

Thank you for contributing your time to the PSIA Spelling Contest. The Contestants are relying on your abilities to pronounce and pace the spelling words in this contest.

Approximately 48 hours prior to the contest, you should open the PRONOUNCER'S ENVELOPE and review your list of words to be pronounced in the contest. Examining the test before the contest will give you time to become familiar with the words and, if needed, create an illustrative sentence or short definition. If needed, a dictionary should be consulted. The authority for all words is *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition*.

More than One Pronunciation: If a word has two or more acceptable pronunciations, at least two of the pronunciations should be given by the pronouncer. Each pronunciation may be given only twice. If a word seems to offer unusual difficulties to the contestants, it should be briefly defined or used in an illustrative sentence.

Homonyms: The pronouncer should be careful to distinguish between words that sound alike but have different meanings. Thus, if he pronounced the word "bass," he should be careful to say "bass drum," or "bass voice," to distinguish it from "base," meaning "low or mean."

Pronounce each word at a rate of approximately 6 words per minute. You may, at your discretion, increase the time if a few extra seconds are needed to define words which sound alike or if a word has a lengthy spelling. Contestants may NOT speak during the contest to ask for repronunciation.

Tie Breaker: The tiebreaker is to be given to all contestants following the initial test. A short break (about 2 minutes) may be given before the tie breaker portion of the test begins. A verifier may meet with the pronouncer briefly to indicate words that need clarification.

Monitor/Verifier: A monitor and/or a verifier, or verifiers, have been placed in the contest room to observe the test administration and students. Monitors/verifiers should be given a one-sided copy of the test list, as marked in your packet. If they cannot hear a word, or if a definition is unclear, they will circle that word on their test copy. AFTER all the spelling words have been pronounced, the monitor/verifier will meet with you and ask you to pronounce again the words noted. This procedure should ensure clarity and consistency for all the contestants. **The procedure will be repeated for the tiebreaker.**

Verification Period: You MAY be needed at this time. Please remain at the contest site during the 15-minute verification period and 15-minute awards presentation in case questions should arise concerning pronunciation. You should also have an assistant in the verification time period. We trust that you will also serve as a grader.

Thank you again for your time and effort. We appreciate your service.

Dear PSIA Spelling Pronouncer / Director:

Enclosed is your list of spelling words to be pronounced by you at the PSIA District Meet. Please keep this list very secure, and do not allow anyone else to view it. You may add definitions and/or sentences to your list, if you wish, if you believe this will assist you in your presentation of the words.

You will be serving as both the pronouncer and the Director of this contest. Your Materials Packet containing the roster and student answer sheets should be picked up in the Tab Room DR 115 in plenty of time to prepare for the contest. Words should be pronounced, beginning with the number, in accordance to the guidelines enclosed. You must pronounce ALL words, inclusive of the Tiebreaker words during this session. Your monitors shall not be allowed to re-pronounce words to students. Because other contests will likely be held in your contest room, it will be important to remain on schedule as much as possible.

You will also be given a sealed packet of spelling lists when you sign in on Saturday morning at the place designated on your tournament schedule. Give one spelling list that is printed only on one side to each of your monitors, along with their instruction sheet. The other lists (printed on both sides) are for contestants to use in the Verification Period, and these may also be used by your graders.

If you are directing any contest held prior to April 1, you **MUST** make sure that no contest paper or key is taken from the tournament. Contest papers will be released on April 1 from the district meets.

Thank you very much for your service!

Pat and Bruce Walters