

VOCABULARY QUIZ

University of Memphis Language Fair 2026

i GUIDELINES

- Only **three** students per class may participate in the same vocabulary quiz.
- Students may only compete in ONE vocabulary quiz, which must correspond to the level and language in which they are currently enrolled.
- **Only second language learners** may participate in this event. Native speakers, heritage speakers/learners, or speakers of a cognate language may NOT participate. This restriction does not apply to Chinese.
 - **Native Speaker** – the majority of formal education is in the target language
 - **Heritage Speaker/Learner** – the majority of formal education is in English, but the target language is commonly used for communication in the home
 - **Second Language Learner** – little or no experience with the target language outside of formal education
 - **Cognate languages** are ones that closely related to the language being tested, such as Portuguese speakers in Spanish contests. Speakers of cognate languages are excluded from the vocabulary quiz in the name of fairness and may not participate in this event.

i FORMAT

- Students will assemble in a room furnished with tables or desks and will be provided with a pencil and a copy of the quiz.
- The quiz will consist of the following at each level [I, II, III, and IV]:
 1. 50* words in the target language that are to be translated into English
 2. 25* words in English that are to be translated into the target language
 3. A short dictation in the target language (except for Chinese, Japanese, and Latin) to be written as heard in the target language. In the case of Latin there is a short sight translation into English, not a dictation.

*Amount of words may vary depending on the language
- Vocabulary items will be appropriate to the level of the students and will be drawn from basic vocabulary lists. We realize that not all students will be familiar with the same vocabulary.
- Dictations will be read twice. Requests by students to repeat any part of the dictation will not be granted.
- Students have 20 minutes to complete the test; if they finish early, they must remain in their seat in order to not disturb the other students. When 20 minutes have elapsed, students will be told to "stop writing" and put down their pencils. Any students not adhering to this rule will be eliminated from the competition.
- The format of the vocabulary quiz may vary from language to language.

i JUDGING

- ALL mistakes (i.e., incorrect translations and incorrectly spelled words or written characters in the target language and English) will cause an answer to be considered incorrect. In French, German, and Spanish, students must provide the appropriate DEFINITE ARTICLE when giving a noun in the target language (e.g., book in French is le livre). In the case of Arabic, Japanese, and Chinese, the correct production of characters will be judged more critically.
- In the event of a tie, the student with fewer mistakes on the dictation (sight translation for Latin or the writing of characters for Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese) will be declared the winner.