

Mind your ENGLISH!

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KEY DATES

Date of Competition:	11 Dec 2019
Time:	1.30pm – 4.30pm
Venue:	Suntec Convention, Hall 401 (Stage)

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT

By submitting the registration form to us, you agree that POPULAR may collect, use and disclose your personal information to inform you via direct mails, emails and/or text messages about POPULAR's products and services, upcoming promotions or events organised or co-organised by POPULAR. It also constitutes permission to POPULAR and its agencies to use the winner's names and/or photographs for purposes of publicity, advertising and/or trade without further compensation or notice.

Note: POPULAR reserves the right to change these rules and regulations at any time without prior notice. In the event that any changes are made, the revised rules and regulations shall be posted on this website immediately.

FORMAT OF COMPETITION

1. Round One

Round One consists of 2 segments. Each segment will take in 60 teams of 2 (120 participants). Participants are required to take a pen-and-paper spelling test. Participants will spell 10 words that will be read out to them by writing each word on paper. Each word that is read out will be followed by its definition and contextualisation with an example so that the meaning and form of the word are clearly understood. The fastest 5 groups from each segment will be invited to take part in the semi-finals. The top 5 groups from each segment will be selected based on merits.

2. Semi-finals

In the semi-finals, participants will be invited to take their seats on the stage.

The 5 groups from the first segment will go first. The fastest group to raise their paddles will get to answer. If the group gets the answer correct, they will get a point. If the group gets the answer wrong, they will not get a point and will not be able to give another answer. The question would be open for the other groups to answer.

Questions will be asked in the following format:

- A) Pronunciation (3 questions)
- B) Spelling (3 questions)
- C) Identifying if a given sentence is in Standard English (2 questions)
 - ➔ If the given sentence is not in Standard English, the participants will have to make changes to the sentence accordingly

**Refer to Annex A for example.

The 2 groups with the highest score from each segment will move on to the finals. 4 groups will move on to the finals.

3. Finals

The finals will be played the same way as the semi-finals. Participants will be given 3 questions on pronunciation, 3 questions on spelling and 2 question on identifying if a given sentence is in Standard English. The finalists will be ranked according to their final scores.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES: RULES & REGULATIONS

A) Eligibility

Participant must be aged between 7 and 14 years old (born between the years 2005 and 2012).

B) Official Dictionary

- The official dictionary used in this competition is The Oxford Dictionary of English (2010), 3rd edition.
- The official dictionary will serve as the final authority for word spelling and pronunciation.

- Some words may not appear directly in the dictionary (plurals, possessives, etc.).
- Accepted rules for these words will apply.

IMPORTANT: Please note that due to the 'live' nature of the competition at the semi-finals and finals, only words found in the official reference dictionary (print version) will be accepted by the judges.

C) Conduct Code

During the competition, pupils, parents, teachers and spectators present are required to observe the following code of conduct described here at all times. Those who fail to adhere to the code of conduct may face immediate disqualification, the loss of winner status, forfeiture of prizes, and expulsion from competition venue with immediate effect.

- Participants and spectators must demonstrate sportsmanship by being friendly, polite and respectful to other participants, other spectators and competition officials at all times, until the conclusion of the competition and award ceremony.
- Participants and spectators must not act in any way that might constitute distraction to another participant or disruption to the progress of the competition while it is taking place.
- There should be no talking or gesturing among participants or between participants and spectators.
- Flash photography or videography is not allowed throughout the competition in order to avoid distracting the participant.
- **No distraction from the audience is allowed. If a participant receives assistance from anyone in the audience, be it verbal or non-verbal, he/she will be disqualified.**

D) Challenge Officials

The officials consist of 2 emcees, selected by Speak Good English Movement, who will manage and judge the entire competition.

The officials uphold the rules of the competition and have the authority to disqualify any participant from the competition should the rules of the competition not be met. A participant will be disqualified if he/she

- fails to start spelling upon the emcee's request;
- displays unsportsmanlike behaviour;
- alters the letters or sequence of letters which are different from those he/she first uttered;
- Utters unintelligible sounds in the process of spelling and pronouncing.

All officials share the responsibility for making decisions. Their decision is final in all the rounds of the competition.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

a) Speak clearly and loudly throughout the competition

The participant has the responsibility to ensure that any word given to him/her is pronounced clearly and loudly. In his/her attempt to spell or pronounce any given word, the participant is expected to enunciate clearly and loudly. Any unintelligible spelling or pronunciation will be deemed as incorrect.

b) Raise the paddle only when asked

Participants should only raise their paddle upon the emcees' instruction. Participants will be disqualified if they were to raise their paddles without any given instruction.

c) Use of Standard English

Participants are to use Standard English when correcting sentences during the semi-finals and finals.

d) Pronounce the word after the word is spelt

Participants are required to say the word once after they have spelt it so as to indicate that they have completed their spelling of the word.

ELIMINATION PROCEDURE

Round One (60 groups):

The fastest 5 groups with the correct answers from each segment will proceed to the semi-finals. The rest of the participants will be eliminated.

Semi-finals (10 Groups):

When a participant gets the answer wrong, the group will not be given a second chance to answer. The question will then be given to the next group to answer. If none of the participants are able to provide the correct answer, a new question will be given. The 2 groups with the highest score from each segment will proceed to the finals. Extra questions will be given if there were to be any draws. The rest of the participants will be eliminated.

Finals (4 groups):

The elimination procedure will be the same as the semi-finals. The rankings of the groups will be based on their scores. Extra questions will be given if there were to be any draws.

ANNEX A: INTERACTION WITH THE EMCEES – AN EXAMPLE (SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS)

For Spelling questions:

Emcee: Spell 'Manoeuvre'.

'Manoeuvre' refers to a movement or series of moves requiring skill and care.
Snowboarders performed daring manoeuvres on precipitous slopes.

Spell 'Manoeuvre'.

Raise your paddles!

<First group to raise paddle will get to answer>

Participant: M-A-N-O-E-U-V-R-E. Manoeuvre.

Emcee: That is correct.

For Pronunciation questions:

Flashes word on screen [e.g. Tuition]

Emcee: This word refers to teaching or instruction, especially of individual pupils or small groups.

Her uncle agreed to pay part of her tuition.

Pronounce the abovementioned word.

Raise your paddles!

<First group to raise paddle will get to answer>

Participant: Tu-i-tion

Emcee: That is correct.

For correcting of sentences:

Sentence flashes on screen

Emcee (reads from screen): Please repeat your question again.

Is this sentence in Standard English?

If no, please re-phrase the sentence in Standard English.

Raise your paddles!

<First group to raise paddle will get to answer>

Participant: The sentence is incorrect. The correct sentence is 'Please repeat your question'

Emcee: That is correct.

** If the participant remains silent, the emcees will check if the participant has any question before proceeding to instruct the participant to begin answering the question.

**They may choose to proceed to answer immediately. Questions regarding the information given by the emcee may be asked in any preferred order, according to the needs of the participant.