Bee level higher than the one in the preliminary round, and will remain the same at the final round.
		Task 2 (2 points for each word correctly spelled – a total of 10 points)			
2	Semi-final	Task 1 / Task 2 as above	Task 1 as above	1 correct word as above	
3	Final	Task 1/ Task 2 as above	Task 1 as above	1 correct word as above	

Rule and guideline 6: Oral Spelling - Judge's, Pronouncer's and Speller's role

- The Judges and Pronouncers will be in complete charge of the contest. Their decision will be final in all questions. Any problem relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the Judges immediately during the competition at the relevant stage. No complaints or appeals will be considered after the contest has ended.
- The judges listen carefully, determine whether or not words are spelled correctly, and uphold the rules. The decisions of the judges are final.
- Misunderstandings: The judges will not respond to the speller's question(s) about the word and its pronunciation but, if the judges sense that the speller has misunderstood the word, the judges will direct the speller and pronouncer to interact until they are satisfied that reasonable attempts have been made to assist the speller in understanding the word within the time constraints outlined in Rule 4. It is sometimes impossible to detect a misunderstanding until a spelling error has been made, and the judges are not responsible for the speller's misunderstanding.
- Pronouncer Errors: The judges compare the pronouncer's pronunciation with the diacritical markings in the word list. If the judges feel that the pronouncer's pronunciation does not match the pronunciation specified in the diacritical markings, the judges will direct the pronouncer to correct the error as soon as it is detected.
- Spellers are allowed to bring a note pad and pen or pencil to practise the words before the competition (for their use only), but the speller must then spell the word orally during the competition. Extra paper and pencil are not allowed.
- In competition, spellers may pronounce words before spelling, after spelling, or not at all. However, you are encouraged to pronounce the word BEFORE spelling to ensure that you heard the word correctly. For example, if you are given the word **baseball** and you spell **baseballs**, your spelling will be considered **incorrect**. Or, if you are given **absence** and you spell **absent**, your spelling will be considered **incorrect**. The speller may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, use it in a sentence, provide the part of speech, provide the language(s) of origin and/or provide an alternate pronunciation or pronunciations.
- The pronouncer strives to pronounce words according to the diacritical markings in 2020 ESB word lists.
- The pronouncer responds to the speller's requests for a definition, sentence, part of speech, language(s) of origin and alternate pronunciation(s) as listed in the competition word list produced by ESB. The pronouncer does not entertain root word questions, requests for alternate definitions or requests for slower pronunciation.
- Homonyms: If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word.

- At any time, the speller may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined or used in a sentence, or they may ask for the part of speech or the language of origin. But the pronouncer shall grant the request(s) until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller. The pronouncer will not syllabify (divide into syllables) the word.
- Once you begin to spell a word, you will not have a chance to change letters once pronounced. A speller may repeat the word orally, provided letters and their sequence are not changed. The speller must indicate words with apostrophes, capitals and other punctuation marks, and any accent marks either over the letter or at the end of the word.
- Judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling the word within a reasonable time outline in Rule 4.
- *Misunderstandings*: The speller is responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless (1) the pronouncer never provided a correct pronunciation; (2) the pronouncer provided incorrect information regarding the definition, part of speech, or language of origin; or (3) the speller correctly spelled a homonym of the word and the pronouncer failed to either offer a definition or distinguish the homonyms. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he or she must spell the word which is defined.
- When a speller fails to spell a word correctly after all additional assistance as permitted by the rules of the competition has been provided, and / or the maximum time has expired, they must drop out of the competition. The pronouncer will announce the correct spelling of the word and a greeter will present a certificate of participation to the student. Another word shall be given to the next speller in line. The winner(s) will be announced accordingly.

- **There is an element of chance in this contest.** When only two spellers remain with equal points, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when a speller misspells a word, the other speller will be given the opportunity to spell the same word. If the second speller spells the word correctly, the second speller will be declared the winner of Gold/Silver or Bronze medal. If both spellers misspell the same word, both will continue in the contest with a new word until the judges make final decision.
- In the event of a protest or dispute, decisions shall be based on “*Macmillan Dictionary of English*” the official contest dictionary. No other source shall be allowed.
- To minimize disruptions during this competition we ask audience members to turn off cell phones and pagers.

Rule and guideline 7: Prizes

All participants will receive a certificate of participation in the preliminary and semi-final round. The finalists who achieve the highest points in each category will be awarded as follows: **1 Gold medal, 2 Silver medals and 3 Bronze medals**. The rest of the finalists who pass the final round tests will also be awarded an internationally recognised certificate in English by Gatehouse Awards United Kingdom.

Additional prizes for the Gold, Silver and Bronze winners will be announced closer to the Competition date.

Rule and guideline 8: Competition Categories

The participants by categories are required to expect any random word for **oral spelling** from Bee 1 Level to their current Level. For example, if a speller is in Bee 5 Level, they can expect any random word from Bee 1 to Bee 5.

Grade	Bee Level
2	Bee 1
3	Bee 2
4	Bee 3
5	Bee 4
6	Bee 5
7	Bee 6
8	Bee 7
9	Bee 8
10	Bee 9
11	Bee 10

Rule and guideline 9: Competition Materials

Sample papers to practise will be sent to the country coordinators via email or available to download on www.eurasianspellingbee.org or on official telegram channel [@elpcolympiad](https://t.me/elpcolympiad). For further info please contact us via email info@eurasianspellingbee.org .

Exam papers including instructions for the preliminary and semi-final round will be delivered to the country coordinators 3-4 days before the competition date and need to stay closed until the exam start time. The exam papers including answer sheets need be sent back to ELPC organisation within 4 working days. The materials delivered after this date will not be marked.