

Upper-Level Spelling Inventory (USI)

You can use the Upper-Level Spelling Inventory (USI) in upper elementary, middle school, high school, and postsecondary classrooms. The 31 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the within word pattern to derivational relations spelling stages. With normally achieving students, you can administer the entire list, but you may want to stop when students misspell more than eight words and are experiencing noticeable frustration. If any students misspell five of the first eight words, use the ESI to more accurately identify within word pattern features that need instruction.

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|-------------------|--|
| 1. switch | We can switch television channels with a remote control. <i>switch</i> |
| 2. smudge | There was a smudge on the mirror from her fingertips. <i>smudge</i> |
| 3. trapped | He was trapped in the elevator when the electricity went off. <i>trapped</i> |
| 4. scrape | The fall caused her to scrape her knee. <i>scrape</i> |
| 5. knotted | The knotted rope would not come undone. <i>knotted</i> |
| 6. shaving | He gave up shaving to grow a beard. <i>shaving</i> |
| 7. squirt | Don't let the ketchup squirt out of the bottle too fast. <i>squirt</i> |
| 8. pounce | My cat likes to pounce on her toy mouse. <i>pounce</i> |
| 9. scratches | We had to paint over the scratches on the car. <i>scratches</i> |
| 10. crater | The volcano crater was filled with bubbling lava. <i>crater</i> |
| 11. sailor | When he was young, he wanted to go to sea as a sailor. <i>sailor</i> |
| 12. village | My Granddad lived in a small seaside village. <i>village</i> |
| 13. disloyal | Traitors are disloyal to their country. <i>disloyal</i> |
| 14. tunnel | The rockslide closed the tunnel through the mountain. <i>tunnel</i> |
| 15. humor | You need a sense of humor to understand his jokes. <i>humor</i> |
| 16. confidence | With each winning game, the team's confidence grew. <i>confidence</i> |
| 17. fortunate | The driver was fortunate to have snow tires on that winter day.
<i>fortunate</i> |
| 18. visible | The singer on the stage was visible to everyone. <i>visible</i> |
| 19. circumference | The length of the equator is equal to the earth's circumference.
<i>circumference</i> |
| 20. civilization | We studied the ancient Mayan civilization last year. <i>civilization</i> |
| 21. monarchy | A monarchy is headed by a king or a queen. <i>monarchy</i> |
| 22. dominance | The dominance of the Yankees baseball team lasted for several years.
<i>dominance</i> |
| 23. correspond | Many students correspond through e-mail. <i>correspond</i> |
| 24. illiterate | It is hard to get a job if you are illiterate. <i>illiterate</i> |
| 25. emphasize | I want to emphasize the importance of trying your best. <i>emphasize</i> |
| 26. opposition | The coach said the opposition would give us a tough game. <i>opposition</i> |
| 27. chlorine | My eyes were burning from the chlorine in the swimming pool.
<i>chlorine</i> |
| 28. commotion | The audience heard the commotion backstage. <i>commotion</i> |
| 29. medicinal | Take cough drops for medicinal purposes only. <i>medicinal</i> |
| 30. irresponsible | It is irresponsible not to wear a seat belt. <i>irresponsible</i> |
| 31. succession | The firecrackers went off in rapid succession. <i>succession</i> |

Words Their Way Upper-Level Spelling Inventory Feature Guide

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____
 Words Spelled Correctly: _____ / 31 Feature Points: _____ / 68 Total: _____ / 99 Spelling Stage: _____

SPELLING STAGES →	WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES			DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS				Words Spelled Correctly
	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	Assimilated Prefixes	
Features →	Blends and Digraphs	Vowels	Complex Consonants	Inflected Endings and Syllable Juncture	Unaccented Final Syllables	Affixes	Reduced Vowels in Unaccented Syllables	Greek and Latin Elements	Assimilated Prefixes	Feature Points	Words Spelled Correctly
1. switch	sw	i	tch								
2. smudge	sm	u	dge								
3. trapped	tr			pped							
4. scrape		a-e	scr								
5. knotted		o	kn	ttd							
6. shaving	sh			ving							
7. squirt		ir	squ								
8. pounce		ou	ce								
9. scratches		a	tch	es							
10. crater	cr			t	er						
11. sailor		ai			or						
12. village				ll	age						
13. disloyal		oy			al	dis					
14. tunnel				nn	el						
15. humor				m	or						
16. confidence						con	fid				
17. fortunate					ate			fortun			
18. visible						ible		vis			
19. circumference						ence		circum			
20. civilization							liz	civil			
Subtotals	/ 5	/ 9	/ 7	/ 8	/ 7	/ 4	/ 2	/ 4	/ 0	/ 46	/ 20

(continued)

Words Their Way Upper-Level Spelling Inventory Feature Guide (Continued)

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____ Date _____
 Words Spelled Correctly: _____ / 31 Feature Points: _____ / 68 Total: _____ / 99 Spelling Stage: _____

SPELLING STAGES →	WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES			DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS							
	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	Reduced Vowels in Unaccented Syllables	Greek and Latin Elements	Assimilated Prefixes	Feature Points	Words Spelled Correctly
Features →	Blends and Digraphs	Vowels	Complex Consonants	Inflected Endings and Syllable Juncture	Unaccented Final Syllables	Affixes	Reduced Vowels in Unaccented Syllables	Greek and Latin Elements	Assimilated Prefixes	Feature Points	Words Spelled Correctly			
21. monarchy								arch						
22. dominance						ance	min							
23. correspond							res			rr				
24. illiterate				ate						ll				
25. emphasize						size	pha							
26. opposition							pos			pp				
27. chlorine						ine		chlor						
28. commotion						tion				mm				
29. medicinal				al				medic						
30. irresponsible						ible	res			rr				
31. succession						sion				cc				
Subtotals	/ 0	/ 0	/ 0	/ 0	/ 2	/ 6	/ 5	/ 3	/ 6	/ 6	/ 11	/ 22	/ 11	
Totals	/ 5	/ 9	/ 7	/ 8	/ 9	/ 10	/ 7	/ 7	/ 6	/ 6	/ 68	/ 31	/ 31	

Words Their Way Upper-Level Spelling Inventory Classroom Composite

Teacher _____ School _____ Grade _____ Date _____

SPELLING STAGES →	WITHIN WORD PATTERN			SYLLABLES AND AFFIXES			DERIVATIONAL RELATIONS					Total Rank Order
	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	EARLY	MIDDLE	LATE	Greek and Latin Elements	Assimilated Prefixes	
Students' Names ↓	Blends and Digraphs	Vowels	Complex Consonants	Inflected Endings and Syllable Juncture	Unaccented Final Syllables	Affixes	Reduced Vowels in Unaccented Syllables	Greek and Latin Elements	Assimilated Prefixes	Correct Spelling	Total Rank Order	
Possible Points	5	9	7	8	9	10	7	7	6	31	99	
1.												
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27.												
Highlight for instruction*												

*Highlight students who miss more than 1 on a particular feature if the total is between 5 and 8. Highlight those who miss more than 2 if the total is between 9 and 10.