

Elementary Spelling Inventory (ESI)

The Elementary Spelling Inventory (ESI) covers more stages than the PSI. You can use it 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 to get a more accurate estimate of a student’s ability; at the upper level, the ESI can overestimate the stage.

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

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		
	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE
Features →	Initial	Final	Short Vowels	Digraphs	Blends	Common Long Vowels	Other Vowels	Inflected Endings	Syllable Junctures	Unaccented Final Syllables	Advanced Affixes	Bases or Roots	Feature Points	Words Spelled Correctly	
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			17	15	16	17	15	17	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

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' Names ↓																		
Possible Points	7	5	6	7	7	5	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	25	87
1.																		
2.																		
3.																		
4.																		
5.																		
6.																		
7.																		
8.																		
9.																		
10.																		
11.																		
12.																		
13.																		
14.																		
15.																		
16.																		
17.																		
18.																		
19.																		
20.																		
21.																		
22.																		
23.																		
24.																		
25.																		
26.																		
Highlight for instruction*																		

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