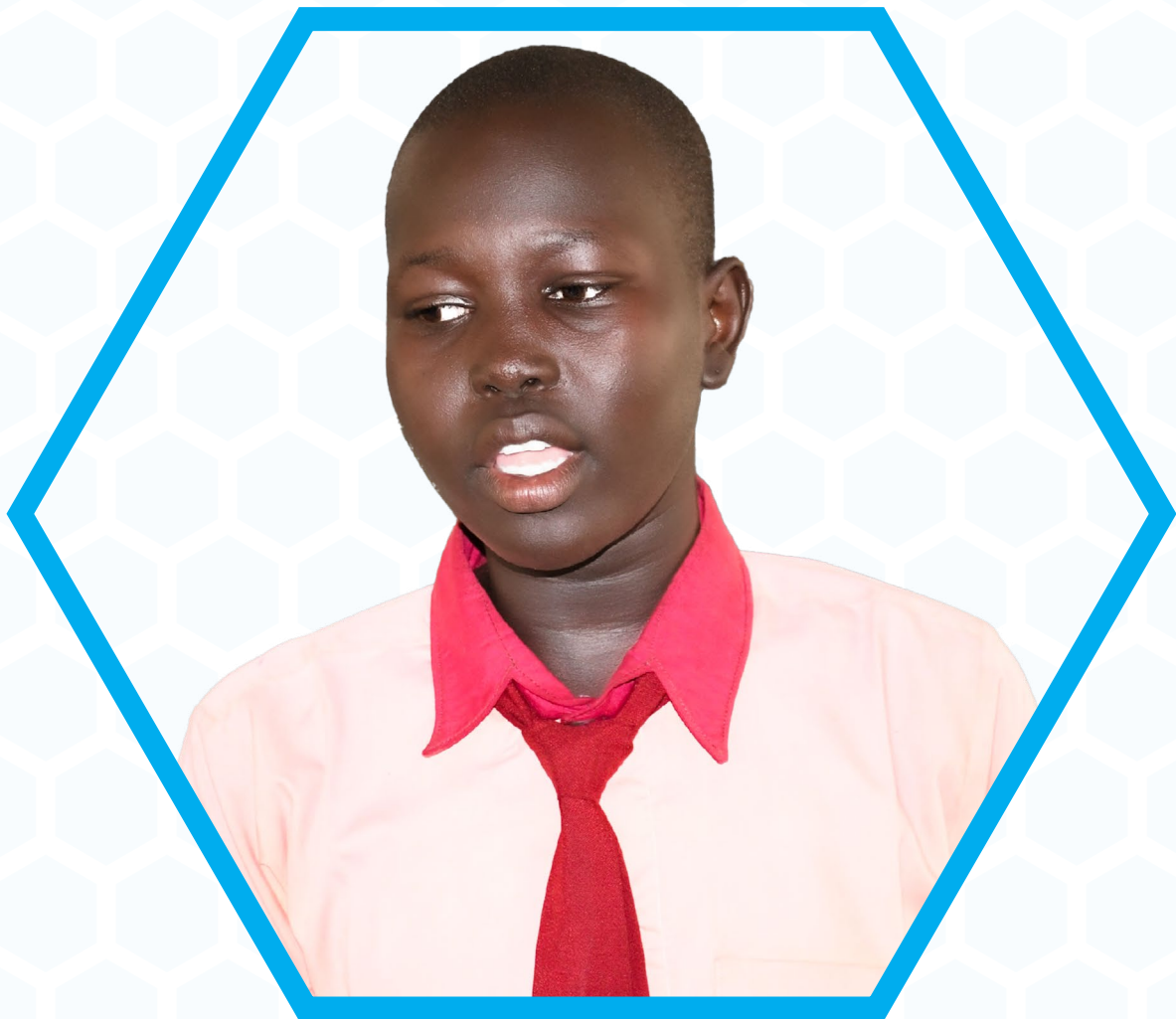


SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

A project of Excellence Foundation for South Sudan



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Spell That Word!

ABOUT US

The South Sudan National Spelling Bee (SSNSB) is a project of the Excellence Foundation for South Sudan (EFSS), a registered non-governmental organization with the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. It is an annual competition for children with the goal of improving literacy, unleashing children's imaginations, and developing 21st-century skills such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking designed to make learning fun and exciting for children and to enable them to learn in a positive way.

The organization is concerned about the many errors that schoolchildren and even writers make while using English terminology. This is why spelling competitions are held among South Sudanese schoolchildren and students, in order to promote precise spelling of widely used terms and to increase students' understanding. This is a unique initiative that combines competition and fun to support our teachers' efforts in the classroom.

Primary and secondary school students are eligible to participate in the tournament. The tournament will be held at three levels: county, state, and national. Winners of the County Stage will participate in the State Finals for a chance to win a Grand Prize, as well as lesser awards. National Champions will also receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the African Spelling Bee to represent South Sudan.



OUR VISION

To help South Sudan achieve its goal of providing high-quality education.

We are working to improve the reading and spelling skills of South Sudanese students and pupils.

OUR MISSION

To assist learners and teachers in improving their spelling, expanding their vocabulary, learning ideas, and developing proper English usage that will benefit them throughout their life.

OUR AIMS

- Its primary goal is to improve the grammar and vocabulary of children in first-cycle institutions so that they have very little to struggle with as they advance academically.
- It aims to instill confidence in youngsters by providing a platform for them to overcome shyness, fear, and intimidation, as well as be able to confront a crowd, a panel of pronouncers, and judges wherever they go.
- It also aims to instill the habit of reading in our youngsters, which will have far-reaching implications for all other subjects and, in turn, increase the country's educational level.

OUR OBJECTIVES

We share the Collective Objectives of the African Spelling Bee:

- To improve literacy and academic excellence.
- To build and sustain a reading culture.
- To develop self-esteem, confidence & interpersonal skills.
- To develop human capital through capacity building.
- To promote community-based partnerships.
- To celebrate the cultural diversity and unity of the African Child.

BENEFITS OF LEARNING TO SPELL CORRECTLY

Pupils and students will be required to create reports and papers as they grow older and go through various phases of life. Not only is it vital to be able to spell in most vocations, but it is also necessary to be able to communicate, take notes, and follow orders. English is the international language of diplomacy, external trade, civil aviation, and other fields. As a result, South Sudanese use English not only to speak with people from other countries (international engagement) but also to converse with other South Sudanese (national interaction).

The program's long-term benefits will include, among other things:

- Improving reading skills and culture in South Sudan
- Improved communication skills, a favorable first impression, and long-lasting memories
- Effective and efficient expression of complex ideas, as well as successful professionals

HOW DOES THE SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL SPELLING BEE WORK?

REGISTER

Fill out a google form that the organizers will provide you to register for the South Sudan National Spelling Bee Contest. All primary and high school students and kids are welcome to participate.

TEACHER TRAINING

All participating schools' English Department Heads will be invited to sensitization and capacity-building workshops to learn how to best incorporate the Spelling Bee into their English lesson plans, as well as how to conduct internal school Spelling Bee contests and South Sudan National Spelling Bee (SSNSB) qualifier tests.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

All students and pupils from schools that register for the Spelling Bee Contest will complete a written test to determine who will represent the SCHOOL at the inter-school competitions. All participating schools will be required to hold internal school spelling bee competitions in order to prepare the children and pupils who will compete in the inter-school competitions. Each participating school will be able to send five (5) representatives.

COUNTY CONTESTS

The top five spellers from each of the participating schools who pass the written test will gather in their respective counties for the County Spelling Bee Championships, which aims to bring together the best five spellers from all of South Sudan's counties. The top five spellers from each county will compete in the state contests to represent their county.



STATE CONTESTS

The top five spellers from each county will gather in their respective states for the State Spelling Bee Contest, which aims to bring together the top five spellers from each of South Sudan's ten states and three administrative areas. The top five spellers from each state and the administrative area will compete in the South Sudan National Spelling Bee to represent their state and school.

NATIONAL CONTEST

For the Grand Prize and the title of South Sudan National Spelling Bee CHAMPION, the best three spellers from each state will compete! A total of 75 children and learners from all ten states and three administrative areas of South Sudan will compete for the title of Best Speller in South Sudan. The country's top six spellers will compete in the African Spelling Bee Championship.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The African Spelling Bee Championship brings together the finest six spellers from primary and secondary schools across Africa. South Sudan will be represented by the top three national champions in both primary and secondary schools, who will compete against spellers from over 22 African countries.



South Sudan National Spelling Bee (SSNSB) Rules:

- Spellers must be extremely audible and precise in their spelling.
- Spellers must speak the word after they have finished spelling it to signify that they are finished. (A speller may be disqualified if he or she does not pronounce the words correctly after spelling them within the time limit.)
- After uttering the first letter of the word, a Speller gets 20 seconds to spell and pronounce the word.

- It is the right and responsibility of the speller to request the following:
 - Re-pronunciation
 - Definition,
 - the origin of the word,
 - sentence example,
 - part of speech,
 - tense
 - alternate pronunciation if alternative pronunciations are available, and within the allowed parameters of the rules
 - homonyms: if a word has one or more homonyms, the Pronouncer indicates which word is to be spelled by defining the word
- It is recommended that spellers employ these rights and responsibilities rather than relying solely on pronunciations.
- After pronouncing the letters during spelling, a speller cannot modify the order of the letters in a word.
- Officials have the right to disqualify any participant who refuses to spell his or her word beyond one minute.

ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

- The Spelling Bee will be mostly done in English.
- Any complaints, suggestions, or requests for clarification should be addressed to the adjudicator.
- Before the end of the current round, any complaints about the spelling of a term must be brought up.
- The tournament will allow both American and British spellings of terms, with the "Oxford Advanced Learners English Dictionary" serving as the final authority for all pronunciations and spellings.

OFFICIATING PANEL:

A Team of people to run the competitions. To run the competition, we need the following adjudication panel:

A Spelling Master:

This is the person who asks the spellers to spell the words

A Checker/Adjudicator:

This person checks with the Spelling Master that the speller has spelled the word correctly

A Scorekeeper:

This person tracks which spellers have spelled correctly and those who have not. Those who have not been eliminated from the competition

Timekeeper:

Each speller gets 20–30 seconds to spell the word. If they go over the time, they are eliminated.

Program Director and Final Umpire:

This person sits apart from the panel and deals with any disputes that may arise.

How Can I Assist the Contestants for the South Sudan National Spelling Bee?

Aside from what you do every day in the classroom, there are a few things you can do to help your students prepare for the South Sudan National Spelling Bee Championship.

- ◆ Encourage your students to read for fun.
- ◆ Make it mandatory for students to utilize the English alphabet. Use of the names or sounds of letters in French or other languages will be counted as a mistake in the competition.
- ◆ Dissuade students from using the term "double p" in their spelling (or l, or any other letter). Each letter must be spelled correctly in order to win the competition.
- ◆ Create a Spelling Bee Club where students from all classes can meet on a regular basis to read and share books and compete in mock spelling bees.
- ◆ Encourage students to join study groups in which they use word lists or flashcards to drill each other or play word games like Scrabble.
- ◆ A few days or weeks before the school spelling bee, hold a practice spelling bee. Doing something once alleviates a lot of people's apprehension about new things. The mock spelling bee should look and feel as real as possible.
- ◆ Encourage all students to take part. Even if they don't go far, the experience will help them do better in the future. It will present them with a goal to strive for as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded students from different schools and localities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: WELCOME TO OUR FAQS PAGE.

Before you put a call through to us, please take the time out to check if your intended question has already been answered here. Thanks

WHO ORGANIZES THE SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION?

The competition is organized by the Excellence Foundation for South Sudan (EFSS), an NGO duly registered with the SSRRC and endorsed by the African Spelling Bee to carry out the South Sudan National Spelling Bee and send Spellers to represent South Sudan at international literary competitions such as the African Spelling Bee.

HOW CAN I SPONSOR AN EVENT?

Corporate enterprises, NGOs, and individuals that want to make a difference in the lives of the next generation of South Sudanese can sponsor the South Sudan National Spelling Bee. Please email us at hello@spellingbeess.org if you have any questions.

HOW CAN I JOIN?

You can register for the South Sudan National Spelling Bee by filling out a Google Form that the organizers will share.

The tournament is accessible to all primary and secondary school students in South Sudan.

HOW MANY STUDENTS CAN REGISTER FROM MY SCHOOL?

The number of Spellers from a school has no upper or lower limit. As long as they complete the eligibility requirements, any pupils are eligible to compete in the South Sudan National Spelling Bee.

All interested youngsters and students should be given the same opportunity by schools.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO REGISTER?

The competition registration fee is 25,000 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) for each school team.

The registration fee can be paid at any Eden Commercial Bank branch (Excellence Foundation for South Sudan account number).



M-Gurush Mobile Transfer is another option for payment.

Following registration, you will be given a confirmation sheet. On the day of the tournament, spellers are expected to submit their confirmation slips during accreditation.

WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL DICTIONARY?

The official Dictionary of the competition is the “Oxford Advanced Learners English Dictionary”. This is the sole source of words and adjudication criteria.

WHAT IS THE AGE LIMIT / CATEGORIES?

The National Spelling Bee of South Sudan is divided into two categories. Primary and secondary schools are the two types of schools. These classifications are not based on age, but rather on whether the student is in primary or secondary school.

WHEN IS THE COMPETITION?

The competition takes place in the Term II and Term III of every academic year.

HOW CAN MY SCHOOL HOST THE COMPETITION?

South Sudan National Spelling Bee (SSNSB) receives hosting requests from interested schools who wish to host the competition on their school premises.

CAN WE ATTEND AS OBSERVERS?

Yes. On competition day, we welcome schools or individuals who desire to observe and cheer on the Spellers. Please note that when participating schools have been accommodated, you will be seated as observers on a first-come, first-served basis.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION?

On the day of the competition, each speller will be asked to show up and spell the words allotted to them according to the contest rounds. Spellers who spelled correctly at the end of the round will advance to the next round; this will continue until the required number of qualifiers emerge at the county or state level, or until a Champion emerges at the National Finals.



IS THERE A WORD LIST?

Because we urge spellers to read widely rather than memorize terms, the South Sudan National Spelling Bee (SSNSB) does not give a list of English words that will be used in the competition. Spellers are expected to read a wide range of material. The people who work on the word list – Bee officials and special contributors — come upon the words while going about their daily lives, reading books, and traveling. Then they look up the words in the Oxford Advanced Learners English Dictionary to see if they exist.

WHERE DO WE GET THE WORDS?

The South Sudan National Spelling Bee's official dictionary is the Oxford Advanced Learners English Dictionary. The dictionary contains all of the words used in the Spelling Bee. In any spelling disagreements, the dictionary will have the final say. Spellers must use British English in circumstances where American and British spelling differ.

MY QUESTION IS NOT ANSWERED ABOVE / I NEED MORE CLARIFICATION:

If you have any additional questions or require additional information, please follow the steps below:

First, send a text message (SMS) to **+211 (0) 925 087 508**, specifying your location and all of your queries. You will receive a response right away.

You may also email your inquiry to **hello@spellingbeess.org** or via WhatsApp: **+211 (0) 925 087 508**

Finally, during the day or early evening, dial
+211 (0) 925 087 508 | +211 (0) 980 204 600



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