

Upper-Level Spelling Inventory (USI)

The Upper-Level Spelling Inventory (USI) can be used in upper elementary, middle, high school, and postsecondary classrooms. The 31 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the within word pattern to derivational relations spelling stages. With normally achieving students, you can administer the entire list, but you may stop when students misspell more than eight words and are experiencing noticeable frustration. If any students misspell five of the first eight words, use the ESI to more accurately identify within word pattern features that need instruction.

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|-------------------|--|
| 1. switch | We can switch television channels with a remote control. <i>switch</i> |
| 2. smudge | There was a smudge on the mirror from her fingertips. <i>smudge</i> |
| 3. trapped | He was trapped in the elevator when the electricity went off.
<i>trapped</i> |
| 4. scrape | The fall caused her to scrape her knee. <i>scrape</i> |
| 5. knotted | The knotted rope would not come undone. <i>knotted</i> |
| 6. shaving | He didn't start shaving with a razor until 11th grade. <i>shaving</i> |
| 7. squirt | Don't let the ketchup squirt out of the bottle too fast. <i>squirt</i> |
| 8. pounce | My cat likes to pounce on her toy mouse. <i>pounce</i> |
| 9. scratches | We had to paint over the scratches on the car. <i>scratches</i> |
| 10. crater | The crater of the volcano was filled with bubbling lava. <i>crater</i> |
| 11. sailor | When he was young, he wanted to go to sea as a sailor. <i>sailor</i> |
| 12. village | My Granddad lived in a small seaside village. <i>village</i> |
| 13. disloyal | Traitors are disloyal to their country. <i>disloyal</i> |
| 14. tunnel | The rockslide closed the tunnel through the mountain. <i>tunnel</i> |
| 15. humor | You need a sense of humor to understand his jokes. <i>humor</i> |
| 16. confidence | With each winning game, the team's confidence grew. <i>confidence</i> |
| 17. fortunate | The driver was fortunate to have snow tires on that winter day.
<i>fortunate</i> |
| 18. visible | The singer on the stage was visible to everyone. <i>visible</i> |
| 19. circumference | The length of the equator is equal to the circumference of the earth. <i>circumference</i> |
| 20. civilization | We studied the ancient Mayan civilization last year. <i>civilization</i> |
| 21. monarchy | A monarchy is headed by a king or a queen. <i>monarchy</i> |
| 22. dominance | The dominance of the Yankee's baseball team lasted for several years. <i>dominance</i> |
| 23. correspond | Many students correspond through e-mail. <i>correspond</i> |
| 24. illiterate | It is hard to get a job if you are illiterate. <i>illiterate</i> |
| 25. emphasize | I want to emphasize the importance of trying your best.
<i>emphasize</i> |
| 26. opposition | The coach said the opposition would give us a tough game.
<i>opposition</i> |
| 27. chlorine | My eyes were burning from the chlorine in the swimming pool.
<i>chlorine</i> |
| 28. commotion | The audience heard the commotion backstage. <i>commotion</i> |
| 29. medicinal | Cough drops are to be taken for medicinal purposes only.
<i>medicinal</i> |
| 30. irresponsible | It is irresponsible not to wear a seat belt. <i>irresponsible</i> |
| 31. succession | The firecrackers went off in rapid succession. <i>succession</i> |

Appendix A

Words Their Way Upper-Level Spelling Inventory Feature Guide

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____
 Words Spelled Correctly: ____ / 31 Feature Points: ____ / 68 Total: ____ / 99 Spelling Stage: _____

SPELLING STAGES →	WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES			DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS				Words Spelled Correctly
	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	Greek and Latin Elements	
Features →	Blends and Digraphs	Vowels	Complex Consonants	Inflected Endings and Syllable Juncture	Unaccented Final Syllables	Affixes	Reduced Vowels in Unaccented Syllables	Greek and Latin Elements	Assimilated Prefixes	Feature Points	Words Spelled Correctly
1. switch	sw	i	tch								
2. smudge	sm	u	dge								
3. trapped	tr			pped							
4. scrape		a-e	scr								
5. knotted		o	kn	ttd							
6. shaving	sh			ving							
7. squirt		ir	squ								
8. pounce		ou	ce								
9. scratches		a	tch	es							
10. crater	cr			t	er						
11. sailor		ai			or						
12. village				ll	age						
13. disloyal		oy			al	dis					
14. tunnel				nn	el						
15. humor				m	or						
16. confidence						con	fid				
17. fortunate					ate			fortun			
18. visible						ible		vis			
19. circumference						ence		circum			
20. civilization							liz	civil			
Subtotals	/ 5	/ 9	/ 7	/ 8	/ 7	/ 4	/ 2	/ 4	/ 0	/ 46	/ 20

(Continued)

Words Their Way Upper-Level Spelling Inventory Feature Guide (Continued)

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Words Spelled Correctly: _____ / 31 Feature Points: _____ / 68 Total: _____ / 99 Spelling Stage: _____

SPELLING STAGES →	WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES			DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS			Words Spelled Correctly
	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	
Features →	Blends and Digraphs	Vowels	Complex Consonants	Inflected Endings and Syllable Juncture	Unaccented Final Syllables	Affixes	Reduced Vowels in Unaccented Syllables	Greek and Latin Elements	Assimilated Prefixes	Feature Points
21. monarchy						ance	min	arch		
22. dominance							res		rr	
23. correspond					ate	size	pha		ll	
24. illiterate							pos		pp	
25. emphasize						ine		chlor		
26. opposition						tion			mm	
27. chlorine								medic		
28. commotion					al	ible	res		rr	
29. medicinal						sion			cc	
30. irresponsible										
31. succession										
Subtotals	/ 0	/ 0	/ 0	/ 0	/ 2	/ 6	/ 5	/ 3	/ 6	/ 22
Totals	/ 5	/ 9	/ 7	/ 8	/ 9	/ 10	/ 7	/ 7	/ 6	/ 68

Appendix A

Words Their Way Upper-Level Spelling Inventory Classroom Composite

Teacher _____	School _____	Grade _____	Date _____	WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES			DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS			Total Rank Order
				EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	
Students' Names ↓				Blends and Digraphs	Vowels	Complex Consonants	Inflected Endings and Syllable Juncture	Unaccented Final Syllables	Affixes	Reduced Vowels in Unaccented Syllables	Greek and Latin Elements	Assimilated Prefixes	99
Possible Points				5	9	7	8	9	10	7	7	6	
1.													
2.													
3.													
4.													
5.													
6.													
7.													
8.													
9.													
10.													
11.													
12.													
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18.													
19.													
20.													
21.													
22.													
23.													
24.													
25.													
26.													
27.													
Highlight for Instruction*													

*Highlight students who miss more than 1 on a particular feature if the total is between 5 and 8. Highlight those who miss more than 2 if the total is between 9 and 10.

