

UPPER LEVEL SPELLING INVENTORY

This inventory will help you assess the orthographic knowledge students bring to reading and spelling. The inventory begins with single-syllable word knowledge and stretches to students' knowledge of roots.

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 by doing their best.

Possible script: "I am going to ask you to spell some words. Try to 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; write down all the sounds you feel and hear."

Say the word once, use the word in a sentence, and then say the word a second time.

Consider students' spelling of the first 7 words before continuing. Students who miss 2 or more of these words could be given either the elementary or upper elementary inventory. You may want to stop testing when students miss 5 of 8 words. Use either the Feature Guide on page 313 or the Error Guide on page 315. See Chapter 2 for further instructions on administration and interpretation. Have students check their papers for their name and the date.

| Within Word Patterns | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. speck | The well-dressed man brushed away a speck of lint from his jacket. <i>speck</i> |
| 2. switch | The sick boy could switch television channels from his bed. <i>switch</i> |
| 3. smudge | The big smudge on the mirror made it difficult to see. <i>smudge</i> |
| 4. scrape | The fall caused her to scrape her knee. <i>scrape</i> |
| 5. flown | It was the first time he'd flown in a helicopter. <i>flown</i> |
| 6. nurse | The nurse checked her blood pressure. <i>nurse</i> |
| 7. throat | The doctor gave him medicine for his sore throat . <i>throat</i> |
| Syllables & Affixes | |
| 8. powerful | He was a powerful force on the team. <i>powerful</i> |
| 9. shaving | The teenager looked forward to shaving . <i>shaving</i> |
| 10. bottle | The bottle of shampoo fell from his slippery hands. <i>bottle</i> |
| 11. discovery | The discovery of the gold made many people rich. <i>discovery</i> |
| 12. lesson | She arrived at the lesson with a notebook and pencil. <i>lesson</i> |
| 13. fever | The boy was sick in bed with a high fever . <i>fever</i> |
| 14. trapped | The new graduate felt trapped by a low-paying job. <i>trapped</i> |
| 15. sailor | He wanted to go to sea as a sailor . <i>sailor</i> |
| Derivational Relations | |
| 16. resident | Mr. Squires has been a resident of this town for over 40 years. <i>resident</i> |
| 17. puncture | Joan saw the puncture in her bicycle tire. <i>puncture</i> |
| 18. confidence | Her confidence grew with her success. <i>confidence</i> |
| 19. confusion | There was confusion when there was a power failure. <i>confusion</i> |
| 20. fortunate | It was fortunate that the driver had snow tires in the snowstorm. <i>fortunate</i> |
| 21. dominance | Dominance was established by the stronger lion. <i>dominance</i> |
| 22. prosperity | During this period of prosperity , our income increased dramatically. <i>prosperity</i> |
| 23. decorator | She hired a decorator to design the living room. <i>decorator</i> |
| 24. opposition | The coach said the opposition would give us a tough game. <i>opposition</i> |
| 25. visible | The singer was visible to everyone in the room. <i>visible</i> |
| 26. correspond | The student decided to correspond with the instructor. <i>correspond</i> |
| 27. voluminous | The volunteers counted the voluminous votes on Tuesday. <i>voluminous</i> |
| 28. succession | He fired several shots in rapid succession . <i>succession</i> |
| 29. emphasize | In conclusion, I want to emphasize the most important points. <i>emphasize</i> |
| 30. category | I will put the bottles in one category and the cans in another. <i>category</i> |
| 31. hilarious | John thought the comedian was absolutely hilarious . <i>hilarious</i> |
| 32. commotion | The audience heard the commotion backstage. <i>commotion</i> |
| 33. inheritable | She had an inheritable disease that was passed from one generation to another. <i>inheritable</i> |
| 34. criticize | The boss will criticize you for your work. <i>criticize</i> |
| 35. excerpt | I am going to read one excerpt from this chapter. <i>excerpt</i> |
| 36. reversible | Terry wears a reversible coat in the winter. <i>reversible</i> |
| 37. chlorophyll | Chlorophyll is a green pigment essential to photosynthesis. <i>chlorophyll</i> |
| 38. adjourn | The meeting will adjourn at five o'clock. <i>adjourn</i> |
| 39. camouflage | The soldier wore camouflage to avoid detection. <i>camouflage</i> |
| 40. indictment | The indictment from the grand jury was delivered to the suspect. <i>indictment</i> |

Feature Guide for Upper Level Spelling Inventory

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

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____

| SPELLING STAGES → | LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC | | | WITHIN WORD PATTERN | | | SYLLABLES & AFFIXES | | | DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | Words Spelled Correctly |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | Feature Points | | |
| Features → | Short Vowels | Consonant Digraphs & Blends | Long & Other Vowel Patterns | Complex Consonants | Syllable Junctures & Easy Prefixes & Suffixes | Harder Prefixes, Suffixes, & Unaccented Final Syllables | Reduced & Altered Vowels | Bases, Roots, & Derivatives | Feature Points | Words Spelled Correctly | | | |
| LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC & WITHIN WORD PATTERN | | | | | | | | | | | SPELLING STAGES: <input type="checkbox"/> EARLY <input type="checkbox"/> MIDDLE <input type="checkbox"/> LATE <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC <input type="checkbox"/> WITHIN WORD PATTERN <input type="checkbox"/> SYLLABLES & AFFIXES <input type="checkbox"/> DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS Words Spelled Correctly: /40 Feature Points: /86 Total /126 | | |
| 1. speck | e | sp ck | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. switch | i | sw | | tch | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. smudge | u | sm | | dge | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. scrape | | scr | a-e | scr | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. flown | | fl | ow | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. nurse | | | ur | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. throat | | | oa | thr | | | | | | | | | |
| SYLLABLES & AFFIXES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. powerful | | | ow | | ful | | | | | | | | |
| 9. shaving | | sh | | | (e-drop) ing | | | | | | | | |
| 10. bottle | | | | | tt | le | | | | | | | |
| 11. discovery | | | | | dis y | | | | | | | | |
| 12. lesson | | | | | ss | on | | | | | | | |
| 13. fever | | | | | | er | | | | | | | |
| 14. trapped | | tr | | | pp ed | | | | | | | | |
| 15. sailor | | | ai | | or | | | | | | | | |
| Late SYLLABLES & AFFIXES through EARLY DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. resident | | | | | | ent | | i | | | | | |
| 17. puncture | | | | | | ure | | | punct | | | | |
| 18. confidence | | | | | con | ence | | i | | | | | |
| 19. confusion | | | | | | sion | | | fus | | | | |
| 20. fortunate | | | | | | ate | | | fortun | | | | |
| Subtotals | (3) | (8) | (6) | (4) | (11) | (8) | (2) | (3) | (45) | (20) | | | |

Feature Guide for Upper Level Spelling Inventory—Continued

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____

| SPELLING STAGES → | LETTER NAME—ALPHABETIC | | | WITHIN WORD PATTERN | | | SYLLABLES & AFFIXES | | | | DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | | | |
| Features → | Short Vowels | Consonant Digraphs & Blends | Long & Other Vowel Patterns | Complex Consonants | Syllable Junctures & Easy Prefixes & Suffixes | Harder Prefixes, Suffixes, & Unaccented Final Syllables | Reduced & Altered Vowels | Bases, Roots, & Derivatives | Feature Points | Words Spelled Correctly | | | | |
| Late SYLLABLES & AFFIXES & DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21. dominance | | | | | | ance | i | | | | | | | |
| 22. prosperity | | | | | ity | | er | | | | | | | |
| 23. decorator | | | | | (e-drop) or | | | decor | | | | | | |
| 24. opposition | | | | | | op | | position | | | | | | |
| 25. visible | | | | | | | i(ble) | vis | | | | | | |
| 26. correspond | | | | | | cor | e | | | | | | | |
| 27. voluminous | | | | | | ous | i | volum | | | | | | |
| 28. succession | | | | | | | | success | | | | | | |
| 29. emphasize | | | | | ize | em | | phas | | | | | | |
| 30. category | | | | | | | e | | | | | | | |
| DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31. hilarious | | | | | | ious | | hilar | | | | | | |
| 32. commotion | | | | | com | tion | | motion | | | | | | |
| 33. inheritable | | | | | | able | | inherit | | | | | | |
| 34. criticize | | | | | | ize | i | | | | | | | |
| 35. excerpt | | | | | | ex | | cerpt | | | | | | |
| 36. reversible | | | | | | ible | | | | | | | | |
| 37. chlorophyll | | | | | | | o | chlor phyll | | | | | | |
| 38. adjourn | | | | | | ad | | journal | | | | | | |
| 39. camouflage | | | | | | age | | camoufl | | | | | | |
| 40. indictment | | | | | | | | indict | | | | | | |
| Subtotals → | | | | | | (5) | (13) | (8) | (15) | (41) | (20) | | | |
| Totals → | (3) | (8) | (6) | (4) | (16) | (21) | (10) | (18) | (86) | (40) | | | | |

Error Guide for Upper Level 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 & AFFIXES | | | DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | Words Spelled Correctly |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------|---|-------------------------|
| | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | | | |
| Features → | Short Vowels | Consonant Digraphs & Blends | Long & Other Vowel Patterns | Complex Consonants | Syllable Junctures & Easy Prefixes & Suffixes | Harder Prefixes, Suffixes, & Unaccented Final Syllables | Reduced & Altered Vowels | Bases, Roots, & Derivatives | | | | | |
| LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC AND WITHIN WORD PATTERN | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. speck | spic | spek | spak | spick | speck | | | | | | | SPELLING STAGES: <input type="checkbox"/> EARLY <input type="checkbox"/> MIDDLE <input type="checkbox"/> LATE <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC <input type="checkbox"/> WITHIN WORD PATTERN <input type="checkbox"/> SYLLABLES & AFFIXES <input type="checkbox"/> DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS Words Spelled Correctly: /40 | |
| 2. switch | swet | swech | swaitch | switch | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. smudge | smud | smuch | smuge | smudge | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. scrape | srap | skraap | skrap | scrap | scrape | | | | | | | | |
| 5. flown | | flon | fione | floan | flown | | | | | | | | |
| 6. nurse | ners | neras | nurs | nerce | nerse | nurce | nurse | | | | | | |
| 7. throat | trot | throt | throthe | throate | throat | | | | | | | | |
| Early to MIDDLE SYLLABLES & AFFIXES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. powerful | | | powfrul | porful | pauerful | powerful | | | | | | | |
| 9. shaving | | safng | shavin | saving | saveing | shaveing | shaving | | | | | | |
| 10. bottle | | badl | badol | batel | batle | bottel | bottle | | | | | | |
| 11. discovery | | | discofry | di(e)scovry | disco(a)vary | discovery | discovery | | | | | | |
| 12. lesson | | | lasun | lesen | lessen | leson | lesson | | | | | | |
| 13. fever | | | fevr | feafer | fevir | feaver | feevor | fever | | | | | |
| 14. trapped | | chrapt | trapt | chraped | teraped | trappt | traped | trapped | | | | | |
| 15. sailor | | | selar | saler | saleor | sialer | sailer | sailor | | | | | |
| Late SYLLABLES & AFFIXES through EARLY DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. resident | | | resatint | reserdent | reseadent | resudint | res(e)(a)dent | residant | resident | | | | |
| 17. puncture | | | pucshr | pungchr | puncur | puncker | punksher | punchure | puncure | punture | puncsure | puncture | |
| 18. confidence | | | confadents | confadence | confedense | confedence | confidince | confidense | confidence | | | | |
| 19. confusion | | | confushon | confution | confusion | confussion | confusion | | | | | | |
| 20. fortunate | | | forhnat | frehnit | foohinit | forchenut | fochinite | fortunet | fortunate | | | | |

Error Guide for Upper Level Spelling Inventory—Continued

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____

| SPELLING STAGES→ | LETTER NAME—ALPHABETIC | | | WITHIN WORD PATTERN | | | SYLLABLES & AFFIXES | | | DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | EARLY | MIDDLE | LATE | | |
| Features→ | Short Vowels | Consonant Digraphs & Blends | Long & Other Vowel Patterns | Complex Consonants | Syllable Junctures & Easy Prefixes & Suffixes | Harder Prefixes, Suffixes, & Unaccented Final Syllables | Reduced & Altered Vowels | Bases, Roots & Derivatives | Words Spelled Correctly | | | |
| Late SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES & DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21. dominance | | | | | | | | | | domfanese domannce domenense domenence dominince domimense dominance | | |
| 22. prosperity | | | | | | | | | | proparty proparity prosperity prospearaty prosperaty prosperarity prosperaty prosperity | | |
| 23. decorator | | | | | | | | | | dector deocrater decerator decarator decreator decoratore decorater decorator | | |
| 24. opposition | | | | | | | | | | opasion opasishan opozcison opasitian opasition oppisition oposision opposition opposition | | |
| 25. visible | | | | | | | | | | visbel visabal visble visabal visabel visible visibel visible | | |
| 26. correspond | | | | | | | | | | corspnd corispond corespond corospond correspond | | |
| 27. voluminous | | | | | | | | | | volumnus vulomus valominus volumanus vulominus voluinus volumenis voluminus voluminous | | |
| 28. succession | | | | | | | | | | sucksession sucesion sucession sucesession succession successtion succession | | |
| 29. emphasize | | | | | | | | | | infaside infacize ephacise empasize emfesize emfisize imfasize emphisize emphasize | | |
| 30. category | | | | | | | | | | cadagoure catagery cadigore catagore category catiguorie category category | | |
| DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31. hilarious | | | | | | | | | | halaris halaryous halaries heleriaus halareous hilarious helariuse helarious hilerious hilarious | | |
| 32. commotion | | | | | | | | | | comoushown comoshion comosion camotion cumotion comocion comosion comotion commotion | | |
| 33. inheritable | | | | | | | | | | inharbul enherable inhairtable inharitable inharetable inharitable inharitable inheritable | | |
| 34. criticize | | | | | | | | | | critise crizize criticize critasize criticize critasize criticize criticize criticize | | |
| 35. excerpt | | | | | | | | | | exherpt exhert exherpt exsort exerp ecsert exert exert exsurpt exerpt excerpt | | |
| 36. reversible | | | | | | | | | | reversbell reversabul reversobol reversabel reverseable reversabile revercible reversible reversible | | |
| 37. chlorophyll | | | | | | | | | | clorafil cloarphil cloraful clorifil clhorafil chlorafil chlorafil chloraphyl chloraphyll chlorophyll | | |
| 38. adjourn | | | | | | | | | | ajurn agern ajourn ajorne ajurne adgurn adjorn adjurn adjourne adjourn | | |
| 39. camouflage | | | | | | | | | | camaflag camoflosh comoflodge camaphlauge camaflage camoflaug camofloge camoflounge camaflauge camouflage | | |
| 40. indictment | | | | | | | | | | enditment inditmeant enditement inditement endightment indightment indicment indictment | | |