

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.

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