

Pseudoword Spelling Test

Administration Guide

Tell your students that they will not know these words because they are made-up words so they will sound strange. They need to listen to the word and write it the way it sounds. Students write their answers next to the numbers in the column headed WORD. Say each word twice.

DO NOT give students the “sounds like” words.

They are just there to ensure you pronounce the words correctly.

You can listen to a recording of the words in this assessment to help with correct pronunciation. Go to the Assessment section of www.spelling.co.nz.

Pseudoword Spelling

		<i>Sounds like</i>
1.	zinner	dinner
2.	noster	roster
3.	vumly	glumly
4.	bistful	fistful
5.	quepping	stepping
6.	croggy	foggy
7.	glundle	bundle
8.	traddle	paddle
9.	fletter	better
10.	wanning	spanning
11.	kizely	wisely
12.	cleeper	sleeper
13.	hoats	boats
14.	wooked	spooked
15.	paiming	claiming
16.	roaking	soaking
17.	stimed	mimed
18.	droofer	roofer
19.	snaven	haven
20.	cheedle	wheedle
21.	tinger	singer
22.	nardly	hardly
23.	zoring	pouring
24.	yerd	heard
25.	thocky	unvoiced 'th' (as in think) – rocky
26.	chaxed	faxed
27.	shoaming	roaming
28.	thubbed	voiced 'th' (as in that) – rubbed
29.	groyful	joyful
30.	yowbest	how best
31.	jooshing	pushing

Pseudoword Spelling Test

Student Sheet

Name Class Date

Word	Consonant sounds (written with one letter)	Blends – initial and final	Long and short vowel sounds	Other vowel sounds	Consonant sounds (digraph patterns)	Spelling rule	Suffixes
1 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
5 <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
8 <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
12 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
13 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				
14 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
15 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
16 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
17 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
18 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
19 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Word	Consonant sounds (written with one letter)	Blends – initial and final	Long and short vowel sounds	Other vowel sounds	Consonant sounds (digraph patterns)	Spelling rule	Suffixes
20 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
21 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
22 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
23 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
24 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			
25 <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
27 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
28 <input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29 <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole words TOTAL /31 Word parts TOTAL /120	Consonants (one letter) /33	Blends /12	Long /11 Short /15	Other vowels /13	Consonants (digraphs) /8	Spelling rules /10	Suffixes /28

Pseudoword Spelling Test

Marking Master

Word	Consonant sounds (written with one letter)	Blends – initial and final	Long and short vowel sounds	Other vowel sounds	Consonant sounds (digraph patterns)	Spelling rule	Suffixes
1 zinner <input type="checkbox"/>	z		i	s		nn	er
2 noster <input type="checkbox"/>	n	st	o	s			er
3 vumly <input type="checkbox"/>	v m		u	s			ly
4 bistful <input type="checkbox"/>	b	st	i	s			ful
5 quepping <input type="checkbox"/>			e	s	qu	pp	ing
6 croggy <input type="checkbox"/>		cr	o	s		gg	y
7 glundle <input type="checkbox"/>		gl nd	u	s			le
8 traddle <input type="checkbox"/>		tr	a	s		dd	le
9 fletter <input type="checkbox"/>		fl	e	s		tt	er
10 wanning <input type="checkbox"/>	w		a	s		nn	ing
11 kizely <input type="checkbox"/>	k z/s		i_e				ly
12 cleeper, cleaper <input type="checkbox"/>	p	cl	ee/ea				er
13 hoats, hotes <input type="checkbox"/>	h t s		o_e/oa				
14 wooked <input type="checkbox"/>	w k		oo				ed
15 paiming, paming <input type="checkbox"/>	p m		a/ai				ing
16 roking, rowking, roaking <input type="checkbox"/>	r k		o/oa/ow				ing
17 stimed <input type="checkbox"/>	m	st	i				ed
18 droofer <input type="checkbox"/>	f	dr	oo/ew/ue/u				er
19 snave, snaive <input type="checkbox"/>	v	sn	a_e/ai_e				

Word	Consonant sounds (written with one letter)	Blends – initial and final	Long and short vowel sounds	Other vowel sounds	Consonant sounds (digraph patterns)	Spelling rule	Suffixes
20 cheedle, cheadle <input type="checkbox"/>	d		ee/ea 		ch		le
21 tinger, tingar, tingor, tinga <input type="checkbox"/>	t		i s		ng		er/ar/ or/a
22 nardly <input type="checkbox"/>	n d			ar			ly
23 zoring, zoaring, zawing, zouring, rooring <input type="checkbox"/>	z			or/oar/ our/aw/ oor			ing
24 yerd, yurd, yird, yeard <input type="checkbox"/>	y d			er/ur/ ir/ear			
25 thocky <input type="checkbox"/>			o s		th	ck	y
26 chaxed <input type="checkbox"/>	x		a s		ch		ed
27 shoaming, shoming, showming <input type="checkbox"/>	m		o/oa/ow 		sh		ing
28 thubbed <input type="checkbox"/>			u s		th	bb	ed
29 groyful <input type="checkbox"/>		gr				oy	ful
30 yowbest, yowbist <input type="checkbox"/>	y b					ow	est/ist
31 jooshing, jushing <input type="checkbox"/>	j		oo/u 		sh		ing
Whole words TOTAL /31 Word parts* TOTAL /120	Consonants (one letter) /33	Blends /12	Long /11 Short /15	Other vowels /13	Consonants (digraphs) /8	Spelling rules /10	Suffixes /28

Marking

Each box receives one point.

* Blends, spelling rules and suffixes each receive one point, regardless of the number of sounds they contain. Other individual consonant and vowel sounds receive one point each.

Pseudoword Spelling Test

Analysing Errors

There are a number of questions that will help you analyse the errors in this pseudoword test.

1. *Is every sound represented in the words?*

Errors that show sounds missing might look like this:

bistful – *bisfl* ('t' and 'u' missing)

droofer – *dofa* ('r' missing)

yowbest – *yobit* ('s' missing)

If the answer to this question is 'No', and there are several words with sounds missing, the student may need phonemic awareness instruction. If most of the sounds missing are part of blends, administer the Blends Spelling Test and set up the Blends Homework Programme alongside phonemic awareness instruction. Some teaching and practice activities using Topic 2, Blends, might also be necessary.

If the answer to this question is 'Yes', it is unlikely the student has phonemic awareness problems.

In the student sample that follows, only one word has a sound missing (*bisfull* for *bistful*). As this is the only problem, it is not an indication of phonemic awareness difficulties. There could have been extra noise when the word was called out or the student may have simply misheard the word.

2. *Are all sounds written correctly?*

Sounds can be written incorrectly for a number of reasons:

- The student might have hearing difficulties (confusion of similar sounds—'k', 't').
- English is the student's second language and the sound is unfamiliar but similar to another ('p'/'b', 'k'/'g' confusions).
- The student lacks knowledge of spelling conventions that influence the spelling of the sounds (for example *j/g*; *cr/kr*; *sp/sb*, long vowels spelled with a single vowel instead of a vowel digraph in the middle of a syllable; short vowels written with a final *e* when it is not needed; words end with *v*, not *ve*.)

There are many spelling conventions that influence correct spelling. Students need to know about them if they are to be able to write *words* correctly, not just *sounds* correctly.

In the student sample that follows, there are a number of errors that showed a lack of knowledge of the spelling conventions that influence the correct choice of spelling patterns for sounds in unfamiliar words.

3. *Is there a spelling rule or convention that affects the spelling of this word?*

As well as the conventions that influence the correct choice of spelling patterns for sounds, there are other spelling rules and conventions which apply to spelling words correctly.

The rules for adding suffixes to words for example, affect thousands of words.

In the student sample that follows, it is easy to see that there is a lack of knowledge of

the doubling the consonant rule.

4. Is there a morpheme in this word that influences the way the word is spelled?

The meaning of the word can influence the way it is written.

For example: Words that are past tense verbs might end with ‘d’, ‘t’ or ‘id’—three sounds that are all written **ed**. Words that end with the suffix **ful** are written **ful**, not **full**. ‘lee’ on the end of a word that is an adverb is written **ly**. *Heard* is the past tense of the word *hear* so the same vowel spelling from the root word is used, even though the pronunciation changes.

In the student sample that follows you will see that there is a lack of knowledge of these morphemes.

Summary

These questions can be used to analyse any spelling error.

First look for what the student has done correctly.

Have they written every sound in the word?

Is every sound written appropriately, even if it is not correct?

Why is the word not correct?

In most instances, if the word is phonetically accurate, the error relates to a lack of knowledge of the spelling system that underpins written English. If students can write the pseudowords the way they are written in the following sample, they are showing that they have a large amount of knowledge for recording sounds appropriately. What they need is knowledge of the spelling system—the rules and conventions that determine why words are written the way they are—so that they can spell the words correctly.

Pseudoword Spelling Test

Student Sheet

Name Class Date

Word	Consonant sounds (written with one letter)	Blends - initial and final	Long and short vowel sounds	Other vowel sounds	Consonant sounds (digraph patterns)	Spelling rule	Suffixes
1 <input type="checkbox"/> zina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s			nn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nosta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 <input type="checkbox"/> vumle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s				ly
4 <input type="checkbox"/> bisfull	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s				ful
5 <input type="checkbox"/> queping			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	pp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6 <input type="checkbox"/> kroge		cr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s			gg	y
7 <input type="checkbox"/> glandel		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> u s				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8 <input type="checkbox"/> tradel		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s			dd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9 <input type="checkbox"/> fleeta		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> e s			tt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10 <input type="checkbox"/> waning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s			nn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11 <input type="checkbox"/> cisle	<input type="checkbox"/> k <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> l				ly
12 <input type="checkbox"/> cleper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ee l				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13 <input type="checkbox"/> hots	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> oa l				
14 <input type="checkbox"/> wokt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> oo l				ed
15 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> paming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> l				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rowking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> l				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17 <input type="checkbox"/> stimd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> l				ed
18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> drewfa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> l				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19 <input type="checkbox"/> snaiv	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ai_e l				

Word	Consonant sounds (written with one letter)	Blends – initial and final	Long and short vowel sounds	Other vowel sounds	Consonant sounds (digraph patterns)	Spelling rule	Suffixes
20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cheedil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> l		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> tinga	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22 <input type="checkbox"/> nadle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			ar			ly
23 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> zooring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yerd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
25 <input type="checkbox"/> foke			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s		th	ck	y
26 <input type="checkbox"/> chakst	x/ks		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ed
27 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> showming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> l		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28 <input type="checkbox"/> fubd			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> s		th	bb	ed
29 <input type="checkbox"/> groifil		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				oy	ful
30 <input type="checkbox"/> youbist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					ow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31 <input type="checkbox"/> gooshing	j		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> l		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Whole words TOTAL 9 /31	Consonants (one letter)	Blends	Long 8 /11	Other vowels	Consonants (digraphs)	Spelling rules	Suffixes
Word parts TOTAL 86 /120	30 /33	10 /12	Short 12/15	2 /13	6 /8	1/10	7/28

Notes:

All schwa endings written with an a; no er/ar/or endings (spelling convention)

Incorrect suffixes ed (x4), ful (x 2), ly (x 3), y (x1)

Consonant errors j/g confusion, th/f confusion
ks for 'x' after short vowel (spelling convention)
k/c confusion before i (spelling convention)

Blend errors medial st – 't' missing (sound analysis)
kr/cr confusion (spelling convention)

Short vowels a/u confusion (spelling convention)
e/ee confusion (spelling convention)

Long vowels some not written with vowel digraph (spelling convention)

snave no e after v (spelling convention)

Rules doubling consonant (spelling rule)
ck after short vowel (spelling convention)
oy/oi, ow/ou (spelling conventions)

NEEDS: to learn about spelling rules and conventions