Elementary Spelling Inventory (ESI)

The Elementary Spelling Inventory (ESI) covers more stages than the PSI. It can be offered 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.

1. bed
2. ship
3. when
4. lump
5. float
6. train
7. place
8. drive
9. bright
10. shopping
11. spoil
12. serving
13. chewed
14. carries
15. marched
16. shower
17. bottle
18. favor
19. ripen
20. cellar
21. pleasure
22. fortunate
23. confident
24. civilize
25. opposition

I hopped out of bed this morning. The ship sailed around the island. When will you come back? He had a lump on his head after he fell. I can float on the water with my new raft. I rode the train to the next town. I found a new place to put my books. I learned to drive a car. The light is very bright. She went shopping for new shoes. The food will spoil if it is not kept cool. The restaurant is serving dinner tonight. The dog chewed up my favorite sweater yesterday. She carries apples in her basket. We marched in the parade. The shower in the bathroom was very hot. The bottle broke into pieces on the tile floor. He did his brother a favor by taking out the trash. The fruit will ripen over the next few days. I went down to the cellar for the can of paint. It was a pleasure to listen to the choir sing. It was fortunate that the driver had snow tires. I am confident that we can win the game. They wanted to civilize the forest people. The coach said the opposition would be tough.
Primary Spelling Inventory (PSI)

The Primary Spelling Inventory (PSI) is used in kindergarten through third grade. The 26 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the letter name-alphabetic to within word pattern stages. Call out enough words so that you have at least five or six misspelled words to analyze. For kindergarten or other emergent readers, you may only need to call out the first five words. In late kindergarten and early first grade classrooms, call out at least 15 words so that you sample digraphs and blends; use the entire list for late first, second, and third grades. If any students spell more than 22 words correctly, you may want to use the Elementary Spelling Inventory.

1. fan  I could use a fan on a hot day.  
2. pet  I have a pet cat who likes to play.  
3. dig  He will dig a hole in the sand.  
4. rob  A raccoon will rob a bird's nest for eggs.  
5. hope  I hope you will do well on this test.  
6. wait  You will need to wait for the letter.  
7. gum  I stepped on some bubble gum.  
8. sled  The dog sled was pulled by huskies.  
9. stick  I used a stick to poke in the hole.  
10. shine  He rubbed the coin to make it shine.  
11. dream  I had a funny dream last night.  
12. blade  The blade of the knife was very sharp.  
13. coach  The coach called the team off the field.  
14. fright  She was a fright in her Halloween costume.  
15. chewed  The dog chewed on the bone until it was gone.  
16. crawl  You will get dirty if you crawl under the bed.  
17. wishes  In fairy tales wishes often come true.  
18. thorn  The thorn from the rosebush stuck me.  
19. shouted  They shouted at the barking dog.  
20. spoil  The food will spoil if it sits out too long.  
21. growl  The dog will growl if you bother him.  
22. third  I was the third person in line.  
23. camped  We camped down by the river last weekend.  
24. tries  He tries hard every day to finish his work.  
25. clapping  The audience was clapping after the program.  
26. riding  They are riding their bikes to the park today.
Upper-Level Spelling Inventory (USI)

The Upper-Level Spelling Inventory (USI) can be used in upper elementary, middle, high school, and postsecondary classrooms. The 31 words are ordered by difficulty to sample features of the within word pattern to derivational relations spelling stages. With normally achieving students, you can administer the entire list, but you may stop when students misspell more than eight words and are experiencing noticeable frustration. If any students misspell five of the first eight words, use the ESI to more accurately identify within word pattern features that need instruction.

1. switch  We can switch television channels with a remote control.  switch
2. smudge  There was a smudge on the mirror from her fingertips.  smudge
3. trapped  He was trapped in the elevator when the electricity went off.  trapped
4. scrape  The fall caused her to scrape her knee.  scrape
5. knotted  The knotted rope would not come undone.  knotted
6. shaving  He didn't start shaving with a razor until 11th grade.  shaving
7. squirt  Don't let the ketchup squirt out of the bottle too fast.  squirt
8. pounce  My cat likes to pounce on her toy mouse.  pounce
9. scratches  We had to paint over the scratches on the car.  scratches
10. crater  The crater of the volcano was filled with bubbling lava.  crater
11. sailor  When he was young, he wanted to go to sea as a sailor.  sailor
12. village  My Granddad lived in a small seaside village.  village
13. disloyal  Traitors are disloyal to their country.  disloyal
14. tunnel  The rockslide closed the tunnel through the mountain.  tunnel
15. humor  You need a sense of humor to understand his jokes.  humor
16. confidence  With each winning game, the team's confidence grew.  confidence
17. fortunate  The driver was fortunate to have snow tires on that winter day.  fortunate
18. visible  The singer on the stage was visible to everyone.  visible
19. circumference  The length of the equator is equal to the circumference of the earth.  circumference
20. civilization  We studied the ancient Mayan civilization last year.  civilization
21. monarchy  A monarchy is headed by a king or a queen.  monarchy
22. dominance  The dominance of the Yankees baseball team lasted for several years.  dominance
23. correspond  Many students correspond through e-mail.  correspond
24. illiterate  It is hard to get a job if you are illiterate.  illiterate
25. emphasize  I want to emphasize the importance of trying your best.  emphasize
26. opposition  The coach said the opposition would give us a tough game.  opposition
27. chlorine  My eyes were burning from the chlorine in the swimming pool.  chlorine
28. commotion  The audience heard the commotion backstage.  commotion
29. medicinal  Cough drops are to be taken for medicinal purposes only.  medicinal
30. irresponsible  It is irresponsible not to wear a seat belt.  irresponsible
31. succession  The firecrackers went off in rapid succession.  succession