



## 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
- Additional word lists, including difficult to spell eponyms, homonyms, trademarks, etc.
- Latin and Greek root assignments
- 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
- 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**. 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. **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 hours a 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, 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.

## 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. An informational and dictionary session will also be scheduled once 3-5 students are registered in the program. This session usually takes place a week before the six-week course begins and also clarifies how the program works and how spellers will keep track of their missed words, how to use the dictionary to their best advantage, and how to work with the eMentor in the most efficient way.



### SAMPLE WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT *(subject to change per coach)*

- Video on rules for spelling Japanese words
- Japanese word list (about 125 words) via eMentor
- Vintage word list (about 125 miscellaneous words) via eMentor
- Latin and Greek root assignments (via pdf for student lookup)
- One to two sets of *Verbomania* words (300 words OR 4-5 pages in printed format)
- One to two sets of *New Nat's Notes* words (300 words OR 4-5 pages in printed format)

### 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
- Excel or Google's version of Excel (Google Sheets) so files can be submitted to the coach at the conclusion of each quizzing session
- Form of a personal spelling notebook—either a hard copy or an Excel file with multiple tabs for specific areas, such as Latin elements, Greek elements, results of word searches, words missed, collected odd words, etc.
- *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.



## SUMMARY

By the end of the Fast Track course, students will have covered two language families and one collections 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. Total words covered is about 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.**