

Crash Coach for NSB Study

6-Week Personal Spelling Coach (PSC)

What is this program?

This is a coaching system, designed by Michelle Horton, a very experienced spelling coach, along with Linda Tarrant from HEXCO ACADEMIC. It is a highly modified, but intense, version of our PSC standard course. It is primarily designed to give an extra edge to those preparing for the National Spelling Bee. It is not designed to replace quizzing at home, but to supplement the home preparation.



What does my spelling student receive?

- Guidance in preparing for competition in the NSB, including the written portion
- Assessments on your child's current level of spelling expertise and continued assessment on words spelled weekly
- Lessons geared to increase word knowledge, language bases, and vocabulary, as well as extending his/her ability to figure out previously unstudied words based on language patterns, rules, conventions, roots, etc.
- Intense group quizzing and instruction for ½ hour per week via the phone
- Feedback individualized to your student after each session via email and short phone calls
- Regular assignments for studying word lists and words from *New Nat's Notes* and *Verbomania* that will take your student at least 1-2 hours per day.
- Regular assignments of Latin and Greek elements to broaden your student's grasp of these
- Instruction on using tools to prepare for the NSB (if needed)
- 200-300+ hours of coaching preparation done in advance of our scheduled appointment times
- Coaches passionate for NSB preparation that will be rooting for your student all along the way

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Who are good candidates for this program?

- Motivated students who want to pass the written portion at the NSB or to improve placement in NSB
- Committed spellers who are willing to study at least 6-12 hours weekly (beyond the group coaching time)
- Students who are willing to have a minimum of ½ hour intense group study using the telephone and/or computer
- Competitors who thrive with extra motivation or who respond well to accountability and goal-directed study
- Students who need help with pronouncing & learning difficult words and word patterns.
- Students who are unsure of how to tackle preparation for the NSB.
- Spellers who are willing to commit to the designated time period and who may want to continue for additional 2 week periods or even through the summer for next year's preparation.
- Families willing to sign a contract for the services provided and to keep our instruction and lessons for their single student with the understanding that this material may not be shared with other students, not even siblings.

Why is HEXCO offering this service?

There are very few coaches willing to dedicate themselves to this craft, and most are unwilling to coach beyond their personal families. If you are fortunate to find such a coach, their experience and special abilities are invaluable in preparing for the National Spelling Bee (NSB).

Over the years, Linda has received a multitude of requests for coaching services, and Michelle was approached by several parents of competitors in Washington when her son was competing. Together we decided to pool our knowledge base and offer an exceptional program for developing your student's skill.

Who will be the coach? What qualities does this coach have making her a superior coach?

Michelle Horton has been coaching students through Hexco's Personal Spelling Coaching program for nearly two years. Last year, nine of the students that Michelle coached won their berth to spell at the National Bee. She is the parent of Jonathan Horton, a three-time (NSB) participant in Washington. Jonathan's highest placement in the bee was a tie for 6th place. Michelle was his spelling coach who ably prepared him for competition. She has been developing and editing products for Hexco for the past several years and is currently working on some advanced products. Michelle definitely has a thorough grasp

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of what it takes to succeed in the NSB. Additionally, she has volumes of personally researched lists and other resources to use in teaching. She has successfully organized, overseen, and aided in spelling bees at local levels. Overall, Michelle has invested thousands of hours in NSB preparation. She coached Jonathan extensively for over 6 years, and she brings a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a specialization in Chemistry to the table. She has received a Middle School endorsement in the state of Arizona from Arizona State University.

Linda Tarrant of Hexco has even more years of working the spelling arena. Her three daughters participated at the NSB in 1987, 1989, 1992, and 1993. She has been developing and producing products for this specialized arena for over 28 years. Over the past ten years, every National Spelling Bee Champion has used one or more of the products developed by Hexco in their preparation to reach the pinnacle.

Together, these two can provide a terrific spelling program of study! Most of your speller's interaction will be with Michelle, but the two work very closely planning and organizing sessions.

What do I need to have on hand for this?

We find that a large percentage of words from the NSB are in Hexco's current products and mastery of these is essential. Those that are not found in current Hexco products can be mastered using a variety of methods.

You will need the following:

- *Hexco's Spelling Rules Book* (for mastery of spelling rules, languages, etc.)
- *Webster's 3rd (W3) CD-Rom* or online W3 access
- Spelling notebook
- Telephone and/or computer with internet and (possibly) Skype access
- Computer with the Microsoft Office program
- *New Nat's Notes* in difficulty sequence. Hexco will offer a replacement of your existing *New Nat's Notes* – alphabetical sequence for the *New Nat's Notes* – difficulty sequence for \$40 + \$9 shipping if you are enrolled in our PSC program. This is a real bargain and is just to cover the cost of printing, binding, and shipping of this large, 2-volume document.
- *Hexco's Verbomania*, preferably in difficulty sequence in Spelling Mentor software format or secondarily in printed difficulty sequence. If you currently have the alpha sequence book, you can send it to Hexco with your check for \$40 + \$9 shipping for Crash Course participants. The new version has been reedited, and etymology has been added for all words.

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Optional but really nice to have for spelling study

- Spelling Made Simple (SMS) software program (about \$25 retail, but we have arranged for a \$5 discount for our participants), microphone and computer recording program. It takes some prep time to implement this, but I'll help you with finding and using these if you choose to add this method of study to your current methods of study.
- W3 paper dictionary.

What is the cost for personalized coaching?

The abbreviated program can be scheduled for 6 weeks. The cost for the six week period is \$1700. Additional weeks can be purchased in blocks of 2 weeks at a cost of \$290. Fees are payable up front and may be made by personal check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or Paypal.

Why are these fees so expensive?

We are working diligently to provide a high quality service that few people can provide. We have collected a large volume of words that have never been used before and are not on any study lists. We are both skilled at pronouncing obscure words and have the full backdrop of the expertise of Hexco which has been working with spellers since 1983. Michelle has over 10 years of experience in the teaching field. Our methods work, and we are continually honing and modifying techniques to maximize current technologies and students' learning styles with efficient time spent studying.

There is nothing magic, and you can, of course, duplicate what we have done for your own speller, but the number of hours that it will take is immense. Your own preparation time for a session for your student will entail more hours than the time it will take him/her to commit the information, and you will have to keep at least one session ahead of him as well as monitor his/her successes and problems so that he/she can be called on at a later date to replicate the work, ensuring that the information is secure in his/her long-term memory. The two of us have already committed thousands of hours to spelling bee preparation, and thus start on this journey far more prepared than most others. Additionally, we will each have invested some 15 hours per week in preparing materials prior to coaching sessions. Michelle will spend an additional 2+ hours per week adapting sessions for your specific student.

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Other stipulations.

- No unlimited, unscheduled, round-the-clock attention from the spelling coach or Hexco.
- No guarantee of increased placement within the NSB framework. Ultimate placement, as you probably already know, is dependent on a variety of intangibles that include luck of the draw, level of study, willingness to study, student error, etc.
- No word lists that you may pass along to other spellers even when you have finished your preparation. All lesson plans and guidance are solely ours and may not be shared with anyone, including siblings.

What happens if my student misses an appointment for spelling instruction?

If your student fails to "attend" the group session for whatever reason, the student will receive a copy of the words they missed in that paid session. However, there is no way to evaluate how they would have spelled the words during the group session so the analysis of their spelling for that week would be lost.

Can I purchase personal one-on-one coaching for my student in addition to the Intense Mini Course?

If you wish for your student to have the benefit of PSC coaching in addition to the Intense Mini Course, we recommend purchasing a PSC coaching session. The Intense Mini Course is offered to regular PSC students at a greatly reduced rate. Please contact us for details if you wish to examine this avenue of study. PSC coaching slots are very limited and may or may not be available at this time.

Will my coach come to the National Spelling Bee?

Michelle would love to come and see your child compete. She lives nearby the Washington, D.C. area and is planning on attending the NSB unless unexpected circumstances prevent this.

Will my student receive personal, face-to-face coaching during the NSB week if we would like to have quizzing time there?

Should you wish for personalized coaching for your student just prior to the NSB during Bee Week, we will need to evaluate the costs involved of providing this service and determine a fee schedule accordingly.

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I have other questions that I'd like to ask. How may I talk to someone personally about this?

If you have any other questions that are not covered in this information packet, don't hesitate to call Linda at Hexco or myself. My personal number is (703) 753-1197 or my cell is (602) 670-8840.

If you prefer, you may email either of us as well.

How do we get started?

Your personalized spelling coach is either a phone call or email away! Let's get started!

Contact information for Michelle: phone (703) 753-1197 or my cell (602) 670-8840

Email: spellingmama@comcast.net

Contact information for Linda: 1-(800)-725-2627

Email: hexco@hexco.com

Good luck and good spelling!

Michelle and Linda