

PANCH

In the schoolyard Billy protested that he wasn't cockeyed. "I suffer from strabismus," he said, whereupon the bullies beat him harder.

as Panch looks to Rona for approval, Schwarzzy is writing the word on her arm

RONA

Notice how she writes on her forearm. This is her way to see the word before she speaks it out loud.

SCHWARZY

Strabismus. S-T-R-A-B-I-S-M-U-S. Strabismus.

PANCH

That is correct.
Mr. Coneybear

RONA

Mr. Coneybear was second runner up in the Putnam Basin district

...Phone rings. A flashback to the moment when he found out he's in

SCHWARZY as LEAF's MOM

Brook, will you tell Leaf he has a phone call?

MARCY as LEAF'S SISTER

Leaf! Phone!

CONEYBEAR

Thanks! I got it!

Hello, Leaf speaking. Uh, huh. Uh, huh. Uh, huh.

You're kidding? I'm gonna represent the Basin in the bee? Wow, I can't believe it.

As he calls his family members, kids rise taking on these roles audience volunteer is also pulled up to be "Paul"

CONEYBEAR

Mom, Dad, Marigold, Brook, Pinecone, Raisin, Landscape, Paul, - you're not going to believe this!

BARFEE as DAD: What's up Leaf?

LEAF: I made the county finals in the spelling bee!

family laughs

SCHWARZY AS MOM: Oh sweetheart, no, you came in third honey

LEAF: I know! but they just called and said the person who came in first has to go to their bat mitzvah, and the person who came in second... has to attend the bat mitzvah, so they want me to do it!

SCHWARZY AS MOM: You understand the other kids will have all won their district bees?

family laughs

LEAF: Yeah but well but

PANCH
(calling Leaf's attention back)

Capybara

CONEYBEAR

What?

PANCH

Your word is Capybara.

CONEYBEAR

Is that a word?

PANCH

That's a word, yes.

CONEYBEAR

No way- what does it mean?

PANCH

“a tailless largely aquatic South American rodent often exceeding four feet in length”

CONEYBEAR

Awesome. What else can I ask?

PANCH

You're allowed to ask for the word's language of origin or to have the word used in a sentence...

CONEYBEAR

Oh- can you use it in a sentence?

PANCH

Yes. "Don't look now Pedro but I think that tailless four-and a half foot rodent swimming next to you may be a *capybara*."

CONEYBEAR

Wow, that didn't help at all!

PANCH

Are you ready to spell the word Mr. Coneybear?

CONEYBEAR

No, but it was fun to come here-
(to family in aud) hi guys-my whole family's here which is really...
(trance suddenly takes him) C-A-P-Y-B-A-R-A Capybara.

PANCH

That is correct.

CONEYBEAR

It is?
I can't believe it.

PANCH

Miss Ostrovsky

CONEYBEAR

It's unbelievable, I just said the first letters that came into my head, and that "y" was really...

ALL

Shhh.

RONA

Miss Ostrovsky came in second in her school's Halloween contest

OLIVE

I was road-kill.