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

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