

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.

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| 1. bed | I hopped out of bed this morning. <i>bed</i> |
| 2. ship | The ship sailed around the island. <i>ship</i> |
| 3. when | When will you come back? <i>when</i> |
| 4. lump | He had a lump on his head after he fell. <i>lump</i> |
| 5. float | I can float on the water with my new raft. <i>float</i> |
| 6. train | I rode the train to the next town. <i>train</i> |
| 7. place | I found a new place to put my books. <i>place</i> |
| 8. drive | I learned to drive a car. <i>drive</i> |
| 9. bright | The light is very bright. <i>bright</i> |
| 10. shopping | She went shopping for new shoes. <i>shopping</i> |
| 11. spoil | The food will spoil if it is not kept cool. <i>spoil</i> |
| 12. serving | The restaurant is serving dinner tonight. <i>serving</i> |
| 13. chewed | The dog chewed up my favorite sweater yesterday. <i>chewed</i> |
| 14. carries | She carries apples in her basket. <i>carries</i> |
| 15. marched | We marched in the parade. <i>marched</i> |
| 16. shower | The shower in the bathroom was very hot. <i>shower</i> |
| 17. bottle | The glass bottle broke into pieces on the tile floor. <i>bottle</i> |
| 18. favor | He did his brother a favor by taking out the trash. <i>favor</i> |
| 19. ripen | The fruit will ripen over the next few days. <i>ripen</i> |
| 20. cellar | I went down to the cellar for the can of paint. <i>cellar</i> |
| 21. pleasure | It was a pleasure to listen to the choir sing. <i>pleasure</i> |
| 22. fortunate | It was fortunate that the driver had snow tires. <i>fortunate</i> |
| 23. confident | I am confident that we can win the game. <i>confident</i> |
| 24. civilize | They wanted to civilize the wild cat. <i>civilize</i> |
| 25. opposition | The coach said the opposition would be tough. <i>opposition</i> |