



## FAST TRACK TO SPELLING

A spelling course for new or young spellers

### TUITION

\$1300 for 6 weeks of online group coaching plus assignments

### THE IDEAL STUDENT

Fast Track to Spelling is designed for those who have not yet studied spelling at length, or those who have not tried the Hexco coaching program before. The Fast Track to Spelling course explores spelling at an assortment of levels giving very young spellers a strong foundation of fundamentals to build upon. The ideal candidate will likely have not already participated in the National Spelling Bee (NSB); in some cases, the student has attended the NSB and did not place high on the written tests and/or missed a word that could have been guessed with the further (basic) knowledge of word origins.

### INCLUDES

- Language information and associated word lists at a pace dictated by the individual speller as based on mastery.
- Additional word lists, including difficult to spell eponyms, homonyms, trademarks, etc., again dependent on mastery by the individual speller.
- Weekly Latin and Greek root assignments
- Weekly assignment of words in *Verbomania* and *New Nat's Notes*.
- Weekly quizzing on assigned word lists plus unfamiliar words to learn skills in fielding unknown words. This is one 45-minute group session and one 15-minute individual session per week AFTER the first week, which will be a one hour group session.
- Specific email feedback on student progress and problems as needed.
- Weekly follow-up to all students with explanations given in the weekly quizzing session.



## HOW IT WORKS

Fast Track to Spelling consists of **6 online, weekly sessions on a set day and time**. The first class will be 1 hour and thereafter, 45 minutes of group class time and an individual 15-minute session. The individual session will be to assess mastery of a given assignment to determine if the student should be given new eMentors for the next session. Students are required to complete **regular, weekly assignments** including learning Latin and Greek roots, rules for language families along with study lists, and additional **lists of interesting and tricky words**. Key aspects of spelling will be explored at this introductory level, and **quizzing sessions called *Spell Bees*** will incorporate assignments.

During the online Spell Bees, the coach will give each student a *turn* to spell a word; the coach will say the word, then give information on each word. When it is *not* a speller's turn to spell, that speller will spell his or her "guess" in a spreadsheet that is shared with the coach so **every speller is actively engaged in spelling every word**. The coach will give verbal explanations of each word during the Spell Bee and written explanations of the quizzed words will be sent in a follow-up email to all participants. *Words chosen for quizzing are those that can be used to "teach" students far more than just how to spell that particular word.*

## BENEFITS OF THE COURSE

Fast Track to Spelling gives budding spelling students the kind of understanding of the English language that can equip them for long-term recall of words and word meanings instead of learning solely by rote memorization. Students who are enrolled in the Fast Track program are also able to get comfortable with completing assigned lists on a regular basis, thus becoming prepared for the rigors of Hexco's Personal Spelling Coach program should they wish to go further. Students enrolled in the Fast Track course, who are also on a waiting list for personal spelling coaching, are given priority for personal coaching when a space becomes available *if the student has excelled in the course and the coach deems her/him a strong candidate for personal coaching instead.*



## BENEFITS (continued)

Students enrolled in the course will also have access to certain eMentor products that are assigned by the coach to use while they are in the program. *Progression to the next assignment, as in regular coaching, is based on mastery demonstrated by the student both in the class and the individual time with our coach.* **These exclusive eMentor products are used for Hexco's coached students only and are not sold to the general public.** Note that specialized eMentors that are "included" in this program are discontinued once the course has concluded *unless you remain in some form of a spelling coaching course by Hexco.* In such case, we will extend your specialized coaching eMentors for the time you remain in any of our Hexco spelling coaching programs. Many top National Spelling Bee contestants have prepared using these specialized lists reserved for coached students only.

## PARTICIPATION

Participation and placement is based on a first-come, first-serve order as there are a limited number of available slots. An inner drive to succeed, follow-through on homework assignments and practice at home are required to be a part of this program. We expect that the parent(s) or guardian of students enrolled remind students to study 1-2 or more hours per day to get the most out of the program and make sure students log in to sessions at the regularly scheduled times. We also expect the parents/guardian to check the student's Google sheet to see student progress. Note that not all words assigned will appear in a Spell Bee or online session, and *if a speller seems to have missed studying a certain list, or has not mastered the assigned list, the same list will be reassigned.* Success and progress in the program weighs heavily on whether and how much a student has studied.

Access to a computer is also required. If you are interested in the course, we will let you know the days and times when your coach and class will meet for your online group sessions and the day/time for your personal 15-minute session each week.



## REQUIRED STUDENT RESOURCES

All students in the program are required to have our *Spelling Rules Book* and some format of *Verbomania* and *New Nat's Notes*, and these must be purchased separately. The preferred format for the latter two is Hexco's eMentor format and these can be purchased one volume at a time. The printed versions of *New Nat's Notes* and *Verbomania* is also an option and some students purchase both.

- Subscription or access to *Merriam Webster's Unabridged* online dictionary
- Access to Google for using Google Sheets so files can be submitted to the coach at the conclusion of each quizzing session (gmail address is helpful)
- *New Nat's Notes* or *New Nat's eMentor*
- *Verbomania* or *Verbomania eMentor*
- *Spelling Rules Book*
- A computer with a keyboard, speakers, and internet access for eMentor study and online sessions. A microphone and web camera is also recommended for live sessions which use teleconferencing.

## YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Your first assignment will be made soon after your student has enrolled in the program and payment has been received. Required study materials will also need to be purchased before assignments are made. Students will be given an instructional video on using the dictionary to search for words from roots and how to use the Google sheet in tracking their trouble words.

### STUDY ASSIGNMENT – PRIOR TO 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS:

- Video on rules for spelling Japanese words
- Read the *Spelling Rules Book* section on Japanese
- Study Set 1 of eMentor Japanese word list (about 125 words)
- Study Set 1 of eMentor Vintage word list (about 125 miscellaneous words)
- Latin and Greek root assignments -Roots Set 1 (via pdf for student lookup)
- *Verbomania (Verbo)* words (300 words) – 2 eMentor Sets, OR 8-10 pages in printed format-ALL SPELLERS TO STUDY THIS AMOUNT WEEKLY.
- *New Nat's Notes (NNN)* words (150 words -1 eMentor Set, OR 4-5 pages in printed format) -ALL SPELLERS TO STUDY THIS AMOUNT WEEKLY.



## PROPOSED WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS – Study prior to listed week

- For Week 1 – eMentors: Japanese 1 & Vintage 1 (Set 1 of each), dictionary & pdf - Roots Set 1, Verbo (2 sets or 8-10 pages) & NNN (150 or 4-5 pages). IF MASTERED you'll be assigned the assignment in RED below. If unmastered, you'll continue with previous eMentor assignments AND do next Verbo, NNN, & Root assignment.
- For Week 2 – eMentors: Japanese 1 & Vintage 1 (Set 2 of each), dictionary & pdf - Roots Set 2, Verbo (2 sets or 8-10 pages) & NNN (150 or 4-5 pages). IF MASTERED, you'll be assigned the assignment in RED below. Unmastered, continue with previous eMentor assignments AND do next Verbo, NNN, & Root assignment.
- For Week 3 - eMentors: DTG 1 (commonly misspelled words, Geographic words, Eponyms, imitative) & Vintage 2 (set 1), Roots Set 3, Verbo (2 sets or 8-10 pages) & NNN (150 or 4-5 pages). IF MASTERED, you'll be assigned the assignment in RED below. If unmastered, you'll continue with previous eMentor assignments AND do next Verbo, NNN, & Root assignment.
- For Week 4 – eMentors: DTG 1 (study sets: Unknown origin, Trademarks, Homonyms), Vintage 2 (Set 2), Roots Set 4, Verbo (2 sets or 8-10 pages) & NNN (150 or 4-5 pages). IF MASTERED, you'll be assigned the assignment in RED below. If unmastered, you'll continue with previous eMentor assignments AND do next Verbo, NNN, & Root assignment.
- For Week 5 – eMentors: Spanish 1 & Vintage 3 (set 1 of each), Spanish Video, Spelling Rules book-read section on Spanish, Roots Set 5, Verbo (2 sets or 8-10 pages) & NNN (150 or 4-5 pages). IF MASTERED, you'll be assigned the assignment in RED below. If unmastered, you'll continue with previous eMentor assignments AND do next Verbo, NNN, & Root assignment.
- For Week 6 – eMentors: Spanish 1 & Vintage 3 (set 2 of each), Roots Set 6, Verbo (2 sets or 8-10 pages) & NNN (150 or 4-5 pages).
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**Note: These assignments are subject to change as demonstrated by mastery. If a speller demonstrates mastery, he/she will move to next eMentor assignment. If a speller seems able to complete all of the Verbo, NNN, roots AND eMentors AND seems capable of moving faster, additional assignments in eMentor may be given at the coach's discretion. The individualization of assignments and time spent individually with the coach, allows a speller to move through the material at their own pace, while covering some material corporately as a class.**



## SUMMARY

By the end of the Fast Track course, students who **master** provided lists will have covered a minimum of two language families, one collection of difficult-to-spell words which include homonyms, eponyms, geographic words, trademarks, words from unknown origins or imitative origins, and other difficult-to-spell words, and three sets of words Scripps has used previously in competition. Total words covered is over 3,000+ words including all assignments in *Verbomania* and *New Nat's Notes*. Many of the words given in the course, as well as our spelling coaching are private lists and are not available in any Hexco products. Access to these lists ends when coaching is discontinued.

Through the course, we strive to help students master the material and build their spelling foundation solidly. We encourage learning word meanings. We center on teaching students the rules for spelling and for spelling words from various languages. Our goal is to be encouraging to students and motivate them to their highest potential.

## TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Payment in full is required at the beginning of the session by personal check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or Paypal. We cannot guarantee increased placement within any bee. Ultimate placement, as you probably already know, is dependent on a variety of intangibles, including luck of the draw, level of study, willingness to study, student error, nervousness on stage, other competitors, etc. We do not offer unlimited, unscheduled, or round-the-clock attention from the coach or Hexco Academic. Word lists provided to Fast Track students are for their use only. Payment is not refundable.

**For additional questions or more information please contact Linda Tarrant at [linda@hexco.com](mailto:linda@hexco.com) or call 1.800.391.2891.**