Karthik Nemmani made his first and only National Spelling Bee count, edging out four-time competitor Naysa Modi in the 18th round with *koinonia*. An eighth-grader from McKinney, Texas, Nemmani calmly deconstructed words like *miarolitic*, *condottiere*, and *haecceitas* en route to victory. Naysa from Frisco, Texas, tackled *ochronosis*, *pareidolia*, and *forçat* before being stumped by *Bewusstseinslage*, and coming in second in the competition.

Interestingly, both Naysa and Abhijay beat Karthik in a tie a few months earlier at their regional bee to seal their sponsored position at the National Bee. Nemmani advanced to the National Bee via the inaugural RSVBee program, a new program initiated with the purpose of giving school champions in ultra-competitive regions or regions without sponsorship the opportunity to compete in the National Bee. Forty-six spellers at the 2018 National Spelling Bee were from Texas.

Controversial to some, the RSVBee program swelled the number of spellers from 291 spellers in 2017 to 519 spellers in 2018. Preference was given based on past National Bee participation, grade, and earliness of applying. Ultimately, 16 of the 41 finalists who participated in the semifinals were RSVBee spellers, and only 16 spellers advanced to the finals in the evening with 4 of the evening finalists being RSVBee spellers. The increased number of spellers resulted in a more packed schedule of competition, with the on-stage preliminary rounds taking place over the course of two days.

Despite the changes resulting from RSVBee, the National Bee mostly ran along the lines of previous years. It began with a written test consisting of spelling and vocabulary, and was followed by two on-stage preliminary rounds. The words given...
in the first on-stage preliminary round (Round 2) were taken from a list of 600 words provided to the spellers in advance of the competition. Sixty-seven spellers misspelled in this round.

Round 3 was trickier, with words coming straight from the online Merriam-Webster dictionary, and 130 misspelled in this round. Many neologisms were featured in this round. At the end of Round 3, the written spelling and vocabulary test scores were used to narrow down the field of remaining spellers to 50 or fewer. The qualifying score was 28 out of a possible 36, and the field narrowed to 41 spellers.

The afternoon finals lasted four rounds and saw a record number of spellers (16) reach the evening finals at its conclusion. However, the evening finals began with a very difficult first round, as nearly half of the spellers on-stage were knocked out in this round. Words, like *volplane*, *ebbet*, *debellation*, *grunion*, and *exegete*, tripped up spellers in this round.

As the rounds rolled by, the crowd eventually thinned to three, and Dr. Bailly began to pronounce words from the championship word list. It finally came down to two after eighth-grader Jashun Paluru misspelled *phelonium* and fifth-grader Abhijay Kodali misspelled *alli* in Round 16.

Everyone at the Bee and watching on television was ready for a long dual between the remaining two super spellers, but an audible gasp arose from the audience when Naysa slipped on *Bewusstseinslage* in Round 17, the first round of head-to-head competition. After handling *haecceitas*, Karthik claimed the title with *koinonia*.

Congratulations to Karthik and to all who made it to the Nationals and to those who made it to Regionals last year, even if you did not make it to Nationals! Spelling is a journey, and we thank you for making Hexco a part of yours. Don’t forget that you can call us any time to ask questions on the bee or about our products. We are even on call during the National Bee!

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**We had half of them**

WEBSTER DETECTOR had 50% of words given in the 2018 National Spelling Bee that were added or altered in the online dictionary! Hexco’s NEW Webster Detector eMentor, published just months before the NSB, had 13 of 26 oral round words of this ilk. All were not in the printed dictionary except *chromosome*, which had two other forms of the word added which were *chromosomally* and *chromosomic*.

Other words that were new or changed and not in Webster Detector, included ‘trendy’ words like *vlogging*, *sudoku*, *aquascape*, *cosmeceutical*, and *Zumba*. Additional fun words were *ollie*, *narratology*, and *nasicorn*. Capitalized words from the online dictionary included *Disneysque*, *Quebec*, *Zimbabwean*, and *Geēysburg*. 

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WEBSTER DETECTOR - 2018 NSB

**WORDS IN WEBSTER DETECTOR**

- affluenza
- athleisure
- blogosphere
- calor
- chromosome
- nocebo
- schmutz
- boogaloo

**WEBSTER DETECTOR WORDS IN THE FINALS**

- ankylloglossia
- keiretsu
- kore
- loratadine
- Mnemosyne

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Save time looking up new words and spend more time spelling!

Annual subscription plays audio file and shows definition, phonetic pronunciation, and parts of speech.

**$219**

We had half of them

New and revised words found only **online!**
The More the Merrier?
How the first year of RSVBee measured up

Rounds 2 and 3 at the 2018 National Spelling Bee spanned over two nine-hour days instead of one, and there were hundreds of additional words due to participation nearly doubling. Each speller was assigned to a morning or afternoon appearance, so no speller had to be on stage all day, but the change was significant, and the addition of the program was both exciting and bittersweet.

In polling customers regarding the fairness of the new RSVBee when it was first introduced, many acknowledged that the RSVBee supports spellers who do not have a regional or local bee as well as those who live in highly competitive areas like Dallas, Texas. At the same time, many recognized that the experience for regional bee winners could be diminished with the added ability for spellers to enter the competition without having reached the same level of achievement that same year.

**Why was the RSVBee ‘wild card’ program instituted?** - Likely to fill a 'gap' that some frustrated parents and spellers have noticed for years. The National Spelling Bee website explains that the three main reasons for RSVBee include: (1) Different numbers of programs per state, (2) Areas with no sponsor, and (3) Varying levels of competition (Source: www.spellingbee.com/fairness). The official Spelling Bee website gives a more thorough explanation for the change.

**Better than 'Bee-fore'?** - Interestingly, in a survey taken by Hexco after the NSB, 56% thought the "fairness" of the NSB was "improved/better" by the addition of RSVBee, while only 22% thought the "experience" was improved/better; 44% said that they thought the experience was "diminished/worse," and 34% said the experience was the "same" or had "no opinion." Repeaters noticed longer lines, particularly at the barbeque and Preliminary rounds. Some suggested that perhaps in 2019, the Bee should allow less RSVBee spellers, with two people suggesting reducing the numbers to "half as many," another echoing "at least half," and another suggested having "only 40-70." A few commented that they missed the tours.

The exact number of RSVBee spaces available for 2019 was not explicitly stated when the second year of the program was announced, and will likely depend on interest. Electronic invitations will be sent to applicants over a five-day span beginning on March 25, giving precedence to applicants in the following order: previous finalists, previous semifinalists, eighth graders, seventh graders, and sixth graders. So, if you’re sure you want ‘in’ whether you win your bee or not, make sure to check your email frequently! According to www.spellingbee.com, those who stay at the Gaylord hotel for six nights will pay a $1500 participation fee; those who do not stay at the Gaylord, will pay a $600 fee. If you expect to attend via the RSVBee program, it may be wise to reserve your rooms in advance. If you have created a GoFundMe page to help with contest-related expenses, please email that link to us at hexco@hexco.com and we'll include it in our blog.

While adapting to any change can be difficult, one fact emerged in our research of the first year of RSVBee—Spelling families genuinely support one another, even in the throes of competition. Karthik, who had many years of competition experience under his belt, proved to be the phoenix of the RSVBee program, beating the odds of 'wild card' participants who represented only 35% of the finalists on ESPN as well as being a first-time speller at the national level.

86% of words at the 2018 National Spelling Bee were in at least one Hexco product.

81% of the Written Round words could be found in NNN, Verbomania, and Blitz List.

77% of all words could be found in Verbomania, New Nat’s Notes, and Blitz List.
Hexco's Spelling eMentor

Used by two National Champions and many runners-up!

FREE DEMO: http://hexco.herokuapp.com

About Spelling eMentor

Hexco's Spelling eMentor is a digital quizzing platform that contains thousands of methodically selected words, each professionally edited and recorded. Automatically saving results as you practice, each word features an audio clip, phonetic pronunciation(s), word origin(s), and definitions. Other exclusive features put you on the path to mastery!

Exclusive features of Spelling eMentor

- Request the next letter in a word if you need a little help!
- Click "Show Answer" if you don’t know how to spell a word.
- Type and hit 'enter' on your keyboard to go through words quickly! No mouse is required.
- Star words for later study. These words can be "unstarred" at any time.
- Choose “All Words Missed on the Last Attempt. "Select “All Words Ever Missed” to practice and make sure you never miss those words again.
- Keep working on missed words until you get the number down to zero!

TOP PRODUCTS

- Verbo eMentor
- New Nat's eMentor
- Blitz eMentor (1 & 2)
- Paideia '95, '01, and '06
- Spell Buddy - Grades 1-8
- Etyma eMentor (no audio)
- NEW Webster Detector!
- TOPICAL LISTS: Animals, Nautical, Botanical, Food, Medical, and Japanese!

The customer who used our Spelling eMentor the most hours in one year was Ananya Vinay, who earned her place as the National Champion in 2017.

SPELLING eMENTOR DETAILS: Browser-based, tracks progress for one user. Accessible for one year from any browser on a PC or Mac computer. Works best on Chrome or Firefox. Subscription only; good for one year from date of purchase. Non-refundable and non-returnable, sign up for FREE Sampler before you buy!
**Verbomania & Verbo eMentor!**

**Verbomania** means "passion, craze, or obsession with words!" Containing 13,000+ vocabulary-enriching, SAT-type words, this collection also includes definitions, parts of speech, pronunciations and language of origin. Learn a wide array of dynamic and interesting nouns, verbs and adjectives from the English language.

**Verbo eMentor** contains the same words with audio and allows spellers to practice their missed words on the computer until all words are mastered!

Random Sequence makes it harder to ‘guess’ the first few letters of a word simply from its alphabetical placement - ideal for quizzing straight from the book. Random Sequence also matches the order of Verbo eMentor.

**CODE ITEM** | **PRICE**
--- | ---
vboka | Verbomania Alpha book | $99
vbokr | Verbomania Random book | $99
vmene | Verbo eMentor | 
vmene Volume: 1, 2, or 3 | $219
vmeneall | Verbo eMentor - Full Set* | $570

*Verbo eMentor full set is renewable at 50% off after a full-year. Please renew before your product expires, or you risk losing your history of missed words and starred words.

39% of the words in Round 3 at NSB 2018 could be found in **Verbomania**.

42% of the spelling words in the 2018 written round were in **Verbomania**.

**New Nat's Notes & New Nat's eMentor!**

With 18,000+ words, **New Nat's Notes** is our largest challenging set of words geared toward those aiming for the highest reaches of competition. This collection is available in alphabetic and random sequence, and all words have pronunciations, definitions, and expanded etymology. **New Nat's Notes** is highly recommended for those who have already mastered Verbomania.

**New Nat's eMentor** includes audio and keeps track of errors until all words are mastered. See our “Spelling eMentor” page and try our free demo at hexco.com to appreciate all of the unique features in this state-of-the-art intelligent interface that saves all of your missed words so you can get every word right!

**CODE ITEM** | **PRICE**
--- | ---
nnn | New Nat's Notes | $175
nnem | New Nat's eMentor Volume: 1, 2, 3, or 4 | $219
nnemall | New Nat's eMentor Set* | $799

*New Nat's eMentor full-set is renewable at 50% off after a full-year. Please renew before your product expires, or you risk losing your history of missed words and starred words.

55% of the words in Round 4 at the 2018 National Spelling Bee were in **New Nat's Notes**.

43% of the vocabulary words at NSB 2018 were in **New Nat's Notes**!

**Vocab Match** - A challenging definition matching game!

Ideal for vocabulary enrichment, try this new definition matching book. If you already own **New Nat's Notes** or **Verbomania**, you can get the corresponding Vocab Match printed volume(s) for 50% off! Includes words and definitions (only) for use in matching exercises.

**CODE ITEM** | **PRICE**
nnvm | New Nat’s VOCAB MATCH (Book) Volume: 1, 2, 3, or 4 | *$40
nnvmall | New Nat’s VOCAB MATCH All (Books) | *$140
vmvm | Verbo(mania) VOCAB MATCH (Book) Volume: 1, 2, or 3 | *$40
vmvmall | Verbo(mania) VOCAB MATCH ALL (Books) | *$100

*To qualify for 50% off discount off prices shown, you must have previously purchased the same volume(s) of New Nat's Notes or Verbomania in print or eMentor format.

55% of the words in Round 4 at the 2018 National Spelling Bee were in **New Nat's Notes**.
Spelling Rules Book - A 'must-have' for figuring out words!

*Spelling Rules Book*, subtitled, "Why Isn't 'Phonetic' Spelled the Way it Sounds?" is a 180+ page compilation that promotes less reliance on rote memorization and more on the understanding of languages. 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 and an encyclopedic list of Greek and Latin roots with definitions and words derived from each are also included. For those interested in the more esoteric words in the English language, the author has included those types of lists with themes such as "funny double letters," and "funny first-letter combinations." There are also some words from unusual languages like Yiddish, Welsh, Dutch, and Turkish. While this book explains the rules, it also tells when the rules don't work. A true *sine qua non* for competitors! Updated in 2015 by the original writer, Valerie Tarrant Browning.

**CODE** | **ITEM** | **PRICE**
--- | --- | ---
nsspbk | Spelling Rules Book | $79

20+ Years of Spelling Bees

20+ Years of Spelling Bees is a collection of every *After-a-Spell* newsletter printed since 1991. The newsletter reviews each National Spelling Bee, analyzes words used, and presents articles written by top National Spelling Bee participants. Percentages of words found in our products, which were used at bees, are highlighted, and annual changes in the NSB are recapped. National and Regional Bee word lists are also included. View inside this product on our website before buying. A copy of the most recent *After-a-Spell* can be downloaded from our website at www.hexco.com/content/After_A_Spell.pdf

**CODE** | **ITEM** | **PRICE**
aftall | 20+ Years of Spelling Bees | $70

Etyma Notes and Etyma eMentor

**BASIC TO ADVANCED LATIN & GREEK**

Our four Basic and Intermediate volumes contain 150 roots, 50 prefixes, and 25 suffixes; our two Advanced volumes each contain 225 roots. *Etyma Notes* designates the above in book format, *Etyma eMentor* will utilize our new online spelling format with error tracking; *Etyma eMentor* is Hexco’s online, browser-based etymology mastery tool. In our eMentor version, roots, prefixes and suffixes are presented on the screen, and students are prompted to type in their answers. *Etyma eMentor* keeps track of errors until all elements are mastered.

Note there is no audio with this product due to the very short length of many word roots and the fact that their pronunciation sometimes varies depending on the word in which an element appears.

Many spellers who compete at the National level use our etymology products along with the *Spelling Rules Book*. The more patterns you know of various languages, the more valuable it is to know from which language a word originated.

**CODE** | **ITEM** | **PRICE**
etyn6 | Etyma Notes Latin+Greek | $100
etymn6 | Etyma eMentor ALL L & G | $199
eteye | Etyma eMentor Choose: Latin or Greek AND Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced | $40

Fact: Over 60% of words used in the English language have Greek or Latin origins.
Regional words

2018 NSB words used in Round 2

A total of 516 of the following 600 words were given to spellers in Round 2 (first oral spelling round) of the 2018 National Spelling Bee, and many were first used at regional spelling bees! This list was not available until all of the regional spelling bees had ended. In early April, contestants were provided this list of words inside their spellers at spellingbee.com.
In the 2018 National Spelling Bee, 79 words could be found in Blitz Lists 1, 2, and 3. Each volume contains 3,000 highly difficult words that were never seen in bees at the time of its release. Some words in Volumes 1, 2, and 3 have been seen in the National Bee since these were printed, but there are many more that could easily appear at the National level. Most of the 2012-18 NSB winners used all the available Blitz Lists in preparing for the Bee. These lists are ideal for students who are looking for solid lists of obscure and challenging words.

Blitz List & Blitz eMentor

In the 2018 National Spelling Bee, 79 words could be found in Blitz Lists 1, 2, and 3. Each volume contains 3,000 highly difficult words that were never seen in bees at the time of its release. Some words in Volumes 1, 2, and 3 have been seen in the National Bee since these were printed, but there are many more that could easily appear at the National level. Most of the 2012-18 NSB winners used all the available Blitz Lists in preparing for the Bee. These lists are ideal for students who are looking for solid lists of obscure and challenging words. Blitz eMentor includes audio recordings of words; see product key to learn more about the eMentor format and try the free demo on this product’s webpage. View inside on the web; the entire set (all 6 volumes) has 8,000 words, a significant word foundation!

Topical eMentors

The study of topical word lists can help form cognitive relationships between words to give ‘clues’ on word meanings and our coaching program uses this approach. The word count for each topical list volume ranges from 850-890 words with the exception of Japanese which contains 438 words. All lists are updated for the online dictionary used by Scripps. Read “New Spelling eMentor” section in this catalog and try free Demos online before you buy!

Spell Buddy

Assign grade-appropriate, vocabulary enriching words with 20 lessons per grade level! Words were compiled from all past Class and School bee lists and from the off-list words in the class and school bee pronouncer guides, plus comparable grade-level words. Spell Buddy can help students field ‘off-list’ words in school bees and beyond. There are no duplicates, although forms of some words are presented differently on occasion. Excellent for young spellers, spelling bee clubs, and home schooling. View inside on the web; the entire set (all 6 volumes) has 8,000 words, a significant word foundation! At the 2018 NSB, 10% of the words could be found in Spell Buddy.

Paideia 1995 eMentor

Hear the word and type in the spelling! Methodically learn all the words in Spell It, or in Paideia 1995 or 2001, or 2006. Read details of each eMentor product at this link: www.hexco.com/spelling-ementor-new

Also -- try FREE demos from a PC or Mac computer with browser access; Chrome or Firefox recommended.

CODE ITEM                        PRICE
nsbdy Spell Buddy Grade 1-2, 3-4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 $29
nsbdyall Spell Buddy (all 6 books) $87
nsbdyc SB Coach Manual Gr. 1/2, 3/4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 $59
nsbdycall SB Coach Manual (all 6) $177
nsbdye Spell Buddy eMentor Gr. 1-2, 3-4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 $49
nsbdyeall Spell Buddy eMentor (all 6) $149
nsmse Spell It eMentor (Updated 2016) $95
nsep Paideia eMentor '95 '01 or '06 $149
vsteb "Botanical" eMentor $49
vsten "Animal" eMentor $49
vstef "Food" eMentor $49
vstel "Japanese" eMentor $49
vstem "Medical" eMentor $49
vsten "Nautical" eMentor $49
vsteg "Forest" eMentor $49
vstel "Japanese" eMentor $49
vstel "Japanese" eMentor $49

CODE ITEM                        PRICE
blitz1 Blitz List 1 (released '12) $79
blitz2 Blitz List 2 (released '13) $79
blitz3 Blitz List 3 (released '14) $79
blitze1 Blitz eMentor 1 $219
blitze2 Blitz eMentor 2 $219
blitze3 Blitz eMentor 3 (NEW!) $219

Topical eMentors

The study of topical word lists can help form cognitive relationships between words to give ‘clues’ on word meanings and our coaching program uses this approach. The word count for each topical list volume ranges from 850-890 words with the exception of Japanese which contains 438 words. All lists are updated for the online dictionary used by Scripps. Read “New Spelling eMentor” section in this catalog and try free Demos online before you buy!

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vsten "Nautical" eMentor $49
vsteb "Botanical" eMentor $49
vstef "Food" eMentor $49
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vstel "Japanese" eMentor $49
vstem "Medical" eMentor $49

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Also -- try FREE demos from a PC or Mac computer with browser access; Chrome or Firefox recommended.

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National Bee 2018

Round-by-round look at the words

Round 1
Spelling
barenness
pestilential
patent
troglodyte
orpiment
epipodite
pterygophyte
bocconici
eumolique

Vocabulary
insuperable
chockablock
explicit
timocracy
diography
mano a mano
interstitial
lalopathy
argot

cosset
bewhiskered
psalm
inextricably
operose
tracery
gelato
nubuck
cauterization
preachment

Round 2

Round 3
Zumba
stabilizer
Lindy Hop
chronicler
tinkerer
hemisphere
amateur
rubricate
quadrupeled
aquaterrierum
abbot
viscount
decasyllabic
colitis
electorate
probationary
whippersnapper
hyperkinetic
pyrotechnic
laparotomy
omega
deltal
enlivening
nasicon
Zimbabwean
correspondence
replete

Round 4
procrustean
dismayed
aseptic
archangel
lynx
condign
sagittar
priestice
diastrophism
forensics
detainer
accompaniment
adolescence
luncheon
caudation
hubristic
loge
wheezy
debilitation
scurry
amplitude
temple
theoretical
inculation
aforementioned
leabane
tenable
balsa
panoply
proficiently
aphorism
Zeno
gentility
sloy
replicate
calendula
reminiscence
dyspeptic
rigor mortis
basset
tuberosé
belabor
solecism
celtuce
corpulence
meringue
lenten
mage
barium
cordoned
wharfinger
lackadaisy
conventicle
expectorate
naiga
circuital
labile
transience
spiation
rehabilitation
antecedence
fragility
sudoku
beryl
frigid
financier
armarium

Warsaw
lithograph
asetic
archangel
lynx
condign
sagittar
priestice
diastrophism
forensics
detainer
accompaniment
adolescence
luncheon
caudation
hubristic
loge
wheezy
debilitation
scurry
amplitude
temple
theoretical
inculation
aforementioned
leabane
tenable
balsa
panoply
proficiently
aphorism
Zeno
gentility
sloy
replicate
calendula
reminiscence
dyspeptic
rigor mortis
basset
tuberosé
belabor
solecism
celtuce
corpulence
meringue
lenten
mage
barium
cordoned
wharfinger
lackadaisy
conventicle
expectorate
naiga
circuital
labile
transience
spiation
rehabilitation
antecedence
fragility
sudoku
beryl
frigid
financier
armarium

prevalence
frustraneous
queue
gristliness
menthol
Disneyesque
nocebo
neurotropic
proscenium
wearable
periclymen
delirium
sabra
concomitant
purée
calor
aggravize
insurrection
cornice
vertiginous
rigmarole
muclage
epoptism
quintuplet
dropsy
TWO NEW BOOKS BY HEXCO ACADEMIC!

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Getting ready to compete in the National History Bee or Bowl? Here's the book that can turn your studies in the right direction. The History Essentials fills in the gaps with facts that may have escaped your studies or memory—until now. Look up words in bold or entire periods or cultures, and concentrate on topics that pique your interest. Then, delve deeper and keep going as your fascination with history expands. Round out your knowledge of history without losing your place, because you can always return to the timeline and pick up where you left off. Use this book as a first step when entering the History Bee or History Bowl contest for the first time! BUY it now at www.hexco.com.

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'Fast Track' and 'Bee-ginner' courses start in the summer after the 2019 NSB!

The coaching experience ...

"Studying with Hexco was a unique and enjoyable experience. It provided many resources to help me study. Personal coaching was also really fun and educational for me to do. The whole experience was really amazing, and I know that I wouldn’t have won the Scripps National Spelling Bee without the Hexco experience."

- Ananya Vinay, 2017 National Spelling Bee Champion

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2. Fast Track
   Starts in summer!

3. <bee-giners>
   Coaching Circle
   Starts in summer!

View details on our coaching pages at hexco.com
Spaces in courses are limited, so fill out our interest form and make your deposit to secure your place!

Going to Nationals via RSVBee or have a friend who is raising money to attend? We'll share your "GO FUND ME" page on our blog. Send us the link at hexco@hexco.com.

Words from NSB '18 and a recap on the first year of RSVBee!

33 of the 41 semifinalists used Hexco products.

48 National Spelling Bee contestants were coached by Hexco.

88% of the 2018 NSB finalists used Hexco products.

AFTER-A-SPELL

21 National Spelling Bee champions in a row have used Hexco products.