



# RVNAhealth SPELLING BEE RULES OF PLAY

## Spellers may exercise the following standard rules of play:

Spellers may ask for the word to be repeated by the pronouncer up to three times;  
Spellers may ask for the definition of the word;  
Spellers may ask for the word to be used in a sentence;  
Spellers may ask for the language(s) of origin;  
Spellers may ask if there is an alternate pronunciation;  
Spellers may ask for the part of speech;

Audience must remain quiet while Contestants are spelling, as Spellers are disqualified by saying one incorrect letter.

Spellers cannot bring materials (paper, pens, dictionaries, smart phones, etc.).

Once a Speller begins spelling, he/she cannot backtrack or start over.

**Note:** Spellers must spell a word correctly to win. They cannot win on an audience buyback, honey pot donation, or lifeline help.

## There are three special rules of play:

1. OPT OUT FOR \$50
2. LIFELINE
3. AUDIENCE BUY-BACK

For the **Opt-Out** rule, Spellers may skip their given word and advance to the next round; however, it will cost \$50 to do so. Spellers must settle their debt on the spot with the judges (via a donation to the Honey Pot). The Speller may not use the “opt out rule” in order to win; they must spell the word correctly to win.

**Opt-Out may be used twice.**

For the **Lifeline** rule, a Speller may deflect a word to their Lifeline *before* they attempt to spell it. The Lifeline will be asked to stand and spell the given word. Once the Lifeline is called upon to spell a word, the contestant must remain silent – *all responsibility for spelling the word is transferred to the Lifeline.*

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Lifelines are entitled to all the *standard* rules of play except for the 'Opt-Out for \$50' option and 'Audience Buy-Back.' Contestants cannot confer with Lifelines; Lifelines may not speak with Siri, or use their smartphones for help. The Speller may not use a Lifeline in order to win.

**Lifelines may be used twice.**

For the **Audience Buy-Back** rule, if a word is spelled incorrectly, the Moderator will give the audience the opportunity to buy the Speller back into the contest for a \$100 donation. This may be an individual donation or a group effort totaling \$100. The Audience Buy-back is not available to a Lifeline. The Speller may not use Audience Buy-Back in order to win. The Audience must settle their Buy-Back on the spot.

**Audience Buy-Back may be used once.**