Spalding Spelling Scale

The Spalding Spelling Scale consists of eight standardized, fifty-word tests of equal difficulty. The Scale was developed by J. Cayce Morrison, Ph.D. and William A. McCall, Ph.D.; Dr. Morrison was a Specialist in Educational Measurements at the State Department of Education, Albany, New York. Dr. McCall was a professor of educational psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

The words were selected from the Spalding Spelling/Vocabulary Word List of high frequency words compiled by Dr. Leonard P. Ayres and Dr. B. R. Buckingham. The authors acknowledged the assistance of these gentlemen and expressed appreciation for the teachers and superintendents of the New York State schools who participated in the norming samples. These norms represent average achievement for 57,337 students. The grade scores for each test range from Grade 1.0 to Grade 13, first-year college.

Mrs. Spalding incorporated the Spalding Spelling/Vocabulary Word list in The Writing Road to Reading and obtained permission to reproduce the Spalding Spelling Scale. This Scale is now in the public domain. Therefore, we have incorporated the pertinent parts in the SEI Spelling Assessment Manual. Spelling scores on standardized achievement tests should be at least one year above the grade placement for each child to assure subject area competence and a smooth transition to the next grade.

In The Spalding Method, the Spalding Spelling Scale is used …

- to identify the initial instructional level of individual students and the class.
- to evaluate monthly student/class progress.
- to gather information to refine instruction.

List 1 is used for the pretest and posttest. Lists 2 through 8 are administered on or about the same day each succeeding month.
Spelling is a complex skill. The more we analyze students' progress, the more adept we become at diagnosing difficulties and adjusting our teaching to meet every child's instructional needs.

© 2022, Spalding Education International. All rights reserved.

Spalding Spelling Scale List 1

1. run	The boy can *run*.	run
2. top	The *top* will spin.	top
3. red	My apple is *red*.	red
4. book	I lost my *book*.	book
5. sea	The *sea* is rough.	sea
6. play	I will *play* with you.	play
7. lay	*Lay* the book down.	lay
8. led	He *led* the horse to the barn.	led
9. add	*Add* these figures.	add
10. alike	These books are *alike*.	alike
11. mine	That bicycle is *mine*.	mine
12. with	Mary will go *with* you.	with
13. easy	Our lessons are not *easy*.	easy
14. shut	Please *shut* the door.	shut
15. done	Has he *done* the work?	done
16. body	The chest is part of the *body*.	body
17. anyway	I shall go *anyway*.	anyway
18. omit	Please *omit* the next verse.	omit
19. fifth	This is my *fifth* trip.	fifth
20. reason	Give a *reason* for being late.	reason
21. perfect	This is a *perfect* day.	perfect
22. friend	She is my *friend*.	friend
23. getting	I am *getting* tired.	getting
24. nearly	*Nearly* all of the candy is gone.	nearly
25. desire	I have no *desire* to go.	desire
26. arrange	Please *arrange* a meeting for me.	arrange
27. written	I have *written* four letters.	written
28. search	*Search* for your book.	search
29. popular	He is a *popular* boy.	popular
30. interest	Show some *interest* in your work.	interest
31. pleasant	She is very *pleasant*.	pleasant
32. therefore	*Therefore* I cannot go.	therefore
33. folks	My *folks* have gone away.	folks
34. celebration	There will be a *celebration* today.	celebration
35. minute	Wait a *minute*.	minute
36. divide	*Divide* this number by ten.	divide
37. necessary	It is *necessary* for you to study.	necessary
38. height	What is your *height*?	height
39. reference	He made *reference* to the lesson.	reference
40. career	The future holds a bright *career* for you.	career
41. character	He has a good *character*.	character
42. separate	*Separate* these papers.	separate
43. committee	The *committee* is small.	committee
44. annual	This is the *annual* meeting.	annual
45. principle	The theory is wrong in *principle*.	principle
46. immense	The man is carrying an *immense* load.	immense
47. judgment	The teacher's *judgment* is good.	judgment
48. acquaintance	He is an *acquaintance* of mine.	acquaintance
49. discipline	The army *discipline* was strict.	discipline
50. lieutenant	He is a *lieutenant* in the army.	lieutenant

Spalding Spelling Scale List 2

1. can	I *can* go with you.	can
2. ten	I have *ten* cents.	ten
3. old	How *old* are you?	old
4. six	I am *six* years old.	six
5. ice	He slipped on the *ice*.	ice
6. child	The *child* is ill.	child
7. his	*His* arm was broken.	his
8. that	*That* is my dog.	that
9. far	How *far* are you going?	far
10. form	*Form* a circle.	form
11. glad	I am *glad* to see you.	glad
12. same	Her name is the *same* as mine.	same
13. night	Owls come out at *night*.	night
14. cent	I haven't a *cent*.	cent
15. within	Keep *within* the law.	within
16. point	*Point* toward the north.	point
17. money	How much *money* do I owe you?	money
18. picture	Whose *picture* is this?	picture
19. change	Do not *change* your position.	change
20. number	*Number* your papers.	number
21. struck	He was *struck* by lightning.	struck
22. personal	It is a *personal* matter.	personal
23. address	Do you know her *address*?	address
24. several	I have *several* hats.	several
25. known	I have *known* her a week.	known
26. their	*Their* homes were flooded.	their
27. perhaps	*Perhaps* you are right.	perhaps
28. popular	Golf is a *popular* game.	popular
29. against	He fell *against* the wall.	against
30. treasure	The hidden *treasure* was found.	treasure
31. investigate	I will *investigate* for you.	investigate
32. certain	I am *certain* of the date.	certain
33. really	Are you *really* going?	really
34. conference	The teachers had a *conference.*	conference
35. business	His *business* is important.	business
36. citizen	Mr. Smith is a good *citizen*.	citizen
37. elaborate	The decorations were *elaborate*.	elaborate
38. association	They formed a large *association*.	association
39. evidence	We have plenty of *evidence*.	evidence
40. secretary	My *secretary* is accurate.	secretary
41. character	He has a good *character*.	character
42. cordially	He welcomed us *cordially*.	cordially
43. especially	I am *especially* happy today.	especially
44. disappoint	I will not *disappoint* you.	disappoint
45. decision	The boy made an excellent *decision*.	decision
46. parliament	We attended *Parliament*.	parliament
47. recommend	Can you *recommend* that book?	recommend
48. endeavor	*Endeavor* to do your best.	endeavor
49. privilege	It is your *privilege* to go.	privilege
50. villain	The burglar was a *villain*.	villain

Spalding Spelling Scale List 3

1. is	He *is* here.	is
2. now	Come *now*.	now
3. little	*Little* children play.	little
4. did	*Did* you go?	did
5. hat	Put on your *hat*.	hat
6. hot	The rolls are *hot*.	hot
7. was	She *was* here yesterday.	was
8. ran	Bob *ran*.	ran
9. told	She *told* a story.	told
10. sold	He *sold* his top.	sold
11. hope	I *hope* to go away.	hope
12. room	This is your *room*.	room
13. light	The *light* hurts my eyes.	light
14. stamp	*Stamp* the letter.	stamp
15. push	*Push* the door open.	push
16. third	The *third* problem is easy.	third
17. few	I have read *few* books.	few
18. wire	The basket is made of *wire*.	wire
19. tax	People *tax* themselves.	tax
20. there	*There* goes the postman.	there
21. raise	*Raise* the window.	raise
22. request	Your *request* will be granted.	request
23. truly	The money is *truly* yours.	truly
24. cities	Many people live in *cities*.	cities
25. sail	Boats *sail* on water.	sail
26. whose	*Whose* apple is this?	whose
27. attempt	*Attempt* to spell correctly.	attempt
28. search	*Search* carefully for your book.	search
29. consider	I will *consider* your request.	consider
30. complete	John's work is *complete*.	complete
31. piece	Would you like a *piece* of cake?	piece
32. system	The city has a water *system*.	system
33. national	Our *national* flag is beautiful.	national
34. refer	To whom do you *refer*?	refer
35. absence	Can you explain your *absence*?	absence
36. majority	We will do what the *majority* wish.	majority
37. unfortunate	It was an *unfortunate* accident.	unfortunate
38. session	The next *session* will be important.	session
39. discussion	We had an interesting *discussion*.	discussion
40. experience	What *experience* have you had.	experience
41. proceed	*Proceed* with the explanation.	proceed
42. practical	This is a *practical* example.	practical
43. preliminary	This is a *preliminary* report.	preliminary
44. receipt	Keep the *receipt*.	receipt
45. possess	What talent do you *possess*?	possess
46. restaurant	Who owns this *restaurant*?	restaurant
47. parallel	*Parallel* lines never meet.	parallel
48. physician	He is a good *physician*.	physician
49. kerosene	*Kerosene* is an oil that burns.	kerosene
50. pneumonia	Heavy colds cause *pneumonia*.	pneumonia

Spalding Spelling Scale List 4

1. she	Is *she* at home?	she
2. man	That *man* is good.	man
3. good	Be a *good* boy.	good
4. this	*This* book is mine.	this
5. over	The ball is *over* the fence.	over
6. say	You must *say* your prayers.	say
7. belong	Does this pen *belong* to you?	belong
8. stand	Please *stand* up.	stand
9. sick	The doctor is *sick*.	sick
10. foot	I hurt my *foot*.	foot
11. sister	My *sister* is here.	sister
12. inside	Come *inside* the tent.	inside
13. mail	Please *mail* my letter.	mail
14. two	I have *two* apples.	two
15. began	I *began* work last week.	began
16. watch	*Watch* that man.	watch
17. happen	It does not *happen* often.	happen
18. sight	I lost *sight* of the bird.	sight
19. bridge	The *bridge* is large.	bridge
20. front	The *front* of the car is smashed.	front
21. elect	I hope they *elect* my choice.	elect
22. refuse	I *refuse* to go.	refuse
23. pleasure	It was a great *pleasure*.	pleasure
24. vacation	I had two months' *vacation*.	vacation
25. repair	I must *repair* my wheel.	repair
26. surprise	It will be a *surprise*.	surprise
27. select	Please *select* your gifts.	select
28. weigh	How much do you *weigh*?	weigh
29. publication	It was a good *publication*.	publication
30. adopt	He will *adopt* the child.	adopt
31. century	That happened a *century* ago.	century
32. assist	Will you *assist* me?	assist
33. summon	Please *summon* help.	summon
34. invitation	I accept the *invitation*.	invitation
35. automobile	I have a new *automobile*.	automobile
36. colonies	The *colonies* will govern themselves.	colonies
37. foreign	She is of *foreign* birth.	foreign
38. arrangement	I like the *arrangement*.	arrangement
39. campaign	The *campaign* started today.	campaign
40. imagine	Can you *imagine* such a thing?	imagine
41. extreme	His tastes are *extreme*.	extreme
42. organization	It is a large *organization*.	organization
43. immediate	I had an *immediate* reply.	immediate
44. employees	The *employees* had a raise in pay.	employees
45. accommodate	I will gladly *accommodate* you.	accommodate
46. superintendent	He is the *superintendent*.	superintendent
47. allege	I *allege* he is not guilty.	allege
48. stationery	He gave me a box of *stationery*.	stationery
49. vaguely	His impression was *vaguely* remembered.	vaguely
50. sovereign	The *sovereign* prince is ill.	sovereign

Spalding Spelling Scale List 5

1. is	The apple *is* red.	is
2. now	*Now* is the time for play.	now
3. you	*You* must be quiet.	you
4. all	*All* the boys are here.	all
5. must	You *must* recite today.	must
6. come	*Come* with me.	come
7. door	Close the *door*.	door
8. yard	This stick is a *yard* long.	yard
9. got	I *got* a new hat yesterday.	got
10. blow	*Blow* out the light.	blow
11. cast	*Cast* aside your worries.	cast
12. blue	Her eyes are *blue*.	blue
13. eye	My *eye* hurts.	eye
14. they	*They* will be waiting.	they
15. able	He is *able* to go out.	able
16. dash	He made a *dash* for the door.	dash
17. begun	Have you *begun* your work?	begun
18. stood	He *stood* erect.	stood
19. offer	I made them a good *offer*.	offer
20. rule	What *rule* did you use?	rule
21. aboard	He is now *aboard* the ship.	aboard
22. district	It happened in your *district*.	district
23. navy	I want to join the *navy*.	navy
24. beautiful	What a *beautiful* tree!	beautiful
25. trouble	Keep out of *trouble*.	trouble
26. period	Every *period* is filled.	period
27. connection	There is no *connection* here.	connection
28. wear	*Wear* your new uniforms.	wear
29. machine	The *machine* is broken.	machine
30. secure	The fastenings are *secure*.	secure
31. total	What is the *total* score?	total
32. difference	There is little *difference*.	difference
33. official	He is the best *official* we have.	official
34. accept	I will *accept* your offer.	accept
35. various	I have *various* kinds of candy.	various
36. assure	I will *assure* him of his safety.	assure
37. expense	A car is an *expense*.	expense
38. testimony	His *testimony* could not be shaken.	testimony
39. coarse	This material is *coarse*.	coarse
40. independent	He is *independent*.	independent
41. athletic	She is *athletic*.	athletic
42. bicycle	I have a new *bicycle*.	bicycle
43. convenient	It will be *convenient* for me.	convenient
44. exquisite	The trimmings are *exquisite*.	exquisite
45. orchestra	The *orchestra* played several times.	orchestra
46. thoroughly	I am *thoroughly* displeased.	thoroughly
47. cemetery	Let's go to the *cemetery*.	cemetery
48. tortoise	The *tortoise* lives on land.	tortoise
49. appropriate	Congress will *appropriate* large sums.	appropriate
50. proficiency	His *proficiency* was remarkable.	proficiency

Spalding Spelling Scale List 6

1. it	*It* is time to go.	it
2. the	*The* snow is falling.	the
3. will	*Will* you go with me?	will
4. your	*Your* paper is soiled.	your
5. make	*Make* up your mind now.	make
6. hand	Give me your *hand*.	hand
7. yes	*Yes*, I will go.	yes
8. bring	*Bring* me another book.	bring
9. north	I expect to go up *north*.	north
10. block	We live on the same *block*.	block
11. card	Did you leave your *card*?	card
12. post	The *post* has fallen.	post
13. glass	Do not break that *glass*.	glass
14. would	*Would* you like some cake?	would
15. gone	They have been *gone* an hour.	gone
16. fell	He *fell* and hurt himself.	fell
17. collect	Please *collect* the papers.	collect
18. fix	The men will *fix* the chair.	fix
19. suffer	She did not *suffer* any.	suffer
20. carry	*Carry* this package for me.	carry
21. jail	He is in *jail*.	jail
22. restrain	He could not *restrain* his anger.	restrain
23. fourth	This is the *fourth* period.	fourth
24. flight	The birds' *flight* was rapid.	flight
25. entrance	The *entrance* is closed.	entrance.
26. addition	The *addition* is correct.	addition
27. firm	The *firm* is bankrupt.	firm
28. entertain	I will *entertain* your mother.	entertain
29. toward	We went *toward* the north.	toward
30. honor	Have you no *honor*?	honor
31. mention	Do not *mention* my name.	mention
32. examination	The *examination* was difficult.	examination
33. victim	He is a *victim* of circumstances.	victim
34. impossible	It is *impossible* to hear.	impossible
35. decide	*Decide* for yourself.	decide
36. relief	My *relief* was sincere.	relief
37. responsible	Who is *responsible* for this?	responsible
38. principal	He is *principal* of the school.	principal
39. columns	How many *columns* have you?	columns
40. individual	Who is this *individual*?	individual
41. sincerely	He spoke *sincerely*.	sincerely
42. calendar	Where is the *calendar*?	calendar
43. artificial	Those flowers are *artificial*.	artificial
44. familiar	Those sounds are *familiar*.	familiar
45. perceived	I *perceived* the answer.	perceived
46. surgeon	He is a great *surgeon*.	surgeon
47. enthusiasm	This *enthusiasm* is wonderful.	enthusiasm
48. extraordinary	He is an *extraordinary* person.	extraordinary
49. immediately	I left *immediately* after you.	immediately
50. lieutenant	He is first *lieutenant*.	lieutenant

Spalding Spelling Scale List 7

1. and	You *and* I will go.	and
2. last	I went the *last* time.	last
3. we	*We* are tired.	we
4. out	Come *out* of the dark.	out
5. make	*Make* him come in.	make
6. ring	*Ring* the bell.	ring
7. low	The ceilings are *low*.	low
8. tell	*Tell* the truth.	tell
9. white	Her teeth are very *white*.	white
10. spring	The cat will *spring* at you.	spring
11. south	The birds have gone *south*.	south
12. town	What *town* is this?	town
13. party	We had a fine *party*.	party
14. any	Have you *any* money?	any
15. suit	Is that *suit* new?	suit
16. fight	Wild animals *fight*.	fight
17. file	*File* these letters.	file
18. born	You were *born* in 2003.	born
19. built	He *built* a canoe.	built
20. chain	Make a daisy *chain*.	chain
21. shed	The horse is in the *shed*.	shed
22. royal	The *royal* palace was destroyed.	royal
23. population	What is the *population* of Boston?	population
24. travel	I shall *travel* a great deal.	travel
25. importance	The work is of great *importance*.	importance
26. employ	We *employ* two girls.	employ
27. region	What *region* are you in?	region
28. salary	What is your *salary*?	salary
29. success	Her *success* is wonderful.	success
30. promise	*Promise* to keep quiet.	promise
31. arrive	When does the train *arrive*?	arrive
32. particular	I am not *particular*.	particular
33. estimate	Can you *estimate* the amount?	estimate
34. concern	He is a member of our *concern*.	concern
35. entitle	It will *entitle* you to a prize.	entitle
36. occupy	Do not *occupy* all the space.	occupy
37. beginning	This is the *beginning* of a new chapter.	beginning
38. apparent	His delight was *apparent*.	apparent
39. desirable	This location is *desirable*.	desirable
40. innocent	Are you *innocent* of this deed?	innocent
41. appreciate	I *appreciate* your kindness.	appreciate
42. disease	This *disease* is incurable.	disease
43. associates	They are business *associates*.	associates
44. finances	The *finances* were well handled.	finances
45. recommended	You are well *recommended*.	recommended
46. precipice	She fell over the *precipice*.	precipice
47. physician	He is my *physician*.	physician
48. mortgage	The *mortgage* is due tomorrow.	mortgage
49. dispensary	There is a new *dispensary* in our town.	dispensary
50. guarantee	I will *guarantee* his work.	guarantee

Spalding Spelling Scale List 8

1. go	You may *go* home.	go
2. up	Put *up* the window.	up
3. my	*My* head aches.	my
4. time	What *time* is it?	time
5. street	What *street* is this?	street
6. live	Where do you *live*?	live
7. soft	The ice cream is *soft*.	soft
8. five	I have *five* cents.	five
9. spent	I *spent* all my money.	spent
10. river	This *river* is small.	river
11. deep	The river is *deep*.	deep
12. stay	*Stay* in the house.	stay
13. upon	He came *upon* a mine.	upon
14. could	*Could* you mend the toy?	could
15. track	The *track* is six miles long.	track
16. buy	Please *buy* me some candy.	buy
17. provide	I will *provide* for the future.	provide
18. goes	He *goes* away today.	goes
19. center	Point to the *center* of the circle.	center
20. death	His *death* was very sad.	death
21. retire	It is time to *retire*.	retire
22. objection	Have you any *objection*?	objection
23. proper	Is this the *proper* heading?	proper
24. rapid	His work was *rapid*.	rapid
25. carried	I *carried* the banner.	carried
26. property	The *property* is mine.	property
27. convict	The *convict* has escaped.	convict
28. visitor	We have a *visitor*.	visitor
29. drown	The flood will *drown* the plants.	drown
30. wreck	There was a sad *wreck* today.	wreck
31. supply	The *supply* is exhausted.	supply
32. affair	It was a gala *affair*.	affair
33. accident	It was an *accident*.	accident
34. associate	I will not *associate* with them.	associate
35. political	There is a *political* meeting tonight.	political
36. probably	*Probably* we shall be late.	probably
37. application	You must file your *application*.	application
38. ascending	I was *ascending* the stairs.	ascending
39. extremely	We are *extremely* thankful to you.	extremely
40. leisure	We spent our *leisure* time fishing.	leisure
41. emergency	I reached for the *emergency* brake.	emergency
42. foreigners	The *foreigners* enjoyed the food.	foreigners
43. development	The *development* was perfect.	development
44. intelligent	She is an *intelligent* child.	intelligent
45. seized	The man *seized* the falling child.	seized
46. orchestra	The *orchestra* played well.	orchestra
47. syllables	Pronounce the *syllables* distinctly.	syllables
48. mortgage	The *mortgage* is due.	mortgage
49. persistence	Her *persistence* was amazing.	persistence
50. incessant	The talking was *incessant.*	incessant

Class Instructional Level Tally Sheet

Teacher:_____ Year:_____

School:_____ Grade:_____

Directions: To determine the class's instructional level, place a tally representing each student's instructional level in the box designating the Spalding Spelling/ Vocabulary word section.

1. run
2. top
3. red
4. book
5. sea
6. play

Sections A - G

7. lay
8. led

Section H

9. add
10. alike

Section I

11. mine
12. with

Section J

13. easy
14. shut

Section K

15. done
16. body

Section L

17. anyway
18. omit

Section M

19. fifth
20. reason

Section N

21. perfect
22. friend
23. getting

Section O

24. nearly
25. desire

Section P

26. arrange
27. written

Section Q

28. search
29. popular
30. interest

Section R

31. pleasant
32. therefore

Section S

33. folks
34. celebration
35. minute

Section T

36. divide
37. necessary

Section U

38. height
39. reference
40. career

Section V

41. character
42. separate

Section W

43. committee
44. annual

Section X

45. principle
46. immense

Section Y

47. judgment
48. acquaintance
49. discipline
50. lieutenant

Section Z

Spalding

Spalding Spelling Assessment Scoring Guide

Directions: Use the Scoring Guide to determine the students' grade status and their S/V Word List Section instructional level.

Words Correct	Grade Status	S/V Word List Section	Words Correct	Grade Status	S/V Word List Section
0	0.0	-	25	4.7	P
1	1.3	A-G	26	4.9	Q
2	1.3	A-G	27	5.1	Q
3	1.7	A-G	28	5.2	R
4	1.8	A-G	29	5.4	R
5	1.9	A-G	30	5.6	R
6	2.0	A-G	31	5.8	S
7	2.1	H	32	6.0	S
8	2.2	H	33	6.2	T
9	2.3	I	34	6.4	T
10	2.4	I	35	6.6	T
11	2.5	J	36	6.8	U
12	2.6	J	37	7.0	U
13	2.7	K	38	7.3	V
14	2.9	K	39	7.5	V
15	3.1	L	40	7.7	V
16	3.3	L	41	8.0	W
17	3.4	M	42	8.4	W
18	3.5	M	43	8.8	W
19	3.7	N	44	9.3	X
20	3.9	N	45	9.8	X
21	4.1	O	46	10.5	X
22	4.2	O	47	11.2	Y
23	4.3	O	48	11.7	Y
24	4.5	P	49	12.5	Y
25	4.7	P	50	13.0	Z

© 2022, Spalding Education International. All rights reserved.