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# Can you spell better than a fifth grader? Adults attempt spelling bee words (video)

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At the 2014 Post-Standard/WCNY Spelling Bee, we challenged adults to spell the same words presented to children in grades 3-8.

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<http://connect.syracuse.com/staff/ktulloch/index.html>) By [Katrina Tulloch | ktulloch@syracuse.com](mailto:Katrina.Tulloch@syracuse.com) (<http://connect.syracuse.com/staff/ktulloch/posts.html>)  
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on January 18, 2014 at 3:00 PM, updated January 18, 2014 at 3:32 PM

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At today's [2014 Post-Standard/WCNY Spelling Bee \(http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/01/top\\_35\\_finalists\\_advance\\_in\\_standardwcny\\_spelling\\_bee.html#incart\\_river\\_default\)](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/01/top_35_finalists_advance_in_standardwcny_spelling_bee.html#incart_river_default) Written Challenge, we asked parents and teachers to spell the same words offered to the students.

We also threw in a few Syracuse words for good measure. Surprise! Everyone knows how to spell *Jim Boheim*.

Thanks to Arleen Allen, Ed Sheedy, Heather Sheedy and Katie Smith for being great sports. All the clips didn't make it into the final video (above), but for the record, they did spell many words correctly, like photogenic, Chittenango, perceived and anthropomorphic.

"My son is way better than I am," said Allen, laughing. Her son attends the Syracuse Academy of Science. "I practiced with him and he says, 'Mom, this is how it's spelled, this is how it's pronounced.'"

Heather Sheedy said the nerves got to her.

"My palms are all sweaty and there's nothing weighing on whether I get these right or wrong," she said. She spelled Canastota, trajectory and igneous correctly.

The words derivative, macrocosm, and Canandaigua stumped the adults. They had the most trouble with the word rhinoceros.

The [top 35 scorers on today's test \(http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/01/top\\_35\\_finalists\\_advance\\_in\\_standardwcny\\_spelling\\_bee.html#incart\\_river\\_default\)](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/01/top_35_finalists_advance_in_standardwcny_spelling_bee.html#incart_river_default) will compete in the

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oral round, which will air on WCNY on Feb. 1. The winner of the oral round will compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in June.

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