

On May 30, a seventh-grader from Tampa, Florida, became the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee champ. Bryhat 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 Bryhat's third appearance in the bee. In 2022, he tied for 163rd place. Last year, he came 74th.

Bryhat 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

