

Chinese Spelling Competition 2020 User Manual for Teachers



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Aim

The aim of the Competition is for students to practice and improve their vocabulary, writing, grammar and translation skills in Mandarin whilst importantly raising confidence levels.

What is the Chinese Spelling Competition?

This is the first annual event designed to support students in year 6 and 7 who are studying Mandarin as a Second Language.

The objective of the competition is for students to correctly translate and correctly write five words in Mandarin. The students who translate and write the most words correctly in accordance with the rules will be the winners.

Students from Chinese background are permitted to compete in a different category.

The Final will take place on 2nd July and is co-ordinated by Routes into Languages Cymru.



Getting Started

Register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chinese-spelling-competition-tickets-86911202747>

The competition should be launched in your school after 15th February 2020 and time should be spent in the first few lessons of the year teaching and practicing pronouncing and writing the 50 words selected for the competition.

The competition is managed via the following websites:

- **Chinese Spelling Competition website:**

Contains access to the teacher's pack, word lists and certificates.

- **Routes into Languages Cymru website:**
<http://routesintolanguagescymru.co.uk/>

Contains links to initial registration form.

Competition Stages

Students will be given 50 words to learn and the school will select the students who will progress to the final stage.

	Term	No. of words to learn	No. Students progressing	Closing date for submissions
Stage 1 (Class)	Spring	50 (Word list)	10 (per class)	Decided internally by schools
Stage 2 (School 1)	Spring	50 (Word list)	5 (from school)	30 th April 2020
Stage 3 (Bangor final)	Summer	50 (Word list)	5 (from school)	Competition on 2 nd July 2020.

The names of the finalist from each school should be submitted to the Routes into Languages Cymru team by the specified closing date shown above.

Names should be submitted via the relevant submission form on the Routes into Languages Cymru website by **30th April 2020**.

Chinese Spelling Competition training– user guide

The Chinese Spelling Competition training resources can be found at <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/confucius-institute/spelling-bee.php.en>

The competitors can practice listening and observing the correct writing sequence for the words that will be used in the competition.

Competition Stages: explained

STAGE 1: Class Round

Teachers should:

- **Allocate the stage's 50 words** to their students so that they can begin memorising them and practicing.
- **Hold a class competition** according to the timetable provided.
 - A Spellmaster should be appointed to choose words from the power point list.
 - A judge (and verifier) keeps score, according to the rules.
 - Students should be tested individually and should not use any prompts.
 - Students should have five minutes to correctly say and write as many words as possible in the Target Language. Please refer to competition rules.
 - Up to **10 students per language class** progress to the next stage of the competition.

STAGE 2: School final round

- **Teachers should allocate 50 words** to the stage 1 winners
- **The school first round should be held** according to the timetable. The same rules apply.
- **The names of the 5 school winners should be submitted** via the relevant button on the Routes into Languages Cymru website by **30th April 2020**. <http://routesintolanguagescymru.co.uk/>

STAGE 3: Bangor University Final

- The final Competition will be held during the Summer Term at Bangor University, on **2nd July 2020**.
- The winners will be announced on the day and there will be a prize-giving ceremony.



The Rules

The Competition

- A random word selection will be used to facilitate the test
- Words are selected in random order by a Spellmaster and will be pronounced in English. The contestants will have to repeat the word in Mandarin and write it down correctly
- The Spellmaster asks each contestant 'Are you ready?' After the contestant agrees they are ready to begin the clock is started.
- Contestants have FIVE MINUTES to correctly say and write as many words as possible in the target language.
- A judge and a verifier listen to each word and keep score during each contestant's five-minutes time slot. Their decision will be final. Provided that both agree the correct translating and writing of that word, one point is awarded. Contestants are tested individually without prompts.
- In the event of a tie-break, the number of passes that each contestant made will be counted. The contestant with the least number of passes will win. If the scores and number of passes are the same, each contestant will be given another minute to correctly say and write as many words as possible. Once again, the number of passes will be counted. If contestants still have a tied score, a decider round will be played. Contestants will say and write a word in turn, until one of them is incorrect. This continues until there is a winner (and a runner-up). Contestants are given equal number of words to say and write. There is no time limit on a decider round.

Contestant Rules

- Contestants face the judge.
- Contestants will hear the word, translate it into the target language then say it and write it down using the target language calligraphy, following the formula SAY IT, DRAW IT on an A4-size paper.
- Contestants can pass at any time, but they must say pass in the Target Language. There is no immediate penalty for passing a word, but the number of passes will count against them in the event of a tie-breaker.
- Contestants must speak clearly with sufficient volume. If the judge cannot hear the Contestant, the judge will indicate, and a repeat takes place immediately. The clock is NOT stopped for this action.
- Although this is a competition of speed, **clarity is of the utmost importance**. If the judge is not able to understand a letter or word, a point will not be awarded.
- **The judge's decision is final on whether they heard correct translation**
- If Contestants are not sure that they have heard the word correctly, they are responsible for requesting that the word be repeated. The clock is NOT stopped for this action.
- If a Contestant runs out of time during saying or drawing a word, they should be allowed to finish the word that they started.
- If a Contestant runs out of time before starting to say the word, no point is awarded.
- If the Contestant is prevented from saying a word and the time is up (for example if another Contestant is disruptive), the judge may in his or her discretion allow a repeat.
- No conferring is allowed.
- Contestants must remain quiet when not saying a word. Contestants causing disruption will be warned and if the disruption continues, they may be disqualified.


The Judge

- **The Judge's decision is final; their authority is the word list.**
- Although this is a competition of speed, **clarity is of the utmost importance.** If the judge is not able to understand a letter or word, a point will not be awarded.

Disqualification Rules

- If the judge is satisfied there has been an incident of cheating the Contestant will be disqualified.
- Mobile phones remaining switched on after a warning is given will result in the contestant being disqualified.
- If guests do not remain quiet during the competition after having been warned, then their contestant may be disqualified.
- If the judge is suspicious that members of the audience are influencing the accuracy of the spelling by whatever means, the judge will give a warning, and if the incidence persists the judge may disqualify a contestant or contestants.
- Late arrival for a regional or national competition by Contestants and their accompanying teacher may result in disqualification.

Links and Contacts

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