



# The Institute for Excellence in Writing

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## Excellence in Spelling Placement Test Assessing your Child's Spelling Competence

1. This program is designed for children 9 years old and up.
2. There are three levels of the Excellence in Spelling program:  
Level A(primary)  
Level B(intermediate)  
Level C(highest)  
  
By giving your child one or more of the three spelling tests attached, you can determine at which level he/she should begin.
3. Do not allow your child to see or study these tests before you give them, as it would interfere with the accuracy of the placement.
4. When you administer the test to the children, do not repeat them in sentences or definitions unless absolutely necessary. Believe it or not, research shows that using spelling words in sentences actually *lowers* a child's score.

(For a child in grades 3-5, give Test I. For students grade 6 and higher, begin with Test II.)

### Spelling Placement Test I –(for children in Grades 3, 4 & 5 - level A)

spend	flight	carried	view	obtain	beg	lining
enjoy	travel	repair	prison	family	kitchen	nephew
visit	rapid	clock	helper	fortune	clerk	nineteen
usual	beautiful	empire	engine	hungry	through	vacation
complaint	favor (favour)	mayor	loss	husband	white	room
auto	entrance	wait	election	amount	degree	passenger
awful	importance	trouble	department	human	noticed	quiet
guest						

Scoring: Missed 0-6: give test III.  
Missed 8-16: give test II.,  
Missed 17 or more: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level A.

### Spelling Placement Test II – (for children in Grades 6 and up - level B)

guess	estimate	automobile	required	really	biscuits	commence
circular	accident	various	refer	celebration	bruised	compete
argument	invitation	decide	minute	folks	burglar	deceive
volume	accept	entitle	ought	ache	business	discoveries
organize	impossible	political	absence	amusement	changeable	electricity
summon	concern	national	conference	approval	chimney	error
official	associate	recent	Wednesday	banana	choir	exceptions
victim						

Scoring: Missed 0-6: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level C  
Missed 7-32: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level B.  
Missed 33 or more: begin with the Phonetic Zoo Level A.

### Spelling Placement Test III - High School and beyond - level C

immediate	architecture	exquisite	persevere	athletic	antique	orchestra
convenient	development	peculiar	repeated	extreme	bicycle	parliament
receipt	beneficial	financier	rinsed	practical	calendar	precipice
preliminary	contagious	intelligent	treachery	proceed	decision	restaurant
disappoint	artificial	mistletoe	familiar	cordially	accuracy	seized
especially	distillery	opportunity	appreciate	character	digestible	surgeon
annual	employees	emergency	sincerely	February	mucilage	thoroughly
committee						

Scoring: Missed 33 or more: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level B,  
Missed less than 32: begin with the Phonetic Zoo level C