



PRELIMINARIES

Testing Window

**Monday, February 24 through
Friday, February 28, 2025**

[This is a VIRTUAL event]

All School Spelling Bee Champions will participate in this **virtual** event. The Preliminaries are hosted on the Scripps' Online Testing Platform (OTP).

The *top 15 to 20 (or so)* highest scoring spellers from the Preliminaries will advance to the [Final Oral Rounds](#) of the 2025 Sage Ventura County Spelling Bee. (21 spellers advanced in 2024.)

TEST FORMAT

This test is a 30-minute, 50-word test that may be taken at any time during the testing window. This test is a combination of 25 spelling words (type in the spelling) and 25 vocabulary words (multiple choice). Five of the 25 spelling words and five of the 25 vocabulary words (10 words total) do not appear on any study list and come from the official dictionary, Merriam-Webster Unabridged. The remaining words come from the *2025 Words of the Champions*.

IMPORTANT

1. **How to study for the Preliminaries?** The *2025 Words of the Champions* is the official study list of the 2025 Sage Ventura County Spelling Bee. The speller should study all three difficulty levels of the *2025 Words of the Champions* — the three levels are “one bee,” “two bee” and “three bee.” Spellers do not need to study pages 6, 7, 16, 17, 34 or 35. These pages are school spelling bee study lists, and none of these words will be presented during the Preliminaries or Final Oral Rounds. For more information about this list and how to obtain a copy, please visit [Official Study Resources](#).
2. **Where to take the test?** This virtual test must be taken in a school environment and proctored by the school's spelling bee coordinator or their designee. Please coordinate with your school's spelling bee coordinator, teacher, or principal. See “Mandatory Integrity Protocols.”
3. **Equipment needed for the Online Testing Platform** – Spellers can take the online test on any device with a web browser. The OTP supports the following browsers: Chrome, Firefox, and Edge. The OTP will not work on devices running Safari for Desktop or Explorer.
4. **How to access the Online Testing Platform** – A special invitation with a link to access the OTP will be emailed to each speller by Friday, February 7, 2025.

5. **Do not begin** this test until you are prepared to finish it. Although spellers will have the opportunity to review their test answers within the 30-minute test window and prior to submission, they will not have the opportunity to stop and start the test.
6. **Mandatory Integrity Protocols** are in place to ensure an equal testing platform for our spellers. We use a three-pronged approach to testing integrity: a time limit that curtails the use of external sources; a *Bee Integrity Pledge* that must be acknowledged prior to taking the test; and we require that the test be taken in a school environment and that your school's spelling bee coordinator (or their designee) serve as a proctor/monitor and be in the room while the test is being taken. If this last protocol can't be supported by the speller's school, please reach out to Julie Lopez at vcspellingbee@sagepub.com or (219) 688-3168 as soon as possible.
7. **Do not share** any questions/words from this test at any time during the testing window (Monday, February 24 through Friday, February 28, 2025).