

Spelling Bee FAQ

1. Who can purchase the ACSI Spelling Bee Kits?

ACSI Member and non-member schools may purchase the Spelling Bee Kits at the same price (\$290). NOTE: *Only member schools will be able to send a winner on to the online Divisional and/or International Bees.*

2. How can my homeschooled student participate?

Homeschool groups or co-ops may purchase the kits, however winners from homeschool bees may not progress to online Divisional and/or International Bee. NOTE: *In some cases, member schools welcome homeschooled families from the area into their spelling bees. ACSI does not have guidelines about whether the school can charge a participation fee. Feel free to reach out to your nearest ACSI school to inquire.*

3. What is included in the Spelling Bee Kit?

Each kit includes instructions on how to run the bees, practice word lists, certificate templates and competition word lists for Grade-Level Bees (1-8) and the Spell-Off Bee (5-8). NOTE: *Participation in the Divisional Bees for school winner(s) and the International Bee for division winner(s) do incur additional costs beyond the Spelling Bee Kit price.*

4. How much are the participation fees for online bees?

The Divisional Bee participation fee is an additional \$32 per student, and the International Bee participation fee is an additional \$45 per student. NOTE: *Participation in online bees is limited to the winners of the prior qualifying bee (see chart below).*

5. How many students from my school can progress to our Divisional Bee?

One student from each school that purchases a Spelling Bee Kit will be eligible to enter the Divisional Bee if the school has followed the procedures outlined in the handbook provided within the Spelling Bee Kit. NOTE: *There are three divisional bees: Western, Central, and Eastern. International participants will be placed in the division that has the fewest entrants.*

While first place winners from each school will have a guaranteed place in their Divisional Bee, there may be opportunities for the second place (and possibly even third place) winners to participate as well. This will be communicated to the School Coordinator after all participating schools have reported their first-place winners.

6. Can we join with other schools to host a spelling bee?

Yes, but there is only one winner per kit purchase. Schools who want to run their spelling bees cooperatively with other schools may do so. If they each purchase a kit, they will each be able to send the student who reaches the highest place from their individual school. NOTE: *If the group of schools only purchases one kit jointly, then only one winner from the group would be eligible for the Divisional Bee. It will*

be important for schools who are meeting together for the bee (and individually purchase kits) to keep track of their students in the 5-8 Spell-Off so they can identify the top students from each of their schools.

7. What is the timeframe/dates to host these events?

The deadline to hold your school bee is the end of January 2025. The deadline to register your school's Grade 5-8 Spell-Off winner **February 4, 2025**. We will send out another communication to let you know if there is room for additional winners in the divisional bee.

Eastern Division Bee (online) **February 25, 2025** Exact time TBD

Central Division Bee (online) **February 26, 2025** Exact time TBD

Western Division Bee (online) **February 27, 2025** Exact time TBD

International Final Bee (online) **April 29, 2025** Exact time TBD

The cost for a student to register for the divisional bee will be \$32. This will apply to the Grade 5-8 Spell-Off winner from your school.

8. How do I access the Spelling Bee Kit once it's been purchased?

Once the kit is purchased and paid in full, you may access the download by following these instructions:

- 1) Log into ACSI.org (hyperlink is provided in the customer confirmation email).
- 2) Click on the person icon in the top right corner and then click "My Membership Profile/Account".
- 3) On your profile, click the "My Digital Purchases" and your Spelling Bee kit will be there for you to download.

Please note that the confirmation email is sent to the email address associated with the school account, not necessarily the school coordinator.

9. Is this competition word list more difficult than in years past?

The lists for the 2024-25 competition season were deliberately made more rigorous because it had come to the attention of ACSI that our word lists from years past were not on par with other national bees. We have spent a lot of time vetting each and every word on these lists to make sure that they are appropriate, yet challenging. It is possible that during this process, a few words on lists may be slightly more challenging to students than intended.

At the conclusion of the competition season, we find that we receive feedback from schools expressing significant concerns about this year's word lists, we will consider forming a review committee to assist in the development of future word lists.

10. Why are the word lists in alphabetical order rather than in random order?

The design of the competition word list was for practical purposes during the creation process, as it aided in the accurate development across all lists. We didn't feel that the altered order was of any significant detriment to the quality or integrity of the word lists.