

## 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*