

**INTERNATIONAL  
SPELLING BEE**



**Amco**   
Happy to learn.

**ANNUAL COMPETITION**

**2019**



**#AmcoSpelling**



The **Amco Spelling Bee** is an experience that comprehensively develops the academic, social and emotional abilities in students.

## COMPETITION OBJECTIVES

- Promote English learning among students through a dynamic and educational competition, oriented towards:
  - a) spelling excellence
  - b) vocabulary expansion
- Stimulate individual work and healthy competition in our students, both at their own school and with students from others.
- Develop self-confidence and self-esteem and, in turn, emotional intelligence.

## PARTICIPANTS

Any Amco student from any Amco primary program.





## CATEGORIES

There will be 2 categories depending on the profile of the student and Amco program they work with at the time of competition:

- **Category 1:** *Non-bilingual Schools* - students from schools that use any of the following Amco programs: *Gear Up, Rocket 3, Rocket 5, Lead or Speed Up* (without extra materials like CLIL, Visual Arts or Natural Science).
- **Category 2:** *Bilingual Schools:*
  - Students from schools that have more than 5 hours/sessions of English per week.
  - Students from schools that are accredited with bilingual education in the respective bilingual and multilingual programs for their autonomous community.
  - Students of schools that study the following Amco programs: *Gear Up, Rocket 3, Rocket 5, Lead or Speed Up* with the subjects of Visual Arts and/or Natural Science in English.

With respect to each category, participants will be divided into the following groups according to grade:

- *Group 1: 1st and 2nd graders*
- *Group 2: 3rd and 4th graders*
- *Group 3: 5th and 6th graders*





## WORDS

The words used during the competition will be pre-selected from the lists of commonly used words and the *Pronunciation Lab/Spelling/Phonology* sections from the various primary programs. In category 2 (*Bilingual Schools*) words from the additional subjects of *Visual Arts* and *Natural Science* will also be added to the lists:

### Number of words for **Category 1:**

- *1st and 2nd graders: 125 words*
- *3rd and 4th graders: 150 words*
- *5th and 6th graders: 175 words*

### Number of words for **Category 2:**

- *1st and 2nd graders: 150 words*
- *3rd and 4th graders: 200 words*
- *5th and 6th graders: 250 words*





For the **AMCO Iberia Final**, the organization, exclusively, will have a separate list of extra words for each category and group. This list of words will be used if the students do not make any mistakes in the spelling of words from the Word List, in the case of an excessive number of rounds per group, or in the case of a time shortage, as deemed by the jury.

The Extra Word List will also have the same format as the Word List. The word will be accompanied by its definition and sentence where the word is used in context. If the contestant has any doubts about how to spell the word, they are welcome to ask for the definition or sentence.

For the **Semi-final Round at the school level** the organization will not provide the Extra Word List to the schools, but we advise that, the teaching staff create an extra list at their own discretion that allows for the selection of a winner in case of multiple rounds.





## Participation Rules

1. The contestants will be standing while they are competing on stage. If they spell their assigned word incorrectly, they will have to sit down on the stage while they wait for the round to be over.
2. The word should be spelled correctly.
3. Once the student begins to spell their assigned word, they should proceed in a continuous manner.
4. The student must always spell in the following manner:  
open word/spell word/close word

**Example:** bear/ b-e-a-r/bear

The participant, BEFORE BEGINNING TO SPELL A WORD (for example, they could have opened the word but not started spelling), can ask for two of the following options as a form of help to make sure they have understood the word correctly:

Help options:

- A. The repetition of the word.
- B. The definition of the word.
- C. The word used in a sentence.

5. Once the student has started (by opening the word and starting to spell the word) the participant can ask to start again. no mistakes have been made, the student can ask the judge by using the phrase "May I start again?". The student should then begin again by following the complete procedure of opening, spelling and closing the word. If the student does not remember to open or close the word, this will be grounds for elimination.

- Capitalized letters and special characters, including spaces, should be acknowledged. If they are not acknowledged, the spelling will be considered incorrect.





EXAMPLE

**Juez:** Andrea, please spell "Norway"

**Andrea:** Norway / capital N - o - r - w - a - y / Norway

(Note que la mayúscula inicial fue mencionada).

**Juez:** Sergio, please spell "far away"

**Sergio:** far away / f - a - r - space - a - w - a - y / far away

(Note que Sergio dijo "space" para el espacio).

**Juez:** Fernanda, please spell "merry-go-round"

**Fernanda:** merry-go-round / m - e - r - r - y - dash - g - o - dash - r - o - u - n - d / merry-go-round

(Note que Fernanda mencionó los guiones entre las palabras diciendo "dash". También es permitido expresarlo como "hyphen").

7. The student should say each letter of the word loudly and clearly so that it can be heard and understood by the judges. If the judge determines that the student should repeat the spelling of the word, the student should repeat it following the same complete procedure of: opening, spelling and closing the word.
8. The student should pronounce the word correctly and emphasize the difference between .the letters v and b, c and z, m and n, and also, t and d.
9. When a student misspells their assigned word, that same word will be given to.
10. The spelling of a word that contains two of the same consecutive letters will be accepted as correct if the student chooses to put the word "double" before the corresponding letters.





## COMPETITION PHASES

The competition will be completed in two phases:

- **Semi-Final Round:** Students will compete against other students within their school with respect to their competition group. In order for the school to participate in the AMCO Iberia Final, this phase should be completed by **March 29, 2019**.
- **AMCO Iberia Final:** The winning students from each school in all of Spain and Portugal will compete in the **Grand Final**.

The AMCO Iberia Final will take place May 11th, 2019, at Teatro Goya in Madrid.





## WORD SELECTION

To ensure that the selection of words be completely impartial, the selection process will be done as follows:

There will be a bag for each category and group, in this case, there will up to 6 bags.

In each bag, there will be cards labeled with a number that corresponds to the Word List; the cards will be numbered 1 to 125, 150, 175, 200 or 250, depending on the category and group. For example, Category 1 Group 3 will have 175 cards, numbered 1 to 175.

Under no circumstances can the participants look at the Word Lists during the competition. The only person with access to these lists during the competition day will be the person reading the lists corresponding to the category and group.

## COMPETITION PROCEDURE

The competition consists of two levels:

- An individual level, which is only performed during the Semi-Final Round.
- A group level which is carried out both in the Semi-Final Round and in the **AMCO Iberia Final**.





## COMPETITION PROCEDURE

### Individual Level (Semi Final Round)

At this level, the participant will select **5 numbered cards** (each paper is labeled with a number that corresponds to a word from the Word List). They will then give it to the person responsible for reading the words from the Word List.

Each participant will have to correctly spell the 5 words and will have a maximum of 30 seconds to do so. The participant, after hearing the word, will have to pronounce the word, spell it and pronounce it again; no participant will be eliminated if they pronounce the word incorrectly. Time will start after the person responsible for the Word List finishes saying the word and time will stop after the student finishes pronouncing the word, after they have spelled it.

To avoid potential problems of comprehension, it is recommended to emphasize correctly the pronunciation of certain letters that can be problematic. For example:

*/m/ and /n/, /b/ and /v/, /c/ and /z/, and /t/ and /d/*

Remember that, **BEFORE BEGINNING TO SPELL THE WORD** (for example, they could have opened the word but not started spelling), if the participant has any doubts about how to spell the word, they can ask for the following options:

- A. The repetition of the word.
- B. The definition of the word.
- C. The word used in a sentence.

The participants can use two of these options.





Upon beginning to spell the word, the participant may stop and start again, spelling the word from the beginning; however, when they respell it, there can be no change of letters nor any changes to the sequence in which the letters were said the first time. To restart the spelling of the word, the participant should indicate that that is their intention by repeating the word again before beginning to spelling it.

If the participant is spelling a phrase that consists of two or more words, they should indicate in English the space between the words (*space or dash / hyphen*).

In the event that a word includes an apostrophe, the participant should acknowledge it by saying the word *apostrophe* in English.

Words with two consonants or two vowels can be spelled like *double letter* or *letter letter*.

Words that begin with a capitalized letter should be indicated by the participant by saying *Capital* and the corresponding letter.

**If the participant spells the five words correctly, they may advance to the group level.**





## COMPETITION PROCEDURE

### Group Level (AMCO IBERIA FINAL)

At this level, firstly, each participant will choose a card that will determine the order of the participants in the group phase. The participant who selects number 1 will be the first to spell while the participant with the highest number will be the last.

Then, a numbered card will be selected at random. The number on the card will correspond to a word from the Word List that the student will then have to spell.

The participants will hear the word first; the participant who selected the number 1 will pronounce the word, spell it, and then pronounce it again. Then, the second participant will hear the second word, pronounce it, spell it and pronounce it again. This will continue until each participant has spelled one word.

Remember that, BEFORE BEGINNING TO SPELL THE WORD (for example, they could have opened the word but not started spelling), if the participant has any doubts about how to spell the word, they can ask for the following options::

- A. The repetition of the word.
- B. The definition of the word.
- C. The word used in a sentence.

The participants can use two of these options.





Upon beginning to spell the word, the participant may stop and start again, spelling the word from the beginning; however, when they respell it, there can be no change of letters nor changes to the sequence in which the letters were said the first time. To restart the spelling of the word, the participant should indicate that that is their intention by repeating the word again before beginning to spelling it.

If the participant is spelling a phrase that consists of two or more words, they should indicate in English the space between the words (*space or dash / hyphen*).

In the event that a word includes an apostrophe, the participant should acknowledge it by saying the word *apostrophe* in English.

Words with two consonants or two vowels can be spelled like *double letter or letter letter*.

Words that begin with a capitalized letter should be indicated by the participant by saying *Capital* and the corresponding letter.

The misspelling of a word will eliminate the contestant from the competition; once eliminated, the contestant will come down from the stage. In this case, the following student must spell that same word in order to advance in the competition.

This process will be repeated until there is only one contestant remaining. This contestant will be the **WINNER** in their category and group.

(*group 1, group 2, group 3*).





In the **AMCO Iberia Final**, if **after two rounds** of spelling between the students from each category and group a winner has not been obtained, the organization, with prior notice to the participants, will use the Extra Words List with respect to each category and group. All of the words in the Extra Words list are taken from the corresponding programs and they are chosen following the same rules as the rules from the Word Lists.

For the **Semi-final Round** the organization will not provide the Extra Word List to the schools, but we advise that the teaching staff create an extra list at their own discretion that allows for the selection of a winner in case of multiple rounds.

## PRIZES

### - At the school level:

- A gift to the 1st place participant in each group of the category (Group 1, Group 2 y Group 3)
- A Diploma of Recognition to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place participant in each group of the category (Group 1, Group 2 y Group 3).

### - At the AMCO Iberia Final level:

- A prize for the 1st place participant of each category and group.
- A gift for the 2nd place participant of each category and group.
- A Diploma of Recognition to all participants.
- A gift for the school to which each winner from each category and group belongs.



