

Elementary Spelling Inventory (ESI)

The Elementary Spelling Inventory (ESI) covers more stages than the PSI. It can be used as early as first grade, particularly if a school system wants to use the same inventory across the elementary grades. The 25 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the letter name–alphabetic to derivational relations stages. Call out enough words so that you have at least five or six misspelled words to analyze. If any students spell more than 20 words correctly, use the Upper Level Spelling Inventory.

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|----------------|---|
| 1. bed | I hopped out of bed this morning. <i>bed</i> |
| 2. ship | The ship sailed around the island. <i>ship</i> |
| 3. when | When will you come back? <i>when</i> |
| 4. lump | He had a lump on his head after he fell. <i>lump</i> |
| 5. float | I can float on the water with my new raft. <i>float</i> |
| 6. train | I rode the train to the next town. <i>train</i> |
| 7. place | I found a new place to put my books. <i>place</i> |
| 8. drive | I learned to drive a car. <i>drive</i> |
| 9. bright | The light is very bright. <i>bright</i> |
| 10. shopping | She went shopping for new shoes. <i>shopping</i> |
| 11. spoil | The food will spoil if it is not kept cool. <i>spoil</i> |
| 12. serving | The restaurant is serving dinner tonight. <i>serving</i> |
| 13. chewed | The dog chewed up my favorite sweater yesterday. <i>chewed</i> |
| 14. carries | She carries apples in her basket. <i>carries</i> |
| 15. marched | We marched in the parade. <i>marched</i> |
| 16. shower | The shower in the bathroom was very hot. <i>shower</i> |
| 17. bottle | The bottle broke into pieces on the tile floor. <i>bottle</i> |
| 18. favor | He did his brother a favor by taking out the trash. <i>favor</i> |
| 19. ripen | The fruit will ripen over the next few days. <i>ripen</i> |
| 20. cellar | I went down to the cellar for the can of paint. <i>cellar</i> |
| 21. pleasure | It was a pleasure to listen to the choir sing. <i>pleasure</i> |
| 22. fortunate | It was fortunate that the driver had snow tires. <i>fortunate</i> |
| 23. confident | I am confident that we can win the game. <i>confident</i> |
| 24. civilize | They wanted to civilize the forest people. <i>civilize</i> |
| 25. opposition | The coach said the opposition would be tough. <i>opposition</i> |

Words Their Way Elementary Spelling Inventory Feature Guide

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____
 Words Spelled Correctly: ____ / 25 Feature Points: ____ / 62 Total: ____ / 87 Spelling Stage: _____

SPELLING STAGES →	EMERGENT		LETTER NAME--ALPHABETIC			WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES					DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS			Words Spelled Correctly
	LATE	EARLY	Short Vowels	Digraphs	Blends	Long Vowels	Other Vowels	Inflected Endings	Syllable Junctures	Unaccented Final Syllables	Harder Suffixes	Bases or Roots	Feature Points				
1. bed	b	d	e														
2. ship		p	i	sh													
3. when			e	wh													
4. lump	l		u		mp												
5. float		t			fl	oa											
6. train		n			tr	ai											
7. place					pl	a-e											
8. drive		v			dr	i-e											
9. bright					br	igh											
10. shopping			o	sh				pping									
11. spoil					sp		oi										
12. serving							er	ving									
13. chewed				ch			ew	ed									
14. carries							ar	ies	rr								
15. marched				ch			ar	ed									
16. shower				sh			ow			er							
17. bottle									tt	le							
18. favor									v	or							
19. ripen									p	en							
20. cellar									ll	ar							
21. pleasure											ure	pleas					
22. fortunate							or				ate	fortun					
23. confident											ent	confid					
24. civilize											ize	civil					
25. opposition											tion	pos					
Totals			7	5	6	7	5	7	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	62	25

Appendix A

Words Their Way Elementary Spelling Inventory Classroom Composite

Teacher _____ School _____ Grade _____ Date _____

SPELLING STAGES →	EMERGENT		LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC		WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES			DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS			Total Rank Order														
	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	EARLY		MIDDLE	LATE												
Students' ↓ Name	Consonants		Short Vowels		Digraphs		Blends		Long Vowels		Other Vowels		Inflected Endings		Syllable Junctures		Unaccented Final Syllables		Harder Suffixes		Bases or Roots		Correct Spelling		87			
Possible Points	7		5		6		7		5		7		5		5		5		5		5		25					
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Highlight for instruction*																												

Note: *Highlight students who miss more than 1 on a particular feature; they will benefit from more instruction in that area.

