Schonell Spelling Tests

Spelling Test A

net

can

fun

top

rag

sat

hit

lid

cap

had

let

doll

bell

yes

then

may

tree

by

ill

egg

land

how

your

cold

talk

flower

son

seem

four

loud

ground

lowest

brain

write

amount

noise

remain

hoped

worry

dancing

damage

else

through

entered

cough

fitted

spare

daughter

edge

search

concert

domestic

topic

method

freeze

avoid

duties

recent

type

instance

liquid

assist

readily

guess

attendance

description

welfare

various

genuine

interfere

accordance

mechanical

anxious

signature

allotment

approval

accomplished

remittance

financial

capacity

surplus

exceptionally

successful

preliminary

resource

prologue

colonel

coarse

referring

courteous

exhibition

affectionately

attorney

pinnacle

toboggan

definite

guarantee

anniversary

irresistible

hydraulic

Spelling Test B

see

cut

mat

in

ran

bag

ten

hat

dad

bed

leg

dot

pen

yet

hay

good

till

be

with

from

time

call

help

week

pie

boat

mind

sooner

year

dream

sight

mouth

large

might

brought

mistake

pair

while

skate

stayed

yolk

island

nerve

join

fare

iron

health

direct

calm

headache

final

circus

increase

slippery

lodge

style

bargain

copies

guest

policy

view

library

cushion

safety

patient

account

earliest

institution

similar

generous

orchestra

equally

individual

merely

enthusiastic

appreciate

familiar

source

immediate

breathe

permanent

sufficient

broach

customary

especially

materially

cemetery

leisure

accredited

fraternally

subterranean

apparatus

portmanteau

politician

miscellaneous

mortgage

equipped

exaggerate

amateur

committee

Scoring

Easier way to think of it: Add 5 to the first digit (i.e. the ‘2’ of ‘25’). See example:

*Learner scored 25. Add ‘5’ to the first digit*

*=*

*75*

*=*

*7.5*

*Conversion table to convert tenths of a year into months (i.e. spelling age)*

*Example: 7.5 = Spelling Age of 7 years 6 months*

Note: People comment that ‘portmanteau’ is a highly unusual word nowadays. However, if

your learner gets that far, you don’t really need to worry too much about his spelling anyway! The Schonell test (although old) is generally considered to be a very useful, reliable test of spelling ability and it has the advantage of not being used in the classroom nowadays.

Administering the test

Sit the learner at a desk or table in a quiet space.

Provide a piece of lined paper and get him to put his name and the date at the top.

Choose what you believe will be an appropriate point to start the test. (See below for

guidance)

*.1 = 1 month*

*.6 = 7 months*

*.2 = 2 months*

*.7 = 8 months*

*.3 = 4 months*

*.8 = 10 months*

*.4 = 5 months*

*.9 = 11 months*

*.5 = 6 months*

Spelling Age = no. of correctly spelt words + 5

10

for example: SA = 25 + 5 = 7.5 years

10

Dictate each word in turn, saying the word individually, then putting it into a sentence and

finally repeating the word.

e.g.

*time*

*Can you tell me the time?*

*time*

Dictate slowly and clearly. Never hurry the learner and repeat the word as often as is

needed.

Continue until the learner has made at least 5 consecutive errors. The official guidelines are

10 consecutive errors, but this can be unnecessarily off-putting for a learner. In practice, you will generally see when a learner has reached his limit.

Score as explained in the scoring instructions.

Deciding where to start

If you know that the learner can spell words like ‘sight’, ‘mouth’, etc, then there is no point starting right at the beginning. You will just waste time and energy. If you are testing a group of learners together, you may have to, however.

Choose a starting point where you believe the learner will be able to cope with the words.

Dictate the first line of five words. If there were no problems with that line, just continue. When scoring, you credit all the words before that line.

If there were problems with that line, complete the line and then work backwards until he

gets a line with no errors. Credit all spellings until that point.

Retesting

Strictly speaking, you should not re-test within a year of the previous test if you are using a standardized, normed test. Six months is an acceptable time delay, but it is usually unwise to retest within six months.

Note: The Schonell Test (both forms) is available on Steps. It is exactly the same test and is

marked in the same way. However, it has been found from experience that there is often a variation in scores between the written test and the computerized one. From observation, it appears that many learners in this category are much more inclined to make careless errors on computer, than when they have to write the word for themselves. It is a good idea to give the following instructions, when doing the test on computer:

“When you hear the word, type it out. Then look at it and check it before you press ‘enter’

If you are re-testing to check on progress, then use the second form of the test. Also, make

sure that you are re-testing in the same format as you originally tested. In other words, if you originally tested spelling using the computer, then do the re-test in the same way.

Spelling Test Sheet

Name:

Date:

Credit: + Score: = Total:

Spelling Age:

1

21

41

2

22

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3

23

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24

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25

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