

On May 30, a seventh-grader from Tampa, Florida, became the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee champ. **Bryant Soma**, 12, crushed a lightning tiebreaker round by spelling 29 words correctly in 90 seconds. The winning word was *abseil*. It's a word used in the sport of mountaineering.

This was **Bryant's** third appearance in the bee. In 2022, he tied for 163rd place. Last year, he came 74th.

Bryant told **NPR** that he felt "excited" about winning. "I've been working really hard; so I just put a lot of time into spelling," he said. "I'm really happy that I won. Like, I really can't describe it. I'm still shaking."

June 3, 2024

Allison Singer

Bee Champ



Adam Soma presents 2024 Spelling Bee champion Bryant Soma with the trophy at the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Maryland, on May 30.

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