



Spelling

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE GRADER

Thank you for contributing your time to the UIL Spelling contest. The contestants are relying on you to grade their tests accurately and to be familiar with the rules for grading and scoring the tests. A couple of reminders:

- Plain writing rules are not a part of UIL Spelling contest. Students in all grade levels may use either a cursive or printing style of handwriting.
- Words may be written or printed in pen or pencil.
- Students may erase as necessary.

Legibility

The correct spelling of a word consists of writing legibly the letters that compose it in their proper order. Contestants in all grade levels may use either a printing or a cursive style of handwriting. Legibility, and not handwriting style, is to be emphasized. To determine whether a given letter is legible, place a blank piece of paper on either side of it, thus separating it from its context, and then see whether the character can be identified. Any letter, even though it may not be perfectly written, is considered correct if it can still be identified when separated from the remainder of the word. If two of three judges rule that a letter is legible, it should be considered correct.

Dictionary

The authority is the *Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary*.

Misspelling

Any word misspelled in the *A+ Spelling List* should not be considered in grading the spelling papers unless a correction has been given in the "Official Notices" section of the *Leaguer* and/or posted on the UIL web site.

Correction

If a word is misspelled on the test provided for the district meet, that word is to be corrected by the contest director and given to contestants for spelling.

Miss

The misuse of an apostrophe or hyphen, or a mistake in capitalization is considered a miss.

Pronunciation

Words are to be pronounced in order from the test lists furnished, and any word omitted by the contestant is a miss. If all papers omit the same word, the pronouncer is presumed to have failed to give the word, so the omission by contestants is not considered a miss.

Contractions and Possessive Forms

Contractions and possessive forms may be written with all letters connected or may be written separately. Either way is correct.

Contest directors are responsible for determining the grade on each paper, but they may enlist your assistance. The contestant's grade shall be determined by deducting one point for each misspelled word. The contestant making the highest score shall be given first place; the one making the next highest score second place; and so on through sixth place.

In case of a tie for first through sixth place, the score on the tie breaker test shall be used to break the deadlock and determine the winner. If a tie still exists after the tie breaker has been graded, this tie shall not be broken. Should there be an unbroken tie for first place, there is no second place. Should there be a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc.

Please remain at the contest site during the verification period until the final results are announced in the event of any questions or protests.