

Phonetic Spelling Inventory Word List – Level III

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.

SET ONE

1. speck There was a speck of mud on his windshield. *speck*
2. switch The light switch was turned on. *switch*
3. throat The doctor said the baby had a sore throat. *throat*
4. nurse The nurse told the patient that her fever was high. *nurse*
5. scrape The carpenter will scrape the paint off of the desk. *scrape*

SET TWO

6. charge What will you charge for this coat? *charge*
7. phone Please use the phone to call home. *phone*
8. smudge You could see the smudge of chocolate on the paper. *smudge*
9. point The point of the knife was sharp. *point*
10. squirt The clown had a flower to squirt water. *squirt*

SET THREE

11. drawing The drawing of the horse was done in charcoal. *drawing*
12. trapped The miners were trapped in the tunnel for two days. *trapped*
13. waving The crowd was waving to the senator as the train left the station. *waving*
14. powerful The jaws were powerful for chewing food. *powerful*
15. battle They won the battle but lost the war. *battle*

SET FOUR

16. fever A high fever can be dangerous. *fever*
17. lesson The music lesson was last Tuesday. *lesson*
18. pennies They danced for pennies at the fair. *pennies*
19. fraction One-half is a fraction. *fraction*
20. sailor To be a sailor on the high seas was his dream. *sailor*

SET FIVE

21. distance What is the distance from here to there? *distance*
22. confusion There was some confusion about who would drive to the movie. *confusion*
23. discovery The scientist made a discovery after many hours in the lab. *discovery*
24. resident How long have you been a resident of this state? *resident*
25. visible The star was visible with a telescope. *visible*