



Course Overview

Hexco's **RACE TO REGION (RTR)** is a one-on-one program with one coach and one speller. This platform is designed to engage young spellers intent on doing well at their Region Spelling Bee or State Bee or any other advanced spelling bee. The intent is to open a path to becoming savvy spellers with a love of language. As spellers progress, they will aim for placement in the National Spelling Bee (NSB), the North South Foundation spelling competition, and/or the South Asian Spelling Bee.

The cost of the RTR program for four 30-minute sessions is \$495 or \$950 for four one-hour sessions, and if you choose to have eight 30-minute sessions, it is also \$950. It includes the following.

- **A brief assessment** to determine a speller's skill level so studies start at a challenging place
- **Assignments** to expand spellers' word knowledge and understanding of language patterns that require at least an hour of daily study time.
- **A quizzing/coaching session** every week scheduled by the speller and coach to "spot check" all facets of assignments given and to teach skills in language patterns and sounds as well as to expand a speller's word bank and to learn skills in fielding unfamiliar words
- **Access to eMentor** word lists that are used exclusively by coached spellers. (This does not include published lists available from Hexco.)
- **Email feedback** to both speller and parent after each quizzing/coaching session to recap words missed and to give additional word information or study suggestions

What does my student receive?

- Learning rules for spelling words from other languages and lists to study of such languages.
- Coaching on Latin and Greek roots
- Lists of difficult-to-spell words in the eMentor app (eponyms, homonyms, words from unknown or imitative origins, geographic words, words from prior region and national bees)
- Guidance in participating in high-level bees
- Techniques in fielding unfamiliar words in a bee
- A supremely knowledgeable coach in the field of spelling preparation who will instill ways to optimize study time



How does RTR work?

Step 1: Send us 8-10 time slots that would work to meet with the coach for sessions and decide if you want four 30-minute weekly sessions, eight 1-hour weekly sessions, or eight 30-minute weekly sessions.

Step 2: We'll send you a link to make a payment.

Step 3: Sign and return a non-disclosure agreement that will be supplied to you.

Step 4: Complete a short assessment and then receive the first assignment.

ASSIGNMENTS – The coach will make assignments to be completed by the student a week before each session.

After each quizzing/coaching session, a new list of words and assignments will be made. The key to gaining the *maximum* benefit of coaching, however, is regular study and parental quizzing which will aid the student in learning and mastering all the words in their assignments. *(Please note, however, if a student has not learned the words from a part of a current assignment, the section will be reassigned.)*

- **QUIZZING/COACHING** – Quizzing will be scheduled for 30 minutes or one hour every week via Skype, Teams, or Zoom based on the course chosen. Students will call in at a scheduled time. This individualized time will be spent on teaching, reviewing problem words from prior coaching sessions, additional quizzing over current assignments, and quizzing over additional unfamiliar words to test a student's "guessing" skills and enhance these abilities. Each group of 4 sessions must be completed within 6 weeks or a group of 8 sessions must be completed within 10 weeks.
- **FEEDBACK** – The coach will email the student and parent(s) to analyze errors, review rules that cover misspellings, explain why the student may have made the errors, and generally encourage the student. All interchange with students is constructive and positive. The role of the coach is not to grade, only to teach and motivate a student.
- **COMPILING PERSONAL WORD LISTS** – As assignments are carried out, each student is required to compile their own spelling collection. This will be a personal collection of words, Latin and Greek elements, and oddities found or learned along the way. The notebook may be in a printed format or in a Google Sheets document with tabs for the various types of words. As a speller progresses, he or she will be asked to search *Online Merriam-Webster* for words of a particular type to add to their notebook.



Meet our Head Spelling Coach

Michelle Horton is our original coach who assisted in developing the Spelling Coaching Program with Linda Tarrant in 2008, and our coaching programs have improved along the way along with our growing lists of words. Michelle is well-respected for coaching top-tier spellers, and many of her students have become coaches who have also worked for Hexco.

Prior to coaching for Hexco, Michelle coached her son and two daughters using Hexco products, and they participated in national bees, advancing to the semifinals multiple times. Michelle is an expert grammarian who holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a specialization in Chemistry. As head coach, she has developed instructions for approaching the spelling of words in various language families beyond what is in Hexco's *Spelling Rules Book* and has added multiple lists for each language family.

Her positive attitude helps build excellent rapport with students as she continues to receive stellar reviews from customers who have had the opportunity to benefit from her coaching, many of whom have made it to the higher rungs of the National Spelling Bee. Currently, Mrs. Horton coaches our **Crash Courses** which are offered for five weeks before the National Bee each year, and she coaches individual spellers who have excelled in our coaching program and have been in our program for an extended period.

Agreement

The Ideal Candidate

- Spellers who have already studied at length and may have learned Words of the Champions and beyond
- Committed spellers who are willing to study at least 7 hours weekly beyond the half-hour of one-on-one coaching times
- Students who need help with pronouncing and learning difficult words and word patterns
- Spellers who are willing to commit to an initial 4-week period with possible continuation, if it is a good fit for all involved

Required Materials

- *Merriam Webster's Unabridged Online Dictionary* subscription (not the free version)
- Computer with Internet access and camera
- Access to Microsoft Office or Google Docs and Google Sheets
- A contract for the services provided stipulating that instruction and lessons are for their single student with the understanding that this material may not be shared with other students, not even siblings, or posted to the Internet

- Payment in full is required at the beginning of each group of 4 or 8 sessions by personal check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or PayPal. Due to the limited number of slots available, and the preparation that takes place immediately after the initial assessment, payments made to Hexco are nonrefundable even if you choose to discontinue coaching.
- Unlimited, unscheduled, or round-the-clock attention from a spelling coach or Hexco is not guaranteed.
- No guarantee of increased placement within the NSB framework can be made. 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, etc.
- All lesson plans, word lists, recordings, and guidance are copyrighted by Hexco. The sharing of such is illegal and an infringement of the copyright law to share with anyone, including siblings, even when coaching has ended.



FAQs

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

Life happens and can sometimes interfere with the best-laid plans. However, a scheduled appointment, if missed, is still billed at the set fee schedule. If both parties AGREE to reschedule ahead of time, there will be no charge for the rescheduled service. We can change our time well in advance without a problem. However, if you forget about the conflict and simply miss the scheduled appointment time, you will be charged for the appointment. If there is a serious emergency, we will reconsider. "My student is not prepared" is NOT a reason to reschedule.

What about vacations?

These can be scheduled in advance so families can have time together.

Contact Us!

Spellers are enrolled on a "first come, first served" basis. If you are interested in coaching or have questions, we encourage you to fill out our student interest form (<https://www.hexco.com/spelling-coach-interest-form>). Thank you for your interest in our spelling program.

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