



# Ace Spelling, Spelling Ace

By Cara Bafile

**NARRATOR:**

Ace Spelling was ready! His homework was in his backpack. His shoes sat by the door. A dictionary was clutched in his hand. The fifth grade spelling bee was the next morning and Ace was determined to win. Suddenly, his mother's voice pulled Ace from his daydreams.

**MOTHER:**

A hot bowl of alphabet soup will get you ready for tomorrow, Ace.

**NARRATOR:**

As Ace ate his soup, he studied the words that might come up during the spelling bee. Ace liked to learn the definitions of the words he was spelling. He thought it would give him an edge in the contest.

**ACE:**

I hope I'll be victorious tomorrow. Victorious. V-I-C-T-O-R-I-O-U-S. Having won a struggle or competition.

**NARRATOR:**

Ace was surprised to see that his bowl of soup was nearly empty. As he scooped up the last few noodles, he glanced at the letters in the spoon. They spelled his name backwards -- S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G A-C-E.

**ACE:**

I wish!

**NARRATOR:**

Ace reviewed a little longer, and then went to bed. It seemed like no time at all, though, before he heard his mother's voice calling.

**MOM:**

Ace, better get up so you have time for breakfast!

**ACE:**

Breakfast. B-R-E-A-K-F-A-S-T. Breakfast. The first meal of the day.

**NARRATOR:**

Ace hurried downstairs to eat.

**MOM:**

Good morning, Ace. Ready for your big day? How about a bagel?

**ACE:**

Bagel. B-A-G-E-L. A hard roll shaped like a donut.

**MOM:**

That's great, Ace, but would you like one? I have blueberry.

**ACE:**

Blueberry. B-L-U-E-B-E-R-R-Y. A bluish berry from a shrub.

**MOM:**

Stop fooling around, Ace. I haven't got all day! What about cereal?

**NARRATOR:**

Ace was getting a something-strange-is-happening feeling. Every time he opened his mouth, spelling words came out. When he wanted to say, "Wheat puffs," he said...

**ACE:**

Cereal. C-E-R-E-A-L. A grain that can be eaten.

**MOM:**

Ace! This isn't funny. I have eggs. Would you rather have an omelet?

**ACE:**

Omelet. O-M-E-L-E-T. Beaten eggs cooked with other ingredients.

**MOM:**

Ace, stop spelling and give me an answer!

**NARRATOR:**

Knowing his mother was getting impatient, Ace tried to tell her he wanted scrambled eggs, but what came out of his mouth was...

**ACE:**

Answer. A-N-S-W-E-R. A reply to a question.

**MOM:**

That's the wrong answer, Ace. I...

**NARRATOR:**

Ace's mother was interrupted by the sound of a horn.

**NARRATOR:**

With no way to explain and no time to spare, Ace ran for the bus.

**BUS DRIVER:**

Hi, Ace! Are you excited about today's contest?

**ACE:**

Contest. C-O-N-T-E-S-T. A competition, sometimes for a prize.

**BUS DRIVER:**

Smart guy! Hurry up and find a seat. I have W-O-R-K to do.

**NARRATOR:**

Ace quickly darted to a seat. This annoying spelling "spell" was starting to get him into trouble.

**NARRATOR:**

The morning bell was ringing as the bus pulled up to the school. Ace quickly made his way to his classroom. His teacher stood at the door.

**MR. SPELLMAN:**

Well, Ace, this is the day we've been waiting for. I hope you got lots of rest last night. Did you bring your dictionary?

**ACE:**

Dictionary. D-I-C-T-I-O-N-A-R-Y. A book of words of a language.

**MR. SPELLMAN:**

Excellent, Ace!

**ACE:**

Excellent E-X-C-E-L-L-E-N-T. Remarkably good or superior.

**NARRATOR:**

Mr. Spellman had just begun to take attendance when the principal popped in to wish the contestants good luck in the spelling bee.

**MR. SPELLMAN:**

I know all our students will compete with distinction.

**ACE:**

Distinction. D-I-S-T-I-N-C-T-I-O-N. Special honor.

**PRINCIPAL:**

Couldn't have said it better myself! Best of luck to you, son.

**ACE:**

Son. S-O-N. A male child.

**NARRATOR:**

Mr. Spellman frowned. Was Ace making fun of the principal?

**NARRATOR:**

Finally, the spelling bee began. Navigate. Marsupial. Astrophysics. Round after round, the words became harder, but Ace was spelling like he never had before. Soon, only two competitors remained.

**ACE:**

Genius. G-E-N-I-U-S. A person having exceptional intellect.

**JUDGE:**

Correct. Emmy, please spell adversary. Her adversary in the tennis match played a stronger game.

**EMMY:**

Adversary. A-D-V-E-R-S-A-R-Y.

**JUDGE:**

Correct. Ace, please spell culmination. Playing for the president was the culmination of the musician's career.

**NARRATOR:**

Ace took a deep breath as his mind ran through spelling lists and countless dictionary entries. Suddenly, Ace smiled.

**ACE:**

I'm sorry. I don't know how to spell that word.

**JUDGE:**

Emmy, please spell culmination.

**EMMY:**

Culmination. C-U-L-M-I-N-A-T-I-O-N.

**JUDGE:**

That is correct. You are our winner!

**ACE:**

Congratulations, Emmy.

**MR. SPELLMAN:**

You did a fine job, Ace. Culmination is a hard word. But you seemed almost happy you couldn't spell it. Why was that?

**ACE:**

Well, you see, Mr. Spellman...

**MOM:**

Ace! Wake up! You fell asleep.

**ACE:**

What?

**MOM:**

Tomorrow's spelling bee is important, but you need to take care of yourself tonight. How about some soup for supper?

**ACE:**

If you don't mind, Mom, could we order a pizza instead?

