

The Gentry Developmental Spelling Test

Call out each of the following words. Use each word in a sentence and say the word again. (These words were selected because they represent specific aspects of phonetic forms that children systematically spell in different ways at different levels of developmental spelling).

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|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. monster | 5. hiked | 9. bumped |
| 2. united | 6. human | 10.type |
| 3. dress | 7. eagle | |
| 4. bottom | 8. closed | |

Analyze the Spelling

Look at the child's spelling of each word. Find the type of error in the scoring chart that best matches the child's spelling. If no match is found, consult the stage descriptions to determine a match.

1. Designate the appropriate developmental level beside each of the 10 words.
2. Count the number of spellings at each stage. The child's probable stage is the level most frequently used on this test. A majority of the spellings usually fall into one category. Verify the test findings by noting which stage you see the child using in invented spelling in authentic writing.

Scoring Chart

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Precommunicative	Semiphonetic	Phonetic	Transitional	Conventional
1. random letters	mtr	mostr	monstur	monster
2. random	u	unitd	younighted	united
3. random	jrs	jrass	dres	dress
4. random	bt	bodm	bottum	bottom
5. random	h	hikt	hicked	hiked
6. random	um	humn	humun	human
7. random	eg	ehl	egul	eagle
8. random	kid	klosd	closed	closed
9. random	bt	bopt	bumped	bumped
10. random	tp	tip	tipe	type

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