

INTERMEDIATE SPELLING INVENTORY

This inventory will help you assess the orthographic knowledge elementary students bring to reading and spelling. This inventory begins with the middle of the letter name–alphabetic stage and continues to the middle of the derivational relations stage of spelling. The results of the spelling inventories will have implications for reading, writing, vocabulary, and spelling instruction.

Instructions

Let students know that you are administering this inventory to learn about how they spell. Let them know that this is not a test, but that they will be helping you to teach by doing their best. Students are not to study this inventory beforehand.

Possible script: "I am going to ask you to spell some words. Spell them the best you can. Some of the words will be easy to spell; some will be more difficult. When you do not know how to spell a word, spell it the best you can."

Say the word once, read the sentence if the meaning is unclear, and then say the word again. Work with groups of words. Have students check their papers for their name and the date. You may want to stop administering the inventory when students miss most of the words and you can clearly determine a spelling stage. Consider using the Upper Level Spelling Inventory if students spell most of these words correctly.

Use either the Feature Guide on page 309 or the Error Guide on page 310. See Chapter 2 for further instructions on administration and interpretation.

Letter Name–Alphabetic and Within Word Pattern	
1. speck	The well-dressed man brushed away a speck of lint from his jacket. <i>speck</i>
2. charge	She bought new clothes with a charge card. <i>charge</i>
3. switch	The sick boy could switch television channels from his bed. <i>switch</i>
4. scrape	The fall caused her to scrape her knee. <i>scrape</i>
5. nurse	The nurse checked her blood pressure. <i>nurse</i>
6. flown	It was the first time he'd flown in a helicopter. <i>flown</i>
7. squirt	She squeezed the bottle to squirt ketchup on her hamburger. <i>squirt</i>
8. pounce	The cat was ready to pounce on the mouse. <i>pounce</i>
9. throat	The doctor gave him medicine for his sore throat . <i>throat</i>
10. smudge	The big smudge on the mirror made it difficult to see. <i>smudge</i>
Syllables & Affixes	
11. shaving	The teenager looked forward to shaving . <i>shaving</i>
12. chewed	They chewed slowly as they listened to the dinner speaker. <i>chewed</i>
13. pennies	The children threw pennies in the fountain. <i>pennies</i>
14. fraction	The team was disappointed to get only a fraction of the credit for the job. <i>fraction</i>
15. bottle	The bottle of shampoo fell from his slippery hands. <i>bottle</i>
16. discovery	The discovery of the gold made many people rich. <i>discovery</i>
17. lesson	She arrived at the lesson with a notebook and pencil. <i>lesson</i>
18. distance	The boys measured the distance between their houses. <i>distance</i>
19. trapped	The new graduate felt trapped by a low-paying job. <i>trapped</i>
20. sailor	He wanted to go to sea as a sailor . <i>sailor</i>
Early–Middle Derivational Relations	
21. resident	Mr. Squires has been a resident of this town for over 40 years. <i>resident</i>
22. confusion	There was confusion when there was a power failure. <i>confusion</i>
23. visible	The singer was visible to everyone in the room. <i>visible</i>
24. category	I will put the bottles in one category and the cans in another. <i>category</i>
25. criticize	The boss will criticize you for your work. <i>criticize</i>

Feature Guide for Intermediate Spelling Inventory

Directions: Check the features that are present in each student's spelling. In the bottom row, total features used correctly. Check the spelling stage that summarizes the student's development. Begin instruction at that stage with a focus on the types of features where the student missed two or more features in a column.

Student's Name _____ Class _____ Grade _____ Date _____

SPELLING STAGES → Features →	LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC			WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES & AFFIXES			DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS			Words Spelled Correctly	
	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE		Feature Points
1. speck	e					ck								
2. charge		ch			ar									
3. switch	i	sw			tch									
4. scrape		scr	a-e		ur									
5. nurse			ow		ir	squ								
6. flown					ou									
7. squirt														
8. pounce		thr	oa											
9. throat						dge								
10. smudge	u													
SYLLABLES & AFFIXES														
11. shaving									e-drop	ing				
12. chewed					ew				ed					
13. pennies									nn	ies				
14. fraction										tion	le	fra		
15. bottle	o													
16. discovery										dis	y	cover		
17. lesson										on				
18. distance										ance		dis		
19. trapped										pp	ed			
20. sailor					ai						or			
Early-Middle DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS														
21. resident												ent	i	
22. confusion												con	ion	fus
23. visible												ible	vis	
24. category												ize	e	
25. criticize												critic		
Highlight cells with 2 or more errors	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(5)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(9)	(12)	(8)	(50)	(25)

SPELLING STAGES:
 EARLY MIDDLE LATE
 LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC
 WITHIN WORD PATTERN
 SYLLABLES & AFFIXES
 DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS

Words Spelled Correctly: /25
 Feature Points: /50
 Total: /75

Error Guide for Intermediate Spelling Inventory

Directions: Circle student's spelling attempts below. If a spelling is not listed, write it in where it belongs on the developmental continuum. Determine a spelling stage that summarizes the student's development. Begin instruction at that level with a focus on features characteristic of that stage.

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____

SPELLING STAGES →	LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC		WITHIN WORD PATTERN		SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES		DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS		Words Spelled Correctly
	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	
Features →	Short Vowels	Consonant Digraphs & Blends	Long Vowel Patterns	Other Vowel Patterns	Complex Consonants	Syllable Junctures & Easy Prefixes & Suffixes	Harder Prefixes & Suffixes, & Unaccented Final Syllables	Reduced Vowels Bases & Roots	
LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC & WITHIN WORD PATTERN									
1. speck	spak spic spak spick	speck							
2. charge	carg chorg chorch charge	charge							
3. switch	swet swech swaitch	switch							
4. scrape	srap skraap skrap scrap	scrape							
5. nurse	ners neras nurs	nurse							
6. flown	flon	flone floan	flown						
7. squirt	skurt skort skwert	squirt							
8. pounce	pos pons ponc	pounce							
9. throat	trot	throthe throate	throat						
10. smudge	smug smuch smach	smud	smuge	smudge					
SYLLABLES & AFFIXES									
11. shaving	satng shavin	saving	saveing	shaveing	shaving				
12. chewed	cud chud coeed	chood cuwed	c(h)ued	chewd	choud	chewed			
13. pennies		panes	penes	pennes	pennys	pennies			
14. fraction		facshun	frackshun	fraksion	frackskion	fraction			
15. bottle	badl	badol	batel	batle	battel	bottle			
16. discovery		discofry	di(e)scovry	disco(a)vary	descovery	discovery			
17. lesson		lasun	lesen	lessen	leson	lesson			
18. distance	destns	destase	destens	deste(a)na(c)e	distense	distance			
19. trapped	chrapt	trapt	chraped	teraped	trapt	traped	trapped		
20. sailor		selar	saler	saleor	sialer	sailer	sailor		
Early-Middle DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS									
21. resident	resatint	reserdent	resadent	resudint	rest(e)(a)dent	resident	resident		
22. confusion		confushon	confution	confusion	confusion	confusion	confusion		
23. visible		visbel	visabul	visble	visabal	visabel	visibel	visible	
24. category		cadagoure	catagory	cadigore	catagore	category	category	category	
25. criticize		critise	crisize	critize	critasise	critisize	criticize	criticise	criticize

SPELLING STAGES:
 EARLY MIDDLE LATE
 LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC
 WITHIN WORD PATTERN
 SYLLABLES & AFFIXES
 DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS

Words Spelled Correctly: /25