



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

$$\text{Spelling Age} = \frac{\text{no. of correctly spelt words}}{10} + 5$$

for example: $SA = \frac{25}{10} + 5 = 7.5$ years

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)

.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				

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)

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: _____

1	21	41
2	22	42
3	23	43
4	24	44
5	25	45
6	26	46
7	27	47
8	28	48
9	29	49
10	30	50
11	31	51
12	32	52
13	33	53
14	34	54
15	35	55
16	36	56
17	37	57
18	38	58
19	39	59
20	40	60

Credit: _____ + Score: _____ = Total: _____

Spelling Age: _____