

Spelling bee: My personal experience

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Hi everyone! I don't know if you knew, but the university participated in an inter-university spelling bee contest. I was one of the participants of the event. Today I'm going to tell you how the experience was. First, this event was created and organized by the Universidad Católica, and we were one of the universities invited to participate. There were 2 spots for each level: A2, B1 and B2. Me and Jhon (one of my classmates from Upper-intermediate 1) were participating in B1 level, and Angie and Jhoan (from Intermediate course) were participating in A2. We, with teacher Felipe, arrived on time to the meeting point, and we had to wait around 10 minutes for the organizer to arrive. It was a cold day. We could enter the auditorium and start the registration part. Angie and Jhoan appeared in the participants list, but Jhon and I didn't, even when the teacher said that we were the first ones to be signed up for it, well... They gave them an ID tag with their names in it. We got to register our names around five times. After a couple of minutes, they gave us a last hour piece of paper with our names, which was weird because the papers were not necessary during the event (they asked us to

introduce ourselves all the time). The event started with the host explaining how it was going to be, and what the rules were. One of the things that were unexpected for the participants was that the person that read the words had an UK accent, the second thing was that they skipped the rules sometimes, which created confusion in the attendees. Last, but not least, the score system was never explained to the participants and at the end it was a little confusing.

After that, the event started with the level A2. They counted how many participants were there, and they split the group in two. My colleagues were a little nervous to start, but they did it well. Jhoan continued to the next round, but Angie committed some mistakes because of the rules, for example, if it is a proper noun, you should indicate the capital letter or if it is a compound word, indicate the hyphen. Those were some of the most problematic rules because we didn't practice them, and the nerves tricked us. Jhoan did great in the second round and finished in the top three, they didn't decide the places yet and left it until the end.

The next group was B1, they split it into two smallest groups and Jhon went first. Here is something that I can't forget to tell you, Jhon and I practiced B2 list words instead of B1 because of a little misunderstanding. Jhon lost because of the British accent. The word was "packaging", but he didn't hear it right, he used his joker asking for an example that used that word, but it was even more confusing, so... It was the end of his participation. The next was me, I was really nervous about how it would be, so I took my time to think my answer in each word and I passed to the next round. Then, they selected the top two and left the third place to be disputed between 3 people.

They continued with B2 level, none of us were participating in that level, but there was a guy that was alone, neither his teacher, nor his friends, so... We decided to cheer him up. I really didn't know who the winners of B2 level were, but that level went quickly. After that, they decided to continue with B1 level again, they called the 2 finalists and the 3 left for the third place.

When I tell you that the scoring system and the organization was a complete confusion, you must believe me. We five started to compete for the third place again, which really didn't need to happen, the boy that

was one of the finalists was disqualified, and it wasn't fair, at least for him. I competed for the third place, but I lost with a word that I had practiced, nerves played tricks on me. The level of difficulty was leveled up when the words were too easily spelled by the participants, so at the end I competed with B2 words. I felt really disappointed at myself because after all my effort I wasn't able to get on the podium.

They continued with A2 level, Jhoan was competing against a boy that wasn't A2 (he was minimum B1), and another guy. After some rounds of spelling the judges decided the places and Jhoan was third, it was amazing and a little too weird for us. We didn't get why third, but at the same time, we were completely proud of him. Even a woman approached us to tell us that she is a former UAN student and that we did great.

To finish my story, I would like to say that it was an exciting experience and even with all those inconvenient things, we did great against those other universities. Jhoan got a prize (I think it was a book or something), Angie a certificate and Jhon and I the experience (we haven't gotten the certificate because we weren't on the list). Lastly, I just want to invite you all to participate in all these events. Thank you for reading, bye!



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Even though nerves and mistakes played against us, the experience was more valuable than any prize. We competed, learned, and proudly represented our university.

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