

Primary Spelling Inventory (PSI)

The Primary Spelling Inventory (PSI) is used in kindergarten through third grade. The 26 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the letter name–alphabetic to within word pattern stages. Call out enough words so that you have at least five or six misspelled words to analyze. For kindergarten students or other emergent readers, you may only need to call out the first five words. In late kindergarten and early first-grade classrooms, call out at least 15 words so that you sample digraphs and blends; use the entire list for late first, second, and third grades. If any students spell more than 22 words correctly, you may want to use the Elementary Spelling Inventory.

Using the following list, call out the spelling word, then the sample sentence, then repeat the spelling word.

1. fan A fan will keep you cool on a hot day. *fan*
2. pet I have a pet cat who likes to play. *pet*
3. dig Let's dig a hole in the sand. *dig*
4. rob A raccoon will rob a bird's nest for eggs. *rob*
5. hope I hope you will do well on this test. *hope*
6. wait You need to wait for the letter. *wait*
7. gum I stepped on some bubble gum. *gum*
8. sled The dog sled was pulled by huskies. *sled*
9. stick I used a stick to poke in the hole. *stick*
10. shine He rubbed the coin to make it shine. *shine*
11. dream I had a funny dream last night. *dream*
12. blade The blade of the knife was very sharp. *blade*
13. coach The coach called the team off the field. *coach*
14. fright She was a fright in her Halloween costume. *fright*
15. chewed The dog chewed on the bone until it was gone. *chewed*
16. crawl You will get dirty if you crawl under the picnic table. *crawl*
17. wishes In fairy tales, wishes often come true. *wishes*
18. thorn The thorn from the rosebush stuck me. *thorn*
19. shouted They shouted at the barking dog. *shouted*
20. spoil The food will spoil if it sits out too long. *spoil*
21. growl The dog will growl if you bother him. *growl*
22. third I was the third person in line. *third*
23. camped We camped down by the river last weekend. *camped*
24. tries He tries hard every day to finish his work. *tries*
25. clapping The audience was clapping after the program. *clapping*
26. riding They are riding their bikes to the park today. *riding*

Words Their Way Primary Spelling Inventory Feature Guide

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____
 Words Spelled Correctly: _____ / 26 Feature Points: _____ / 56 Total: _____ / 82 Spelling Stage: _____

SPELLING STAGES →	EMERGENT LATE		LETTER NAME-ALPHABETIC			WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES								
	Initial	Consonants Final	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	Digraphs	Blends	EARLY	Common Long Vowels	MIDDLE	Other Vowels	LATE	Inflected Endings	EARLY	Feature Points	Words Spelled Correctly	
1. fan	f	n	A														
2. pet	p	t	E														
3. dig	d	g	I														
4. rob	r	b	O														
5. hope	h	p							o-e								
6. wait	w	t							ai								
7. gum	g	m	U														
8. sled			E		sl												
9. stick			I		st												
10. shine				sh					i-e								
11. dream					dr				ea								
12. blade					bl				a-e								
13. coach				ch					oa								
14. fright					fr				igh								
15. chewed				ch						ew			-ed				
16. crawl					cr					aw							
17. wishes				sh									-es				
18. thorn				th							or						
19. shouted				sh							ou		-ed				
20. spoil											oi						
21. growl											ow						
22. third				th							ir						
23. camped													-ed				
24. tries					tr								-ies				
25. clapping													-pping				
26. riding													-ding				
Totals	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17

Words Their Way Primary Spelling Inventory Classroom Composite

Teacher _____ School _____ Grade _____ Date _____

SPELLING STAGES →	EMERGENT		LETTER NAME—ALPHABETIC		WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES		Total Rank Order
	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY		
Students' Names ↓	Consonants		Short Vowels	Digraphs	Blends	Common Long Vowels	Other Vowels	Inflected Endings	Correct Spelling	
Possible Points	Initial	Final	7	7	7	7	7	7	26	82
1.										
2.										
3.										
4.										
5.										
6.										
7.										
8.										
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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.

