

Phonetic Spelling Inventory Word List – Level IV

This is a short spelling inventory to help you learn about your students' orthographic knowledge. The results of the spelling inventories will have implications for reading, writing, vocabulary, and spelling instruction. **Students are not to study these words.** The results will be invalid if students have been formally taught or exposed to these words.

Instructions: Let the 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 be a better teacher 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."

Have students check their papers for their names and the date.

1. confusion There was confusion when there was a power failure. *confusion*
2. pleasure It was our pleasure to have you come over. *pleasure*
3. resident Mr. Squires has been a resident of this town for over forty years. *resident*
4. confidence I have confidence in Donna. *confidence*
5. fortunate We were fortunate to have gotten back safely. *fortunate*
6. opposition The coach said the opposition would give us a tough game. *opposition*
7. prosperity During this period of prosperity, our income increased dramatically.
prosperity
8. succession He fired several shots in rapid succession. *Succession*

If you wish, stop here, check papers, discontinue, or go to Spelling Inventory – Level III if a student misspells five out of the first eight words.

9. emphasize In conclusion, I want to emphasize the most important points. *emphasize*
10. correspond The president must correspond with many people each day. *correspond*
11. commotion The audience heard the commotion backstage. *commotion*
12. propellant The booster rocket is fueled by a liquid propellant. *propellant*
13. hilarious John thought the comedian was absolutely hilarious. *hilarious*
14. criticize The boss will criticize you for your work. *criticize*
15. reversible Terry wears a reversible coat in the winter. *reversible*
16. category I will put the bottles in one category and the cans in another. *category*
17. adjourn The meeting will adjourn at five o'clock. *adjourn*
18. excerpt I am going to read one excerpt from this chapter. *excerpt*
19. indictment The attorney general made the indictment based on the grand jury's findings.
indictment
20. camouflage The soldier wore camouflage to avoid detection. *camouflage*