

Stats & Facts  
on NSB 2011

Personal stories  
from real NSB  
challengers!

2011 Regional and  
National Bee words

Changes in NSB 2011,  
by Hexco President,  
Linda Tarrant

# AFTER A SPELL

**FOR SERIOUS SPELLERS ONLY.**

Annual newsletter from HEXCO ACADEMIC — A report of the 2011 season of the National Spelling Bee

## Celebrating Sukanya - The Twenty-Round Spelling Starlet



Above: Sukanya Roy, 2011 National Spelling Bee Champion

It took 20 rounds to finally declare Sukanya Roy the 2011 National Spelling Bee Champion. It was only a spelling bee ago (2010) when the National Spelling Bee saw Sukanya in the semifinal rounds on ESPN tying for 20<sup>th</sup> place on her second trip to the National Bee. The 2011 Bee, however, was her time to shine as she catapulted into the top slot and won the coveted trophy.

Sukanya's strong spelling skills were evidenced by her confidence, focus, and almost robotic spelling. Sukanya was the 12<sup>th</sup> National Spelling Bee Champ in a row to use Hexco's products along the way to the pinnacle.

Second-place winner, Laura Newcombe, representing Canada, used one of Hexco's products as well. Both were extraordinary spellers. Sukanya fielded 7 words that had never been in bees before, and Laura fielded 6 such words. Of the top 5 spellers who went round and round, all fielded 6 never-used-before words. Two of the top five met their Waterloo on one of these challenging words.

Sukanya Roy	Laura Newcombe
psephomancy	rapprochement
pyopoesis	attacca
Völkerwanderung	ingberlach
rapakivi	caciocavallo
lakatoi	cheongsam
zwischenpiel	huipil
preux	pelerine
sangsue	bourride
lekane	grison
naumkeag	panguingue
orgeat	hooorosh
periscii	sorites
cymotrichous	

Advancing to the final rounds on ESPN television for the 2011 National Spelling Bee finals were only **13** spellers, and **11** of them used **Hexco products in preparation**. One of our customers in those top places participated in our Personal Spelling Coaching program along the way.

## HATS OFF TO THE 'FAB' FIVE



**ALL** of the top five places were filled by Hexco customers:  
 First place: Sukanya Roy; Second place: Laura Newcombe; Third place tie: Arvind Mahankali and Joanna Ye (Joanna had tied for fifth place in 2010); Dakota Jones placed 5th. Collectively, these 5 used 4 *New Nat's Notes*, 4 *Valerie's Supplements*, 4 *Spelling Rules Books*, 3 *Verbomanias*, 3 *New Bee Prepared*, plus a miscellanea of other Hexco products.



# We're Counting on You

Over the years, we have kept track of how customers who use our products fare at the National Spelling Bee. Since **Verbomania** with 13,000 words and **New Nat's Notes** with 18,000 words have proven themselves time and again, we like to measure the occurrence of words within these products as they appear in the National Spelling Bee. The audio versions of these products are called "mentors" or "flips," i.e., **VerboMentor**, **VerboFlips**, or **New Nat's Mentor**, and **New Nat's Flips**. Since these "sister" audio products contain the same words as their corresponding print versions (**Verbomania** and **New Nat's Notes**), we include these sales in our statistics as well.



This year, we would like to give a special thanks to **Mashad Arora** who placed sixth in the 2011 National Spelling Bee. Mashad was keen enough to catch some errors in our sneak-preview version of this **After a Spell** and called these to our attention right away. Thanks to Mashad and other volunteer editors, the speller-approved results are officially "in" for the 2011 National Spelling Bee. Individually and collectively, you have allowed us to beef-up our brag book for almost 30 years. We have counted on you to make us look good, and all have come through. Don't forget to find us on Facebook and periodically let us know how you are doing. Feel free to ask any questions!

## Words in Hexco Products

- ☑ 64% of all the off-list words used in Washington were in at least one Hexco product
- ☑ 32% of the words in the critical oral round (round 1) were in **Verbomania**, and 36% were in **New Nat's Notes**
- ☑ 60% of all off-list words were in either **New Nat's Notes** or **Verbomania** compared with 43% in Scripps' Consolidated Word List (CWL)

Hmmm ... Only 41 of the 275 spellers advanced past the first three rounds to spell on ESPN for 15% of the total number of spellers in Washington.

- 61% of the advancing spellers were repeat spellers
- 80% of the repeat spellers who advanced used Hexco products
- Only 16 spellers advanced as first-time NSB spellers; of these, five used Hexco products and two were also Personal Spelling Coach (PSC) students.

All's well with the **Spelling Sisters**, who were the instigators of our business. (Left to right) Valerie is married, working for Veritas, and raising daughter Claire (4 years old) and son Taylor (8 months old). Natalie is a pediatrician in Austin with a 1 ½ year-old daughter, Cora. Huntley is working at MindBites in Austin after receiving her MBA from Harvard. All still participate in the workings of Hexco.



Round	No. of spellers	No of spellers using Hexco products & percentages		No. of spellers missing or not advancing & percentages	
1	275	145	53%	0	0%
2	275	145	53%	38	14%
3	275	145	53%	33	12%
4	41	26	63%	6	15%
5	35	24	69%	9	26%
6	26	22	85%	8	31%
7	18	16	89%	5	28%
8	13	11	85%	1	8%
9	12	10	83%	3	25%
10	9	7	78%	4	44%
11	5	5	100%	0	0%
12	5	5	100%	0	0%
13	5	5	100%	0	0%
14	5	5	100%	0	0%
15	5	5	100%	1	20%
16	4	4	100%	0	0%
17	4	4	100%	2	50%
18	2	2	100%	0	0%
19	2	2	100%	1	50%
20	1	1	100%	0	0%

## Who Had Hexco?

Over 50% of all spellers had Hexco products

- 63% advancing to Semifinals had Hexco products
- 85% advancing to the Finals had Hexco products
- Sukanya Roy, the National Bee Champion used seven different Hexco products
- Six of the top 41 on ESPN had participated in Personal Coaching by Hexco
- One of the top 13 finalists was a Hexco PSC student

Comparing the word list to Scripps' Consolidated Word List (CWL), we found only seven of the 25 written round words in this collection. Collectively, **Verbomania** and **New Nat's Notes** contained six of these seven words; we did not publish the word *fourteen* which most consider an easy word to spell.

There were seven words in the written round that had never been used before in a regional or National Spelling Bee:

**Easy** fourteen  
youthquake  
electromagnet  
appointee

**Difficult** bonobo  
pinealectomy  
monodomous

## Rounds 2 & 3 - 1st Oral Rounds

### Rounds 2 & 3: The First Oral Rounds

The first oral rounds presented words from either *Spell It!* or the *Sponsor Bee Guides* (SBG). There are two SBG books with 200 supplemental words each that sponsors may use to conduct their regional spelling bees. These words may be used in addition to the *Spell It!* words at a regional bee. National Spelling Bee participants are given this 400 SBG word list to study along with *Spell It!* to prepare for the first two oral rounds. In 2011, in order to advance to Round 4, a speller had to spell his/her words in Rounds 2 and 3 correctly, and also correctly spell 23 out of 25 of the written round words.

## Round 1 - The Written Round



The Written Round reverted to an oral test this year (instead of computerized), and there were only 25 words that were graded to determine a student's score. Nine of the 25 words were in **New Nat's Notes**, and nine were in **Verbomania**. With 18 out of 25 words in these two Hexco products (72% of the total list), in 2011, these books were of estimable value for getting to Round 4.

## Who Survived past Round 3?

The chart on the previous page (left) shows the number of contestants in each round of the 2011 National Spelling Bee. At the beginning of the Bee, there were 275 spellers, and 53% of the competitors had used one Hexco product or another, not including those who begged, borrowed, or bought one or more of our products from a "retired" speller. Surviving the first two oral rounds and the written round were only 41 spellers, and 63% of these were Hexco customers, nearly two-thirds of the field. Spellings who did not advance were given only words that were on a provided study list in their oral rounds. They never fielded an "off-list" word orally.

## What determines who gets to Round 4 - The ESPN Semifinals?



The National Spelling Bee uses a two-part system to determine how many spellers advance to round 4. It is based on each speller's performance on a written test containing 25 words taken verbally, and on their spelling in the first two oral rounds. All spellers

participate in these rounds, even if they miss a word. Each correctly spelled word in the oral rounds adds 3 points to a speller's score, and each correctly spelled word in the written round is worth one point. The composite score is used to determine who advances to the televised rounds on ESPN.

## Semifinals - Round 4 & 5

To advance to Round 4, a speller had to correctly spell at least 23 of 25 words on the written test plus their words in the first two oral rounds.

The Scripps' semifinals brought 41 spellers to Round 4, which was televised on ESPN. The words started at a high level of difficulty; there was no study list for words past Round 3. To prepare for Round 4 and beyond, many spellers use lengthy collections of obscure words, such as those found in **New Nat's Notes**. General spelling rules and rules for various languages are also helpful and can be found in our **Spelling Rules Book**. These rules effectively serve as the building blocks for mastering the English language. Many learn Latin and Greek etymology in hopes that their off-list words will be based in one of these languages. Hexco's **Spelling Rules Book**, **EtymaMentor**, **EtymaFlips** and **Etyma Notes**, each cover both Greek and Latin

word parts. Spellers also study directly from *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*.

Some 63% of all words in Round 4 were in **New Nat's Notes**. Using **New Nat's** and **Verbomania** would have accounted for 88% of the words in Round 4. There were 5 words in the 4<sup>th</sup> round that had not appeared on any study list to our knowledge, which is one out of every 12 words.

Only 15% of the spellers missed their word in Round 4, and the number of Hexco customers amounted to nearly 70% of the remaining spellers.

Round 5 saw 9 of the spellers succumb to their word, and the percentage of Hexco spellers increased to 85% of the field. In this round over 1/2 of the words had not been used in bees before.

## Recap of Rounds 6 - 7

Round 6 started with 26 spellers, and 8 missed their word. This upped the percentage of the spellers who had Hexco products to 89%. WOW! Ten of the 26 words in this round had not appeared before.

Round 7 commenced with 18 spellers, and 5 of these spellers missed to bring the field down to 13 spellers. Six of the 18 words given in Round 7 had not been used in prior bees or lists.

These 13 spellers then advanced to the Finals on ESPN during prime time television viewing. **Eleven of these 13 spellers** had used Hexco products in their preparation. Only one was not a returning speller.

## Finals - Rounds 8 - 10

The Finals started with 13 spellers, and **11 had Hexco products for study**. A remarkable 11 of the words in Round 8 were in **New Nat's Notes**, and one was in **Verbomania**. Thus, only one word was from nowhere, *teppanyaki*, and it was correctly spelled. Only one speller missed his/her word. Round 9 started with 12 spellers, and only 3 missed a word.

Round 10 started with 9 spellers, and 4 missed their word, leaving an indefatigable set of 5 spellers. We can only throw this kind of word in a newsletter for this type of audience!

## Finals - Rounds 11 - 20

In these seven rounds, there were a large number of words that had never been used. Round 11 had all words of this ilk, yet every word given in Round 13 could be found in at least one Hexco product. Rounds 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 had 60% to 75% of all the words that were very difficult and had never been used.

Round and round the spellers went, and **ALL had used Hexco products**. These five competitors were letter-perfect for 5 rounds until one dropped out. The remaining four spelled for two more rounds until two missed. Then there were two. After two more rounds, Laura Newcombe tripped on *sorites*, and Sukanya Roy comfortably spelled *cymotrichous* to win the coveted trophy.

## New Words Seen in the Finals

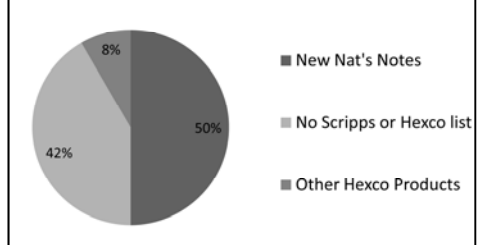


The 2011 Finals covered 72 words, and 36 of these could be found in **New Nat's Notes**, and 30 of these were the never-used-before variety. The remaining 6 words were in various Hexco products, such as **Written**

**Round Readiness**, **Spelling Rules**, and **New Bee Prepared**.

Like last year, the final word was from **New Nat's Notes**. Last year, 10% of off-list words given were *never-used-before* words, and this year 35% of the words were of this ilk.

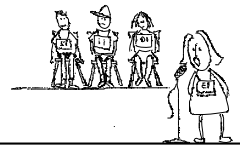
### Words in NSB Finals 2011



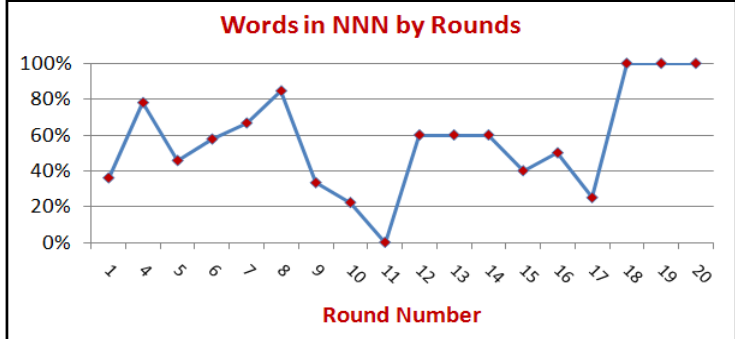
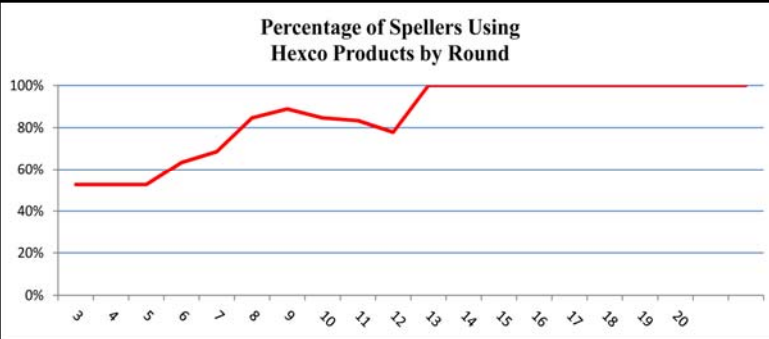
## First Timers vs. Repeaters

If this is your first year at the National Spelling Bee, give yourself a pat on the back and get ready to think on your feet! In 2011, 25 of the 41 spellers who advanced were at the Bee for a repeat performance\* compared to 16 slots that were filled by first-year spellers. Only one first-year speller advanced beyond the semifinals. So, if you are a first-timer at the Bee, go as far as you possibly can and think of the National Bee as a "marathon" in which you are challenging *yourself*. Feel proud that you are fit to compete with the best spellers in the nation and have fun while you see an amazing new part of the world and meet new friends.

*\*The 4-year repeater, six of the nine 3-year repeaters, and 13 of the 15 2-year repeaters advancing used Hexco products. Thus, 80% of all repeaters advancing were Hexco customers. Of the 16, five used Hexco products, and two of these were in our spelling coach program.*



<p><b>Round 1</b> <b>Written Round</b> acetarious appointee benediction bonobo calenture drowsy electromagnetic fourteen generate hukilau infobahn jiggety Kafkaesque monodomous normalize oracular pinelectomy quietive remembrance secrecy theatricality unswerving vitelline wasteland youthquake</p> <p><b>Round 2 &amp; 3*</b></p> <p><b>ESPN SEMIFINALS</b> <b>Round 4</b> Aesopian anaphylaxis boutade brachygraphy</p>	<p>canaille chresard cicerone deuteronist devoir duchesse euryphagous exrescential exsculptate fissipedal graphorrhoea hesthogenous ichthyolite isochronal limacine limen linguipotence lithority lysozyme mansuetude meridienne mnesic nuque nystagmus Ovidian pallium panegyric rhinorrhagia sciamachy spadiceous staffage stichometry supposititious</p>	<p>thanatophidia turophile whirlcote withernam</p> <p><b>Round 5</b> amphistylar arbutum aretalum armilla arrondi baize batrachophagous boccaro brisanice capilliculture chevalet conteur couverte desmachyme espadon gagaku inficete interamnian kerystic loure mandlen marengo nataka palynology phleboclysis phyllomancy pinetum</p>	<p>pritchel privatim selion seudah syringadenous tersanctus theopneustic thurifer</p> <p><b>Round 6</b> chlorthalidone clepsydra coelurosaur dégringolade dreikanter drusy empressement entremets guttula helichrysum herrenvolk Liptauer malentendu nachs Schlag pavonazzo ponceau renminbi rhabdomancer rocaille scopolamine semplice solenne verein</p>	<p>vitrophyre watteau weltschmerz</p> <p><b>Round 7</b> boudin caffeoil calabrasella casquetel ceratorhine certiorari choralcelo dolichopodous epigonism farrago grimthorpe hypotrichosis kagura melittologist ocypode phreatophyte talmouse thalassocracy</p> <p><b>ESPN FINALS</b> <b>Round 8</b> andouille apolaustic bondieuserie Cassiopeian cioppino exsufflation naphthalene</p>	<p>profiterole psephomancy rapprochement scelidosaur seneschal teppanyaki</p> <p><b>Round 9</b> attacca crevecoeur dactylitheca dasyllirion dockmackie eremacausis hexafoos phanerogam psittacines pyopoesis schokker susurrus</p> <p><b>Round 10</b> ephelides epipodiale furcocercous gravicembalo ingberlach polatouche rougeot samiel völkerwanderung</p>	<p><b>Round 11</b> caciocavallo capercaillie rapakivi uayeb zortzico</p> <p><b>Round 12</b> cheongsam karpas lakatoi opodeldoc sarangousty</p> <p><b>Round 13</b> huipil keitloa puszta solferino zwischenpiel</p> <p><b>Round 14</b> abhinaya capoeira haori pelerine preux</p> <p><b>Round 15</b> bourride gazoz sangsue urushiye</p>	<p>zanja</p> <p><b>Round 16</b> cebell grison komatik lekane</p> <p><b>Round 17</b> galoubet Jugendstil naumkeag panguingue</p> <p><b>Round 18</b> hooorosh orgeat</p> <p><b>Round 19</b> periscii sorites</p> <p><b>Round 20</b> cymotrichous</p> <p>*Words from Sponsor Bee Guide &amp; Spell It!</p>
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Of the 217 words given at the 2011 Bee, 35% had never appeared on a Scripps' annual study list including the *Sponsor Bee Guides* and the *Spell It!* list. For both the 2010 and 2011 Bees, Scripps' provided spellers with the words for the first two oral rounds (rounds 2 and 3). These words could be found in the *Sponsor Bee Guides* and on the *Spell It!* list. This really makes for a difficult bee giving extra credit to those who have studied the most words, and allows "luck-of-the-draw" to play a critical part in the Bee. Some never-used-before words were Latin- and Greek-based, but others were from languages such as Finnish, Papuan, Yiddish from Old High German, Mayan, Sanskrit, Basque, Persian, Native American, French, Italian, and Brazilian Portuguese. Clearly, there was not a key language that spellers needed to study, and many of these languages have few patterns and clues in their spellings. Two of the last five spellers met their Waterloo on *galoubet* from French and *zanja* from Spanish. Collectively, the top five spellers thus successfully fielded 33 words that had never been used.



## Personal Spelling Coach - PSC

Online Distance Learning Course for Advanced Spellers



"Narahari thoroughly enjoyed the PSC Program and every single Hexco product."

~Viji, parent of 2011 South Asian Bee Champion, second place North South Spelling Bee Champion, and National Spelling Bee Semi-Finalist

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# 2011 Regional Bee Words

Off-list words from the *Sponsor Bee Guides* given to NSB spellers to be used along with the *Spell It!* words for Rounds 2 and 3

abhorrence	billon	courier	escarole	hordeolum	machinate	papilionaceous	repechage	thoracic
abiotrophy	bimillenary	croustade	esurient	hoydenish	macropterous	parallax	replevin	threnody
acolade	bioluminescent	cruciferous	excursus	hubristic	maillot	paralogism	reticence	tinamou
acerbity	bismarck	cucaracha	excretion	hypobulia	malacology	paraph	retinopathy	tortuosity
acetone	blucher	cuneiform	exiguous	hypothalamic	manteau	pargetry	ricochet	tracheotomy
acquiescence	bobolink	cybernetics	extirpate	Hypotheria	manticore	paristhmion	riparian	trapezoid
aerobicize	bombardier	cytolysis	exuviate	iatrogenic	mechanical	participle	rochet	trichinosis
affianced	boniato	Daliesque	farthingale	ibuprofen	megalomaniac	patois	Rubicon	triforium
affidavit	bouffant	damask	Faunteroy	idiasm	mellisonant	pecuniary	rupicolous	troglyditic
affiliate	brachiate	decedent	febrifugal	impermeabilize	metathesis	penicillin	rutilant	truncheon
affirmative	brontophobia	deception	feint	inaugurator	millennialism	penultimate	sanguinolent	tumultuary
alluvium	buffa	dechlorinate	felicitous	incompetence	minatory	perilous	sanicle	turbinado
alopecia	bulgur	decorticate	festinate	incorporeity	mitochondria	peritus	sapiential	tutelary
ambitious	caisson	decrement	fiduciary	ineluctable	moraine	persillade	saxifrage	ultimogeniture
ambrosial	calvities	deleterious	filiality	ineradicable	mordancy	petechial	sciatica	Ulyssean
anathema	canard	dentifrice	fistiana	infarction	mufti	phoneticize	sclerosis	upsilon
ancillary	carambola	desiccant	formicary	infructuous	munificence	pierrot	scrivener	urticant
andante	carapace	deuteranopia	freesia	ingurgitation	mycetismus	pistou	scullery	usufructuary
ankh	cataclysmic	diathermy	fugacity	inosculate	mycetophagous	pityriasis	scurrilous	vaccary
antigen	catarrh	dieffenbachia	fungible	inquiline	nacelle	planisphere	selenologist	vaccinate
antiphonal	catenary	digitalis	gallipot	inquest	napery	plantain	simpatico	vacuole
aphorism	cenote	discalced	gambado	inveighed	nascency	plasmalemma	simulacrum	vagary
apocalypse	cerumen	discerptible	gambrel	inviscate	naumachia	plumicorn	soiree	valise
apocryphal	chanoyu	disciform	garniture	iterative	neophyte	pointillage	splenetic	vellication
apoplexy	chasuble	divagate	gazetteer	jackanapes	nilhilism	posset	spurious	velocipede
apparition	chelonian	dolorifuge	geriatrician	jacquard	nimious	predilection	stanchion	ventriloquist
appetency	chorten	domiciliary	gestation	jadeite	noctivagant	prescind	stiction	verglas
appositive	ciconine	drivel	glabrous	jalousie	nonage	presentient	stratagem	vicissitude
apsidal	cinnabar	dysphonia	glaciarium	jocosity	noosphere	proboscis	subito	vicineous
arduous	clairsentience	ébrillade	gloxinia	joule	Nostradamus	profligacy	subsidize	vinaigrette
artifice	clavichord	ecchymosis	gnosis	kinura	obdurate	promissory	succumb	vitiate
asado	clough	echinoderm	gracile	kookaburra	obeisant	propinquity	suffocate	vituperative
assurgent	cognoscitive	echolalia	guttural	kulak	obfusatory	provenance	superficial	wastrel
asthma	comestibles	edacious	hapology	kurgan	obtenebrate	purple	syllogism	waveson
asymmetrical	comminution	elision	harridan	kuru	odoriferous	quagmiry	syncline	wickiup
auricular	commiserate	embololalia	harrumph	kwashiorkor	oligotrophic	quenelle	syntactician	wunderkind
autolysis	conceivable	embracery	hauteur	lagniappe	orfeverrie	quinary	tachyon	Xanadu
avifauna	conspiracy	empennage	hebetude	lanceolate	ornithopter	ramate	taciturn	xerophobic
azulejo	cordate	encephalon	hegemony	leviable	orogeny	rascacio	takin	xyloglyphy
badinage	cordial	endogenous	heresimach	licentiate	ossicle	rasorial	tarmac	zoanthropy
bailiwick	cormorant	entresol	heterophemy	lidocaine	pachinko	rataplan	tawdrily	
ballyhooed	corollary	enunciate	hieroglyphics	lobotomy	paladin	raucity	tectonosphere	
bastion	corvée	epochal	hierology	longanimity	pamphlet	recriminatory	temperamental	
bibliognost	coscinomancy	epyllion	hirsutism	luculent	pancetta	recurring	terraqueous	
bijouterie	coulomb	equinocial	homuncular	lustrum	pantomime	reluctantly	terrestrial	



## Spelling Mentor & Spelling Flips

Test Yourself on Computer Software or Online!

- Audio pronunciations
- Definitions
- Phonetic pronunciations
- Parts of speech
- Carefully crafted sentences
- Etymology

**Spelling Mentor** interactive computer software with audio allows students to hear the words and type in the spelling while the program monitors errors and successes. In addition to learning this current year's word list, we also recommend the 2006 and 1999 Paideia versions. **Spelling Flips** online audio flashcards are also available for current year, 2006, and 1999 words. **Spelling Mentor** CD software program can track up to 20 students per computer. A mouse click enables the audio to repeat. Additional features include previewing words, requesting next letter, and flagging troublesome words. **Spelling Mentor** may be installed on unlimited PC-compatible computers on a single campus. Schools may order an extended-usage license which allows up to 5 students to install **Spelling Mentor** on their home computers.

**BONUS OFFER:** After your initial purchase, Spelling Mentor is 1/2 price when reordering the following year or ordering an additional 2006 or 1999 version with Paideia (see "Re-Order Special" on order form). Download FREE Sampler online or try Flips Demos for Free. (Purchased software and Flips are non-returnable)

**SpellingFlips** online virtual flashcards keep track of correct and incorrect spellings on a per-session basis. "Smart Mode" has an algorithm built in to make missed cards appear more often. **Spelling-Flips** are available anywhere with online access and are PC- or Mac-compatible. Price shown is for a one-year subscription. Try **FREE Spelling Flips Demo** online on our National Spelling Bee page at [www.hexco.com](http://www.hexco.com).

**Spelling Mentor | #nsm | \$130 ea.\***

\_\_\_ 2011 Graded & Spell It!

\_\_\_ 2006 Paideia Words \_\_\_ 1999 Paideia Words

\_\_\_ **RE-ORDER SPECIAL Spelling Mentor\* | #nsmr | \$65**

\*Customer loyalty discounted price on any one full set of *SpellingMentor* (value \$130) if customer has purchased a full set of any annual *SpellingMentor* within the year.

**Spelling Mentor | #nsm | \$75 ea.**

\_\_\_ 2011 Graded List

\_\_\_ 2011 Spell It! List

**SpellingFlips | #nsfa | \$149 ea.**

\_\_\_ 2011 Graded & Spell It!

\_\_\_ 2006 Paideia Words \_\_\_ 1999 Paideia Words

\_\_\_ **SpellingFlips - Graded 2011 | #nsfg | \$95**

\_\_\_ **SpellingFlips - Spell It! 2011 | #nsfs | \$95**

NOTE: Full set of Graded & Spell It! includes all 2,500+ words from *Valerie's Supplement* with all words in difficulty sequence; Paideia List 1999 contains 3,404 words; Paideia List 2006 contains 4,118 words

## Spelling Rules Book **Top Seller!**

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- Language skills
- Greek & Latin elements
- Basic rules and guidelines



**Spelling Rules Book** is entitled "*Why Isn't 'Phonetic' Spelled the Way it Sounds?*" This 150-page compilation promotes less reliance on rote memorization and more on understanding. For example, students learn when to use *-ible* rather than *-able*, and they will never look at the *i-before-e* rule the same way again! Foreign language rules are included; an encyclopedic list of Greek and Latin roots with definitions and words derived from each is also included. A true *sine qua non* for the competitors!

Spelling Rules Book | #nsspbk | \$75

## EtymaMentor, EtymaNotes, and EtymaFlips! Know Your Word Roots & Origins!

Hexco's Etyma products are now available in 6 volumes - Basic Latin, Intermediate Latin, Advanced Latin (NEW!), Basic Greek, Intermediate Greek, and Advanced Greek (NEW!). Basic and Intermediate volumes contain 150 roots, 50 prefixes, and 25 suffixes; the Advanced volumes each contain 225 roots. Now, ardent students seeking to augment spelling skills and expand vocabulary can utilize one or more study methods!

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EtymaMentor & Notes - Single Volume | #etymn1 | \$30 ea.  
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EtymaFlips - Single Volume | #etyf | \$35 ea.  
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# National Spelling Bee Changes in 2011



By Hexco President, Linda Tarrant

The major change in the operation of the National

Spelling Bee this year was Scripps' moving the location from the Grand Hyatt to the Gaylord National Hotel in National Harbor, Maryland.

The other significant change was regarding the Written Round. Scripps reverted back to giving the written round words to spellers orally rather than using computers, and they gave and graded 25 words. In the past few years there were 50 words with only 25 graded. The mix of words was different this year. Nine were from **Verbomania**, and nine were from **New Nat's Notes**. A record number of seven words had not been used in bees before and to our knowledge, these were not on any National Bee study list. However, these seven words included several comparatively easy to spell, i.e., *fourteen*, *appointee*, and *electromagnetic*. The more esoteric words were *bonobo* (from a Bantu language), *pinelectomy* (from French from Latin + Greek), and *monodomous* (from English from French from Latin from Greek + Greek).

Again, Rounds 2 and 3 contained words from either *Spell It!* or from words made available to spellers from Scripps' *Sponsor Bee Guide* books. Regional Bee sponsors purchase *Sponsor Bee Guide* books from Scripps' to conduct their bees. There are two of these available so that bees in neighboring areas are not using the same list for their bee. Each of these books contains 200 "additional" words, which are the off-list words used in regional bees, and spellers are given all 400 words in their study list. For 234 spellers at the National Bee, these

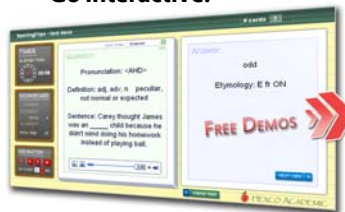
are the only words they will spell orally. Only 15% of all the spellers advanced past Round 3 to spell on ESPN in the semifinal rounds.

**The "Amazing Rounds," 11-16**  
 There were 5 amazing spellers that went round after round for 5 straight rounds without missing a word, and about half of all these were never-used-before words. One speller dropped out in Round 15, and it took two more rounds to hone the field down to 2 spellers and two more rounds to declare a champion. **This is the longest Bee since the 1991 Bee that was dubbed, "The Bee That Got Spell-bound."** The 1991 Bee ran for 26 Rounds, and the back and forth between the last two spellers was 17 rounds. The rounds saw volumes of missed words, and no letter-perfect rounds for that lengthy Bee.

**Annual Study List**  
 Scripps' posts two lists for spelling bee study. One is a list by grade that contains 450 words, and this is the study list for all classroom and school bees. This list was replaced this year with a new collection of words. The other list for student study is the *Spell It!* booklet, and this is designed for district and county bees as well as the newspaper-sponsored bees from which spellers advance to the National Spelling Bee in Washington. Nothing changed in *Spell It!* between the 2010 and 2011 *Spell It!* lists.

**The Hexco Annual Study List**  
 Hexco started with the classroom/school study list of 450 words and fleshed the collection out to over 1,000 words for study. This included grade appropriate words for 1-3 grades, 4-6 grades, and 7-8 grades. Our annual products, **Valerie's Supplement**, **Spelling Mentor** software, **SpellingFlips**, and **Organizers** included all of the graded word list plus all of the *Spell It!* list. Annually, we post the words in the study list on our website for free downloading.

### Books getting a bit blasé? Go interactive!



Our software called "Mentors," and "Flips" online virtual flashcards keep spelling fun!

TRY FREE DEMOS & SAMPLERS ONLINE

# Meet the juggernaut of all lists...

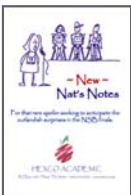
## New Nat's Notes

Vade Mecum for Serious Spellers

- Over 18,000 words in 2 volumes
- Pronunciations, definitions, & etymology
- Alphabetic or difficulty sequence



Champion Favorite!

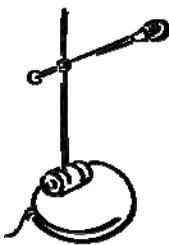


With over 18,000 words, this 2-volume set is geared toward those aiming for the highest reaches of competition and includes challenging words from the original **Nat's Notes**, plus difficult words from *Paideia*, the *Consolidated Word List* (CWL), and regional and national bees since the 1970s. **New Nat's Notes (NNN)** also includes 7,000 words not in CWL. Annually, **NNN** contains about 60% of all off-list words at regional and national bees. The combination of **NNN** and **Verbomania** contained 72% of the Written Round words and over 60% of all off-list words in oral rounds used in 2011. This collection is available in alphabetic or difficulty sequence, and ALL words have pronunciations, definitions, and etymology!

New Nat's Notes | #nnn | \$150  
 \_\_\_ Alpha Sequence \_\_\_ Difficulty Sequence

## New Nat's Mentor & New Nat's Flips!

The Juggernaut Has Gone Audio!



**New Nat's Mentor** software and **New Nat's Flips** online flashcards are Hexco's collections of **New Nat's Notes** -- with the addition of **audio!** Each volume contains 4,500 words. In addition to phonetic pronunciations, definitions, and etymology, **New Nat's Mentor** and **New Nat's Flips** have audio pronunciations so your student will be more likely to recognize words when he/she hears them at a spelling bee. **New Nat's Mentor** is PC-compatible and keeps track of errors and successes until all words are mastered. **New Nat's**

**Flips** are online flashcards with audio and are available as a one-year subscription (**New Nat's Flips** renewals are 50% off). Try one or both before you buy from our website as these are non-returnable! (Free samplers/demo links are on our product pages at [www.hexco.com](http://www.hexco.com))

New Nat's Mentor | #nnnm | \$150 ea.  
 \_\_\_ Vol. 1 \_\_\_ Vol. 2 \_\_\_ Vol. 3 \_\_\_ Vol. 4 (Feb. '12)  
 New Nat's Mentor - Complete 4 Volume Set | #nnmall | \$550

New Nat's Flips | #nnnf | \$219 ea.  
 \_\_\_ Vol. 1 \_\_\_ Vol. 2 \_\_\_ Vol. 3 \_\_\_ Vol. 4 (Feb. '12)  
 New Nat's Flips - Complete 4 Volume Set | #nnnfs | \$799

## New Bee Prepared

Over 25 Years of Coaching Expertise!



**New Bee Prepared** reveals insights gained from coaching spelling at all levels for over 25 years and from attending the National Spelling Bee for 10+ years. The workings of the Bee are scrutinized, off-list word selections are analyzed, study materials and study methods are critiqued, strategies for study are presented, and suggestions are given for conducting a successful bee. Included is a list of over 35,000 "bee words" (no pronunciations or definitions) which contains **61% of all surprise words used in the 2011 National Spelling Bee and a large number of the off-list words given at regional bees!** This book is ideal for those aspiring to greater heights or those qualified to go to Washington.

## We've gone crazy with words

13,000+ WORDS!

## Verbomania

13,000+ Vivid and Interesting Words

**Verbomania** means "passion, craze, or obsession with words." This prep book contains over 13,000 vocabulary-enriching, SAT-type words (This volume contains over 7,500 of the words found in Scripps' Consolidated Word List (CWL). Words include definitions, parts of speech, and pronunciations, and the difficulty version has etymology! These are some of the more dynamic and interesting nouns, verbs, and adjectives from the English language that form a strong spelling and vocabulary foundation. At the 2011 National Bee, 36% of the Written Round Words were in this book.

Verbomania Alpha Sequence | #vbooka | \$75  
 Verbomania Difficulty Sequence | #vbookd | \$90



## VerboMentor & VerboFlips!

13,000+ Words with Audio Pronunciations - 3 Volumes!

This colossal three-volume collection contains audio recordings and dictionary information on all the words in **Verbomania** on computer software CDs (**VerboMentor**) or online flash cards (**VerboFlips!**) Each volume pronounces over 4,500 words grouped by length of word and presented in a random sequence. **VerboMentor** presents words in the same order as **Verbomania Difficulty Sequence**, is PC compatible, and it keeps track of errors and successes until all words are mastered. **VerboFlips** are online flashcards with audio and are sold as a one-year subscription; renewals are 50% off. Try one or both before you buy from our website as software and Flips are non-returnable! (Links for free samplers/demos are on corresponding product pages).

VerboMentor - Single Volume | #vmen | \$149  
 \_\_\_ Volume 1 \_\_\_ Volume 2 \_\_\_ Volume 3  
 VerboMentor - Complete 3 Volume Set | #vmenall | \$399



VerboFlips - Single Volume | #nsvf | \$219  
 \_\_\_ Volume 1 \_\_\_ Volume 2 \_\_\_ Volume 3  
 VerboFlips - Complete 3 Volume Set | #nsvfs | \$570



## Written Round Readiness

Computerized Tests for Improved Written Round Performance!



The written round at the National Spelling Bee in Washington contains words that run the gamut from fairly easy to very esoteric. Remember, this is the critical round which narrows the field for those advancing to rounds shown on national TV. **FACT: In 2011, less than 15% of the National Spelling Bee participants advanced past Round 3.**

Each volume of **Written Round Readiness** is PC-compatible and consists of 3 tests with 50 words. Designed in the format of the computerized test given at the 2010 National Bee, a computer speaks the pronunciation while showing definition, part of speech, a sentence, and word origin on the screen. A student then enters the spelling and continues on to the subsequent word. The companion booklet includes lists of the words in each test.

Written Round Readiness | #nswrr | \$75  
 \_\_\_ Vol. 1 \_\_\_ Vol. 2 \_\_\_ Vol. 3 \_\_\_ Vol. 4 (Jan. '12)





**A High-Five for the Champion**

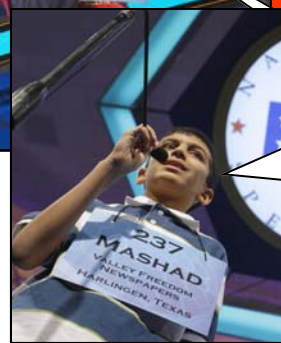
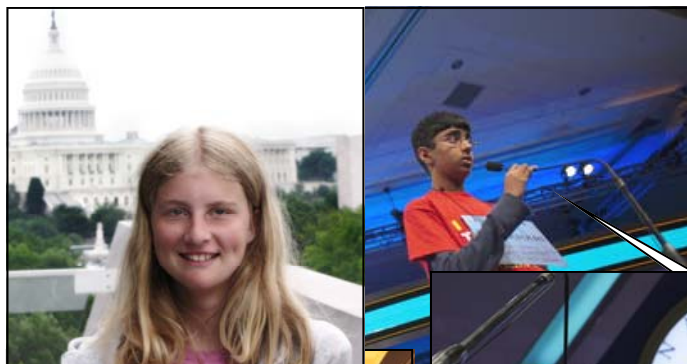
I started participating in spelling bees in elementary school. Neither my parents nor I had any idea that what began as an occasional hobby would grow into a love of words and language. I'm not quite sure exactly when I became aware of the National Spelling Bee, but it wasn't until fifth grade that I entered my school bee and won, making it to regionals. I finally appeared at Scripps' in sixth grade. At the end of Bee Week, I had enjoyed the experience so much that it wasn't necessary to think twice about whether or not I would try to come back.

One of the many things I have realized by participating in the Scripps' National Spelling Bee is the intricacies of language and the complex network between English and other languages. Another invaluable lesson is the importance of setting goals and working diligently to achieve them. The knowledge gained from the Bee is immeasurably helpful. Yes, spellers will end up with bigger vocabularies and a much richer comprehension of the English language, but they will also gain valuable experience in dreaming big and striving to make those dreams reality, not to mention speaking in front of very large audiences.

(Sukanya Roy's story - continued on next page)



**Above: Sukanya Roy, NSB Champion 2011, was sponsored by the Times-Leader, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Read her story (right)**



**The Secrets of the Spellers - 2011**

I was extremely happy when I learned that I had placed sixth ... I would also recommend studying Hexco's Verbomania and New Nat's Notes. ~Mashad Arora

I also used Verbomania, New Nat's Notes, and the Spelling Rules Book. They facilitated me a lot in studying, and I highly recommend them. Studying was hard, but in the end, it was worth it. ~Connor Gunsbury

I learned a lot of life lessons. I realized that the key to success is hundreds of hours of dedication. If you have an aspiration and the determination, you can be successful in any field. ~Narahari Bharadwaj

I will never forget the words I have learned and the people I have met! I'd like to thank Hexco for providing for me the necessary resources to excel at what I love best: spelling. ~Lillian Lesser

As soon as you return home, all your friends and family are waiting for you with newspaper clippings and congratulations. It is a life-changing experience. ~Gina Solomito



**FACT:** In 2011, the five National Spelling Bee finalists, including the Champion, used Hexco Academic study products.

(A High Five for the Champion - Sukanya Roy's story, continued)

At the Bee, I also had the chance to meet spellers from all around the country and the world. The barbecue and all the other events organized during the week were great places to socialize. One of the things that I liked most about the Bee was the friendliness exhibited by all the participants. Some people wondered why we gave each other high-fives after spelling correctly, why we talked and laughed during commercial breaks, why we goofed off in the hotel lobby and got teary-eyed on the last day. It was because none of us were really against each other. We simply wanted to do our best. Spellers don't just arrive at the national level by chance – they work really hard to get there. Because of this, we were all champions, and we respected each other.

In preparing for the Bee, I used many resources before eventually going through the dictionary. Several of these resources were Hexco products. The ones I found most helpful were *New Nat's Notes* and the *Spelling Rules Book*.

On a final note, I'd like to thank my parents, who have helped and encouraged me the whole way, my school and my friends, who have been unbelievably supportive, my sponsor, the Times-Leader, which made it possible for me to attend the Bee, and the Bee organizers and officials for working tirelessly to provide all spellers with one of the best weeks of their lives.

## Simon's Secret to Success

I lost my first spelling bee, missing the word "debacle" and finishing in second place. I watched the winner compete at a district bee, only to lose and end my school's chance at a speller in the 2007 Scripps' National Spelling Bee. That was five years ago, and yet I still remember the day clearly, because that day I wondered: did I ever want to compete again?



**Above:** Simon Ricci, sponsored by Chicago Spelling Bee Collaborative, Chicago, Illinois

Two years later, I was able to win my school bee, and advance to the regional bee in my hometown of Chicago. I finished second, missing the National Spelling Bee by a single word. This experience was different, however, because I realized how to lose a spelling bee. Finally, in seventh grade, I was able to triumphantly spell "pecuniary" to win myself number 57 in the 2011 Scripps' National Spelling Bee

At first, I was overjoyed, because I'd been able to accomplish what I had dreamed of since watching Evan O' Dorney hoist the trophy at the end of the 2007 bee: to be a contestant in the National Spelling Bee. Then I realized it was time to study. I only had two months between my regional and the National Spelling Bee, so I prepared the best way possible, using a computer to get through all of Hexco's *VerboMentor*, and I also used *New Nat's Notes* and the *Spelling Rules Book* to prepare. At the bee, I realized that spelling at the National Spelling Bee was completely different than every other bee I'd ever participated in. So little of the time in Washington, D.C. was spent spelling, and so much was spent making new friends from all over the country. From registration to the barbecue to the awards banquet and farewell party, everyone made lifelong friends.

Only three days were spent spelling, and on two of them I was competing, first completing the round one written test, then competing in two oral rounds. I missed the semifinals by one word, but I still enjoyed watching the knockout rounds of the semifinals and finals live from a front row seat (my family got to the bee really early). I wish that every speller who dreams of competing in Washington, D.C. could, but my advice is one word: study.

## SPELL WITH YOUR DREAM

By Frances Floresca



I had just won the first grade spelling bee on the last day of school. Who knew the journey which would lie ahead of me? My love for words began when I was two, while watching *Sesame Street*, but I never knew about my spelling talent until that day.

My teacher told me about a spelling bee documentary called *Spellbound*. When I watched it, I heard so many obscure words I had never heard of in my life. I wanted to compete on that stage one day, even if it meant hours upon hours of study and sacrificing so many activities. I began studying a lot of words, but I was not focused on it quite yet. Unfortunately, I was only in second grade, and the Bee would begin in fourth grade. In 2005 and 2006, I knew that I had to begin working more. During the summer of 2005, my studies consumed me, and I never have had a day off from spelling since then. I studied more etymology and roots. The words at nationals were tricky, so I never knew how far I would get if I made it.

As a third grader, I won the class spelling bee. My classmate missed cynical as *sinacal*, so I had to correctly spell that word before the spelling bee championship word. The word I received was *espadrille*. I asked myself, "I am pretty sure that this is a trick word." I was given a definition, but not the origin because my teacher did not know it. I took a minute to think about the word. *Espadril* did not look right to me, and neither did *espadrile*, *espidril*, or *espidrille*. *Espadrille* soon popped into my mind, and it seemed correct. When I said the letters out loud, my teacher was amazed. She said, "You are...", and she paused for a few seconds, "...the winner!"

When I got to fourth grade, I learned that there was no sponsor for the Salt Lake Valley. How was I going to compete? My school signed up for another spelling bee called Association of Christian Schools International Spelling Bee (ACSI). Scripps was my goal, but I could not just give up! I won my class spelling bee, but I had strep throat the day of the school bee. The next year, I was still upset that there was nobody to sponsor my area, but I still had my spelling bee spirit! I won, and reached the district level that year, but I was eliminated when I ran out of time when I was spelling *ennui*. At every level, ACSI only gives one minute to spell the word. French is a language I had a hard time with, but I am glad not many French terms stump me as much as before.

(Continued on last page)



## She's Back and Means Business



**Above:** Gina Solomito (right) was sponsored by Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, Indiana

The National Spelling Bee is unlike anything else in the world. It is a cut-throat competition, yet you probably make more friends there than any other place in your life. It is an extremely stressful time, yet it is still possible to relax and take a walk on the pier, or visit one of the museums in D.C. As soon as you return home, all your friends and family are waiting for you with newspaper clippings and congratulations. It is a life-changing experience.

I competed in my first spelling bee at age 8. However, in Indiana, to compete in the National Spelling Bee, you have to be at least 9, or in 4th grade. So that year, I just competed in my homeschool co-op bee. I had no real study materials except for the *Spell-It!* then. The next year, I was able to compete in the MSB-qualifying school bee, which I won, and I advanced to the district spelling bee. In my county, the top nine finishers in the district bee move on to regionals. I began studying the Consolidated Word List that year and finished third in the regional bee. In 2008, when I was 10, I won the regional spelling bee and was able to go to Washington, D.C. for my first National Spelling Bee. It was held in the Grand Hyatt, and if you've ever been there, you know what I mean when I say it was amazing. For starters, there was WATER in the middle of the hotel! Not to mention the restaurants and "floating" piano. I'd never been anywhere that big before.

That year was the last year the bee had quarterfinals. I passed the written test, but missed my second word in the quarterfinals, "hemotrophe" (I spelled it "hemotrophy"). However, my parents were still proud of me because I had "far surpassed our goal that year," which was simply to place higher than third in regionals. They never imagined I would pass the written test. It was still disappointing for me though, because I figured that if I had gotten that far, why couldn't I do better? In 2009, I was about two-thirds of the way through the CWL, and had started using Spelling Made Simple, which is a computer self-test software. Sadly, I only placed second in regionals. That year I decided that whatever I was doing wasn't good enough. So, I quickly finished up CWL and began searching for new study materials, which was harder than it sounds. One December day, we got an advertisement from Hexco in the mail. My dad had heard the name before, so he looked them up, and a few weeks later I began working on my new spelling books: *New Nat's Notes*, *Verbomania*, and the *Spelling Rules Book*. I also participated in the crash course with Mrs. Horton that year, as well as focusing more on roots and languages rather than list memorization. I ended up winning the regional spelling bee, but did not pass the written test in D.C. In 2011, I took advantage of the *Personal Spelling Coach* program (also with Mrs. Horton) that Hexco offers, and that helped a lot. Roots were a huge part of my studying, along with my *New Nat's Notes* and *Verbomania* books, and SMS. I placed 27th in 2011, passing the written test, but missing "selion" in Round 5. I spelled it "cellien" (ironically, it was in *New Nat's Notes*, so I wouldn't have missed it if I had studied harder).

However, the spelling and competition are only a part of the "Bee Experience". Scripps' also provides an amazing barbecue every year and a bus tour around D.C. This year, my whole family except my baby brother came with me on 'our road trip'- driving from Indiana in a rental conversion van. My brother had to stay home with my aunt and grandma, because he has Down Syndrome and West Syndrome (Infantile Spasms), as well as a feeding tube, because he aspirates. He was also on oxygen at the time, so there was *really* no way we could have brought him along (although we all wanted to). This past Bee was held for the first time at the Gaylord National Resort in Maryland. If the Grand Hyatt impressed me, the Gaylord flattened me like a pancake! It literally had a *TOWN* inside!!! I made many friends there, because I was not as shy as when I was younger. One time during Bee Week we all got together and ESPN filmed us having fun around the hotel. They actually showed it during the TV broadcast! We still keep in touch via Facebook and email. Altogether, 2011 was definitely my favorite year. The National Spelling Bee has given me so much, and when my turn is over next year, it won't matter whether I did as well as I'd hoped, or that my ankle will never forgive me for dancing the Cotton Eye Joe at the farewell party. The bee experience is something I will treasure for the rest of my life, and I am proud to be a part of this wonderful American tradition.



# One "Honey" of a Birthday at the National Spelling Bee

I was very nervous before the Rio Grande Valley Regional Spelling Bee, the qualifying spelling bee in my area for the National Spelling Bee. In fact, I was so nervous that I asked the principal if he would let me spend the whole school day before the bee (a Friday) studying in the school library. He agreed, fortunately. I had won the regional bee in 2010, but this year, I did not take it as a given that I would win. That is one of the most important things for spelling bee success: Don't take anything for granted. It turns out that my regional spelling bee study was needed. It took 41 rounds to declare a winner in that bee. I think that the hardest word I got (that I got correct) was "croustade". Anyway, I won the regional bee and qualified for the National Spelling Bee.

I arrived in Washington, D.C. for the National Spelling Bee on my birthday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. As we stood in line to check in, I noticed the large atrium of the Gaylord National Hotel. We checked in and went up to our room, which had a nice view of the Potomac River. After we got settled in, we went down to the "Ballroom Level" to collect our Bee Week materials. People involved with the Bee were handing out backpacks. The backpacks included "Bee Keepers" to get autographs from fellow spellers. Suddenly, some Bee staff came and sang me a happy birthday song. They also presented me a cake and a bag with utensils, plates, napkins, and candles. I was entirely surprised! We spent the rest of the evening exploring the hotel, enjoying the cake, and meeting other spellers (as well as getting autographs). The next day (the day of the barbecue) was spent meeting other spellers and just having fun. It was interesting to learn about all of the interests of the other spellers.

I was very nervous about the written test. Last year, I had missed the cut by just one point. To make matters worse last year, I had misheard a word on the written test. This year, I was prepared to listen very closely. I was still relatively confident I would do well, however, because I had only missed one word on the practice written test the Bee had provided. The written test started. I didn't remember explicitly studying some words (such as "pinealectomy"), but I just had a feeling that they were spelled a certain way. Bee personnel collected the papers. I gave my paper, feeling quite confident about my score. Soon, they posted the correct spellings of the words on the screen. I was glad I had only missed one word: "acetarious" (I had spelled it A-S-C-E-T-E-R-I-O-U-S). The rest of the day was spent studying for Rounds 2 and 3. The next day, Rounds 2 and 3 were quite easy for me, because I had memorized all the words the Bee was allowed to ask during those rounds. However, I was still nervous that day, wondering whether or not I would make the cut to advance to the Semifinals. When Round 3 concluded, I went and sat with my parents, praying I would be announced as one of the semifinalists. We waited. Those five minutes felt like hours to me. Finally they announced the numbers. "Number 237," I heard. I sighed with relief. I had met my first goal!

I was excited for the semifinals. I sat through the first round wondering what word I would get. Fortunately, I got "nystagmus," which I had studied in Hexco's *New Nat's Notes*. I could get "chevalet" and "entremets" from what I knew of French. In Round 7, I got the word "melittologist". I knew that if I got it right, I would advance to the finals. Upon hearing that it was a person that studied bees, I asked whether it came from Greek meli-, meaning honey. "I don't see that listed here,"

replied the assistant pronouncer. He also told me it didn't come from Latin melli-, meaning honey. I was told by Dr. Bailly that the word was from Greek. I figured it must come from a different Greek root that was influenced by the Greek root meli-, so I made up my mind that it started with M-E-L-I. The head judge then told me that they would be taking a "Judge's Pause". I thought over the word during that time and didn't worry about the judges' reasons for pausing my time. I had a suspicion that the word had a double T. If I had thought over my strategy of not doubling letters unnecessarily more carefully, I would have probably spelled it with one T. However, for some reason, I put a double T in my spelling. I spelled the word M-E-L-I-T-T-O-L-O-G-I-S-T. I saw the head judge, Ms. Brooks, nod her head. I had gotten it right! I was ecstatic to make it to the finals. The Bee served us spellers as well as our families with a wonderful lunch and dinner. I was interviewed by a few journalists. I also tried to squeeze in a little studying between the semifinals and finals to stay calm (it helps me). After dinner, the finalists went on stage. My first word of the finals was "teppanyaki", which I had studied and seen many times. My next word was "psittacines". I hadn't seen that

exact word before, but I had studied a similar word: "psittacosis". I was able to spell that word, too. My next word was "samiel". It is a hot, dry wind. I was told it was from Turkish. I spelled it S-A-M-Y-E-L, based on patterns I thought were prevalent in Turkish. I was wrong. However, I looked up the word later and was happy to learn that I had spelled it the way it would have been spelled in Turkish. I was extremely happy when I learned that I had placed sixth. The rest of Bee Week was spent on a fun tour and the Awards Banquet, in which I was honored to sit at the dais, in the front of the ballroom. I would advise other spellers who would like to go far in the Scripps' National Spelling Bee to work hard and study as much as possible. In the months before the Bee, I would



**Above: Mashad Arora, Sponsored by Valley Freedom Newspapers, Harlingen, TX. Mashad was one of our volunteer editors for this issue.**

study about six hours a day. I would recommend first memorizing *Spell It!* (the words as well as the language guidelines), as well as any study lists provided by the Bee. I'd also recommend studying Hexco's *Verbomania* and *New Nat's Notes*. Also, I'd recommend searching the dictionary for words you don't know. For example, you could use the CD-ROM dictionary to search for all words whose definitions include "dance" (dutuburi, zortzico) or all words with "native" and "name" in the etymology (koolokamba, niaouli). I studied *Verbomania*, *New Nat's Notes*, *New Bee Prepared*, and *Spelling Rules Book* from Hexco, as well as other word lists. I also tried reading the dictionary. I managed to read the Addenda, A, B, C, G, H, I, J, L, M, N, and part of O. I would strongly recommend you not read the dictionary systematically, unless you have years of eligibility left. The few months before the National Spelling Bee should be spent studying lists, reviewing rules, or searching the dictionary for words you don't know.

When you work hard, you will see results. The National Spelling Bee has a lot of chance, but chance favors the prepared mind. Anyway, I thoroughly enjoyed my Bee experience, and I hope many will get to have this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Even if I hadn't gone so far, I still would have cherished this great experience and the chance to meet so many interesting people near the nation's capital. Even though it is called a "spelling bee", it really is much more! I was glad I was in the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Scripps' National Spelling Bee!



## Lily Jordan gets the final word



**Above:** Lily Jordan, sponsored by Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, Maine

Trying somewhat unsuccessfully to ignore my nervousness, I stood up and walked to the microphone in the center of the stage. The next word would likely be the one that decided whether I was in the National Spelling Bee finals. The few seconds I looked out at the pronouncers, judges, and audience were brief, but they seemed like forever. For the last several hours, my head had been swirling with thoughts like *What word will I get? How hard is this round going to be? Will this be the one I miss?* Now my mind was still, not thinking of anything at all but only anticipating.

“Dolichopodous.”

My mind switched back on. It probably contained the root *dolicho-*, meaning long. I asked for the definition and learned that it meant having abnormally large feet. Maybe it also contained *ped* or *pod*? Both meant foot. The word was Greek, so I guessed *pod*. I asked about *dolicho* and *pod* and found that it contained both. I took a deep breath, hoped I wasn't overlooking anything, and spelled: “D-O-L-I-C-H-O-P-O-D-O-U-S.”

“That's correct.”

The euphoria that washed over me was a feeling that summed up that entire week. It wasn't the first time I was euphoric, and it wouldn't be the last. There are too many amazing moments to describe, but I'll give a few highlights of Bee Week.

Among the non-spelling-related activities for the week were a huge barbecue with all the spellers and their families, a tour of Washington, D.C., and an awards banquet and farewell party at the end. During these events and the free

time spent exploring the hotel, I made many new friends who all share my fascination with words. We got up to all sorts of adventures, such as running up the down escalator, splashing in the pool, and journeying to the highest floor of the hotel.

The competition itself was equally exciting. It started with a preliminary test and two oral rounds. I was elated when I learned I was a semifinalist; being an eighth grader, this was my last year, and I had been working all year to achieve this goal. I had studied root words, learned the patterns of many languages, and even covered my bedroom with words on index cards, all in preparation for this moment. After eight rounds of competition, I missed the word *phanerogam* to tie for tenth place, but I was barely disappointed because of how excited I was at even having made the finals. 2011 was my last year to compete, but I know I will always have vivid memories of the Bee. It has been one of the most exciting and gratifying experiences of my life.

## Connor stays calm and closes in



**Above:** Connor Gunsbury, sponsored by National Joint Powers Alliance, Staples, Minnesota

Hi. My name is Connor Gunsbury, and I was speller #130 at the 2011 Bee. It was my first year there. I put a lot of work into studying and preparing for the regional bee and even more in preparation for the National Bee. I studied every day, and the extra time that I put in during the month before the Bee really helped. I also used *Verbomania*, *New Nat's Notes*, and the *Spelling Rules Book*. They facilitated me a lot in studying, and I highly recommend them. Studying was hard, but in the end, it was worth it. In the written round, there were some difficult words, such as 'pinealectomy,' 'vitelline,' 'hukilau,' and 'Kafkaesque.' I only got one wrong, 'pinealectomy,' which is the surgical removal of the pineal body. My studying paid off in rounds 2 & 3 as well, and I spelled 'ineradicable' and 'sclerosis' correctly. I had a score of 30 out of 31, which gave me a very good chance of making it to the Semifinals. When the semifinalists were announced, I was one of them! My first word in the Semis was 'rhinorrhagia,' which means a nosebleed. Luckily, I had studied the Greek roots 'rhino,' nose, and 'rhein,' flow. My second word was French- 'conteur.' Luckily, I had had some lessons in French word parts, because French is a tough language, and I spelled that right. My third word, however, would be my last. 'Pavonazzo' is an Italian marble. I spelled it 'pavanazzo,' one letter off. Oh, well. That's what happens in a spelling bee. Only one speller (or two, in extremely rare circumstances) will spell all of their words right. I just wasn't that person. I still won \$500 and placed 19th, so I'm pretty happy about that. I had a blast during Bee Week, and I really wish I could go again (I was in eighth grade). Some advice I have for spellers: 1) Study. Study. Study. 2) Ignore the cameras. If you're able to block them out, you'll feel a lot calmer up on stage. 3) Have fun. Make sure you have time to enjoy Washington, D.C. Good luck spellers!



# Preparation and Determination Pay Off



**Above:** Narahari Bharadwaj, sponsored by Fort Worth Star Telegram, Fort Worth, Texas not only placed in the top six at the 2011 National Spelling Bee, but was named the same year's South Asian Bee Champion, and won second place in the North South Spelling Bee.

My name is Narahari Bharadwaj and I won the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Regional Spelling Bee. I had worked hard for over five years for an opportunity to become the best speller in the nation and was thrilled to get a chance to prove myself. As the bee drew closer, I counted down the days until the first word would be asked at the 2011 Scripps' National Spelling Bee. I continued to become apprehensive as the Bee drew closer, but I had faith in my intensive and painstaking preparation.

Finally, the day that I had been waiting for arrived and I tried my best to stay calm. As I walked in to the Maryland Ballroom, I tried not to be overwhelmed by the magnitude of the event. I pondered on some words during the written round, including pinealectomy.

When the results were posted, I was elated to see that I had spelt all twenty-five words correctly. The written round was probably one of the most ironic experiences I had during the National Bee. The first word in round one was fourteen, my official ranking after the bee. Furthermore, word number twenty-five was hukilau, the word I missed in my 2010 county bee. With hieroglyphics and integument in rounds two and three, I glided past the preliminaries of my first and only Scripps' appearance with a perfect score.

The day of the semifinals and finals was one of the most significant days of my life. I was anxious before round 4, because I was completely unsure about the difficulty level of the semifinals for 2011. When they started asking words, I felt a little relieved that I knew most of them. I received graphorrhoea in round four; for a split second, I was about to spell the word *graphorrhoea* but thankfully remembered the word *logorrhoea* and made the connection. The word I received in round 5 was boccaro, a word with a tricky first pronunciation. One of the pronunciations of boccaro has a near homonym (one I had studied the day before), and I struggled in round 5. I managed to get through the round as the field narrowed down to 26 spellers. Round 6 produced the word herrenvolk, a word which I had studied dozens of times. Round 7 was the first round during which I felt comfortable, as I knew every word. I knew every single word except for ceratorhine, the word that I was eliminated on. I added an extra 'r' before the 'h' and it cost me a trip to the finals. I was devastated because I knew twelve out of thirteen words in round seven and I happened to get the one word I didn't know. Moreover, I had studied just about every word in the English language about three or four times.

I knew all but six words in the finals and ninety-three percent of the words given in the semi-finals and finals. I comforted myself by assuring myself that years later I would look back upon this competition and be proud that I was the fourteenth best in the world. Spelling has taught me much – apart from the copious lists now included in my everyday vocabulary, I learned a lot of life lessons. I realized that the key to success is hundreds of hours of dedication. If you have an aspiration and the determination, you can be successful in any field.



## A Life-Changing Week in D.C.

When I arrived at the Gaylord National Hotel for my 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive appearance, I didn't know what to expect. All I had to arm me was the knowledge that I was ready for whatever the preliminary rounds threw me and that my friends from all over the world were there to help me as well.

On the first day of my life-changing week in D.C., all 275 spellers and their families were transported on buses to a picnic site for a day of eating and fun before the competition began. There was karaoke, sports, and a tour of a historic farm available at our convenience. I relaxed with my friends who ranged from Montana to China and everywhere in between, eating and having a great time.

The next day, the tension started to set in. The night before, I had studied the preliminary list of words with my friends Justine Arevalo (St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands), Andrea Mirasol (Vernon, TX), and Savannah Aldridge (West Virginia). I was nervous yet confident I would do well. As I entered the ballroom where all 275 spellers were to take their written test at the same time, I tried to keep a cool head. As I found my seat at the long table and waited with the other Florida representatives for the test to start, I took a calming, deep breath and told myself I would feel proud even if I did not advance to the semifinals. I sat and diligently wrote down the spellings of the words I was dictated.

At the end of the test, Scripps posted the words on a large screen that hung from the ceiling. I had missed three words, one of which I was disappointed in missing because I had changed my spelling: pinealectomy, vitelline, and oracular. For the past few years, the requirement to make semifinals was to have missed a maximum of four words in the written test and to get both of your stage words right. I thought I had made the cut. Later that night, the 41 spellers that made the cut were announced and I was not one of them. Even though I had spelled both of my stage words (takin and gnosis) right, I had missed one too many words on my written test.

Even though I did not make it to the semifinals, I still feel like I have achieved so much through learning these words and being given the opportunity to represent my region at the Bee. I will never forget the words I have learned and the people I have met! I'd like to thank Hexco for providing for me the necessary resources to excel at what I love best -spelling.



**Above:** Lillian Lesser (left) was sponsored by Kiwanis Club of West Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, Florida



**(Spell With Your Dream, continued)**

During the championship finals of the 2008 Scripps' National Spelling Bee, I knew a lot of the words. Some of them I guessed from the information given, while some were also on my list. I put together a binder after that Bee, after just using my friends' spelling bee binders. Now, I have twenty-five binders full of words, roots, and etymology.

The next school year, a long-awaited dream somewhat came true. There was finally a sponsor for my area, but my school did not register before the deadline. I competed in the ACSI Spelling Bee once more, but I missed *otorhinolaryngologist* at the district level. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to use the finger-writing technique in ACSI, so I missed the word. I do not even remember how I misspelled it.

I enjoyed the sentences and reactions from spellers in 2009. "Heb-what-a-lee?" reminded me of a moment during my school spelling bee the same year, when I received hermetically. I responded, "Her-what-a-lee?" After so many intense rounds, Kavya Shivashankar won. My goal since then was to win for all the spellers who wanted to win, but never did, from the start to the future!

In 2008, I had taken the Round 1 test. That year, I missed *galimatias* as *galamatias*. In 2009, I realized that no speller from Utah has made it to semifinals, because of the notorious test. I tried the test, and I spelled all the words correctly, even if I was stumped on *onychorrhexis* for a few minutes. I used my knowledge of roots to decipher the spelling of the word.

In 2010, I moved to a new school, which signed up for Scripps'. I won the school spelling bee, but I also competed in a non-Scripps' Bee called the Utah Lutheran Schools Spelling Bee. Sometimes I wish that it was the final contest before nationals. The Bee went on for three hours with thirty rounds. There were so many repeaters there, including the runner-up, but I did not expect to win. I had won the Bee, which no one expected, except for one Bee official who was also a judge for the ACSI District Bee. The Salt Lake Valley Spelling Bee was intense, even if I was not nervous. I was not nervous when I was waiting for my word, or when I was spelling, but when another speller was up at the microphone. I was more nervous for them than me. I admit that I did not remember half the words I received, so I used what I knew from the definition, origin, part of speech, and pronunciation. One moment, I remember asking, "Is there any more information you can give me?" I did not ask for a sentence, because I normally do not ask for one. I replied, "Was this supposed to help me?" The origin, definition, or anything else did not help either for the word *escrow*. I studied a lot of words that could have been off-list, but I did not get to *escrow*. Since the etymology was French, I spelled it *escrot*. *W* is a rare letter in French, so I did not go with that. I knew all the other words, except for mine. Fourth place was good, but I got first place within the private schools.

I told my teachers, family, and friends, "I have one more year left, so I am going to use it." Since that day, I started to change my schedule. I also read articles from Visual Thesaurus, about two spellers who competed at the National Spelling Bee. They both encouraged me to continue on and to never give up. I even took their spelling tests and added a lot of new words to my list. This year, they placed 27th and 14th. Thank you so much, Tony Incorvati and Nicholas Rushlow! A day before the contest, I learned about Hexco after searching for spelling bee materials. I printed the **After a Spell** newsletter and the Annual Spelling List. Soon my dad ordered **New Nat's Notes**, and I found it very helpful. Hexco, thank you so much for your great products! After the oral preliminary rounds, I took the Round 1 test, and I did not know *bouleversement* and *pusillanimous*. I took an educated guess for *bouleversement*. *Epaulement* and *avalement* came to my mind. After the *l*, there was an *e*, so I went with that. The *-ment* part was pronounced "mahn", so I went with that ending. For *pusillanimous*, I debated in my mind to put one *l* or two. I went with two, and then I had to spell my Rounds 2 and 3 words. I was excited to get a perfect score again. The next morning, I woke up at 6:30 A.M. to do some last minute studying. I studied origins, roots, and more words. Some I learned were *fustanella*, *burgonet*, *tutelay*, *tiralee*, *Barbizon*, *jehu*, *scannel*, and more. Five of seven I mentioned were used in semifinals. I was shocked when two of the three 2009 championship finalists were eliminated in these rounds. After Anamika

Veeramani won, I was happy, but hurt at the same time. My goal was still the same, and I was not going to give up! I continued studying more for hours every day, and I never stopped. One day, I met a former speller, named Tia Thomas, who placed third in 2008, and was also a five-peat. She gave me so many tips, and told me her brother was competing as well. We still keep in touch, and she was a huge impact on my spelling bee career! Thank you, Tia, and I hope we see each other soon!

When I began eighth grade, I was very busy with sports, music, school, and spelling. I even joined the International Children's Choir, which helped me with languages, including the rare ones at nationals. While learning the songs, I study the pronunciations and patterns. I also play the flute, and I learn a lot of music terms. In school, I would write down obscure words from textbooks and readings, and then I looked them up in Webster's Third.

I had so much confidence at the school spelling bee that I had no doubts about winning. The entire time, I could see myself on the stage at the Scripps' National Spelling Bee. Behind me, there were the spellers, the trophy on one side, the pronouncer, judges, and other Bee Officials in front of me, the audience, the cameras flashing everywhere, and being on television. Whenever someone misspelled a word, I could clearly hear the bell ringing, even if our school did not use one. The feeling was euphoric when I went up to the microphone.

The pronouncer soon said, "*Tintacted*." I asked for the definition, and that did not help me. This was for sure an off-list word. I asked for a sentence, and it did not help either. I then asked, "Is this tentacled or tintacled?" The pronouncer replied, "*Tintacted*". I knew every single word asked so far. I asked for the pronunciation again, and he said the same pronunciation again. I soon spelled, "T-i-n-t-a-c-l-e-d". I was out, and then I was given the correct spelling. I tried to protest after the round was over. Since my school was using the rules for local spelling bees provided by Scripps', I knew that I had to protest, so I did that. The pronouncer never gave me a correct spelling, and the judges knew he did not, too. My dream was gone forever, even if I knew the all the other words after I misspelled. Tears came out of my eyes, and my friends, teachers, family, and other supporters were disappointed as well. I had studied so much, that spelling was no longer a hobby for me.

The National Spelling Bee this year was more magical to me than ever! I knew all the words on the Round 1 test. A majority of words I studied were used this year. I could not believe Utah made it to semifinals! There were twenty words in a row spelled correctly during the championship finals. This is probably the best National Spelling Bee I have seen so far! When Sukanya Roy won, a tear dropped out of my eye. There was so much new this year that I wish I was there! Although my dream of winning for all those spellers never came true, I realized that all spellers have to stop spelling at Scripps' one day. I even wrote a letter to the E.W. Scripps Company to extend the Bee throughout high school! I have still continued to study for future spelling bees, including the AARP National Spelling Bee.

If this was your last year, the journey does not end. Compete in other word challenges, and continue increasing your vocabulary. If you did not win nationals ever, aim for a new dream. I never won, but I am helping younger spellers, and I am planning to start a spelling bee club for the spellers who want to reach their goals. If you want help and support, please email me at [spellingchamp135@gmail.com](mailto:spellingchamp135@gmail.com).

There have been millions of hopefuls every year, but only one can win, even if there have been three co-champions. When you misspell your next word in competition, remember only eighty-seven out of the millions of hopefuls saw their dream become reality. If you have a year or more left, continue aiming for the championship. Treasure every single moment of Bee Week, because you never know when your final year will be. When I see photos and videos of the Bee, I see a lot of camaraderie. I have been told to never miss the barbecue, because you can have fun and enjoy being with friends. Never give up, and continue living the dream. Know that all the time you put into this was worth it all. If you are still eligible, perhaps you will be the champion one day! Good luck, and always persevere. My spelling bee motto: *Spell with your dream! Spell with your heart! Spell with your love!*

~By Frances Floresca from Draper, Utah



# THE SONG OF A WORD VIRTUOSO (& HER PEEPS)

I was ecstatic when I won my regional bee, and knew I was returning to the Scripps National Spelling Bee. I've now had the exceptional pleasure of competing in the NSB twice. The experience was remarkable, an event to be remembered for a lifetime. The path to the National Bee, while exciting and rewarding, is the result of a great deal of effort. I consider it well worth the work involved, and hope and plan to attend for all four of my eligible years. Upon returning to the NSB this year, I was thrilled to renew friendships with spellers I had met in 2010. The most exhilarating moment in the Bee, however, came when I correctly spelled the word "Liptauer," a Hungarian cheese spread. I had never laid eyes on the word and was overjoyed when I did not hear the bell. I was eliminated in the next round on the word "casquetel;" my disappointment was tempered, however, by the knowledge that I'd made it one round farther than the prior year.



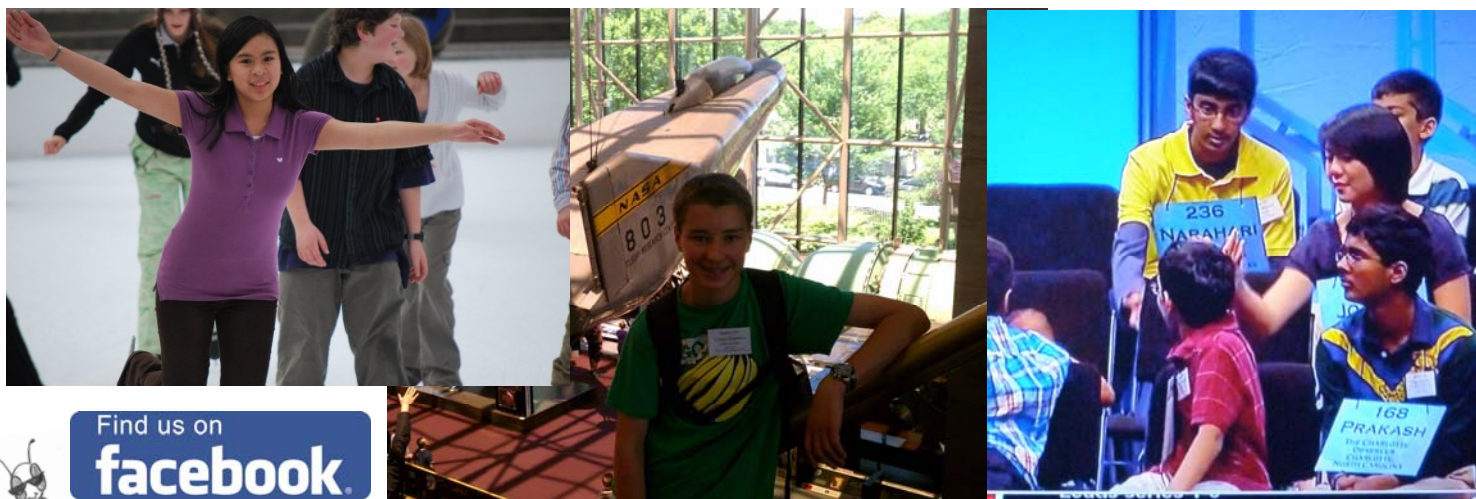
**Above:** Grace Remmer sponsored by *Florida Times-Union Jacksonville, Florida*

The spellers at this year's Bee were notably skilled in their field. Despite the essential nature of the competition, the spellers are highly supportive and encouraging of each other. The only thing greater than the spellers' skill is their generous kindness. Many offered me the best of fortune in the semi-finals, and were highly complimentary on my eventual performance.

As silly as it sounds, one of my favorite parts of the trip to the DC area was a stop at the Peeps store located near the hotel. It was a challenge to fit four giant Marshmallow Peep pillows into our luggage for the flight home! Other sights included the Washington Monument, both the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Capitol Building and the Korean War Memorial. We've become quiet adroit at utilizing the subway systems!

I'm grateful to the Bee staff for providing the opportunity for such a fabulous experience. It is my fondest wish to return for another grand Bee Week...or two!

*Pictures worth a thousand words ...*



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