

SCHONELL TESTING

HISTORY:

The Schonells worked closely with Orton and Gillingham when they organised phonograms into a sequential, sound-symbol based, linguistically logical, understandable teaching order. Their spelling test is still relevant today, as is the work of Orton-Gillingham. The Schonell Spelling age test provides an accurate measure of a child's spelling ability according to the sequence most spelling programs would follow.

RANGE OF APPLICABILITY:

Foundation to Year 10 (5 yo to 15 yo)

SEATING:

Best results are obtained when children are seated one to a desk, facing the teacher at the front of the room.

HOW TO USE:

Use Test A the first year and then alternate between Test A and Test B each year. This test could be readministered at the end of your first year of Smart Words to highlight the students' improvement. Alternatively, it could be completed early in the new school year to indicate where your students should commence, and to check on what they have retained over the long holiday break. Tracking your students' scores over the years will give your school strong performance data.

1. Issue each child with the A3 testing sheet proforma supplied
2. Each child should record their name, year level, date, and if possible their age, at the top of their sheet.
3. Inform the children that they will be given words to write as a spelling test and that they should write the words across the page.
4. Each word is dictated, embedded in an explanatory sentence, and then dictated again. E.g. "Net." "The fish was caught in a net." "Net."
5. After each group of five words, advise children to start a new line.
6. Children should continue writing words until they fail five consecutive words. Collect their papers in finishing order. Children draw or read while waiting for the remainder of the class to finish.

HINTS:

Try to guess the students' capability so the weakest children sit together in the front row with the strongest in the last row. This ensures that weaker spellers are not tempted to copy from competent spellers. It also allows the teacher to slowly work their way to the back of the room, as the test progresses and weaker children finish the test earlier. The poorer spellers won't feel so discouraged if those around them have also finished.

ANALYSING DATA OPTIONS

OPTION 1: AUTOMATIC ANALYSIS

EXCEL SPREADSHEET

- After every student has completed the spelling age test, record their names and scores from lowest to highest into the excel spreadsheet: Schonell Spelling Age Test Results
 - This document calculates the Spelling Age of each student and produces the Smart Words Placement Test Level that a student should be tested at

	A	B	C	F	G
1	Student Name	Number of words correct	Spelling Score (Decimal)	Spelling Age	Smart Words Placement Test
2	Tom	0			
3	Harry	0			
4	Fred	4		5.4 5 y 5 m	B
5	Meg	4		5.4 5 y 5 m	B
6	Sam	4		5.4 5 y 5 m	B
7	Kim	4		5.4 5 y 5 m	B
8	Ted	7		5.7 5 y 8 m	B
9	Pam	8		5.8 5 y 10 m	B
10	Ann	8		5.8 5 y 10 m	B
11	Jen	9		5.9 5 y 11 m	B
12	Ben	10		6.0 6 y 0 m	C
13	Tim	12		6.2 6 y 2 m	C
14	Jan	13		6.3 6 y 4 m	D
15	Bob	17		6.7 6 y 8 m	E
16	Pat	17		6.7 6 y 8 m	E
17	Jo	18		6.8 6 y 10 m	E
18	Sue	18		6.8 6 y 10 m	E
19	Ed	19		6.9 6 y 11 m	E
20	Nic	24		7.4 7 y 5 m	G
21	Jules	25		7.5 7 y 6 m	G
22	Amanda	27		7.7 7 y 8 m	H

- Use this information to group your students for the Placement Test

	A	B	C	F	G	I	J	K	L
1	Student Name	Number of words correct	Spelling Score (Decimal)	Spelling Age	Smart Words Placement Test				
2	Tom	0							
3	Harry	0							
4	Fred	4		5.4 5 y 5 m	B				
5	Meg	4		5.4 5 y 5 m	B				
6	Sam	4		5.4 5 y 5 m	B				
7	Kim	4		5.4 5 y 5 m	B				
8	Ted	7		5.7 5 y 8 m	B				
9	Pam	8		5.8 5 y 10 m	B				
10	Ann	8		5.8 5 y 10 m	B				
11	Jen	9		5.9 5 y 11 m	B				
12	Ben	10		6.0 6 y 0 m	C				
13	Tim	12		6.2 6 y 2 m	C				
14	Jan	13		6.3 6 y 4 m	D				
15	Bob	17		6.7 6 y 8 m	E				
16	Pat	17		6.7 6 y 8 m	E				
17	Jo	18		6.8 6 y 10 m	E				
18	Sue	18		6.8 6 y 10 m	E				
19	Ed	19		6.9 6 y 11 m	E				
20	Nic	24		7.4 7 y 5 m	G				
21	Jules	25		7.5 7 y 6 m	G				
22	Amanda	27		7.7 7 y 8 m	H				

Grouping of Students for SW Placement Test

- Placement Test B (Letter-Name-Sound-Symbol) 8 students
- Placement Test C 3 students
- Placement Test E 5 students
- Placement Test G 3 students

OPTION 2: MANUAL ANALYSIS

CORRECTION AND SCORING:

- After every student has completed the spelling age test, record their names and scores from lowest to highest.
- Use the formula below to work out every student's spelling age.

$$\text{Spelling Age} = \frac{\text{number correct}}{10} \text{ plus } 5$$

$$\text{e.g. } 25 \text{ correct becomes } \frac{25}{10} + 5$$

Spelling Age is 7.5

- It will be noted that results appear as decimal fractions of a year. Therefore, it is advisable to convert the decimal fractions to months using the table to the right.

Decimal	Months
.1	-1
.2	-3
.3	-4
.4	-5
.5	-6
.6	-7
.7	-8
.8	-10
.9	-11