

Using the Spellography Surveys: Book A

Each *Spellography* book includes a survey of the concepts taught. Give the survey by dictating the word list BEFORE you start each *Spellography* book to evaluate students' understanding of spelling concepts. Give the survey AFTER each book has been completed to evaluate what students have learned.

The survey is designed to test the students' knowledge of sound-symbol (or phoneme-grapheme) correspondences, spelling patterns governed by the position of sounds in words, syllable combinations, spelling rules about adding endings, and awareness of meaningful parts of words or morphemes.

Each word on the list contains correspondences or patterns that are taught in the book. Important correspondences or patterns are labeled across the top row of the chart. By tallying how many correspondences or patterns students write correctly, the teacher can identify what aspects of English spelling students know and what they still need to learn.

Book A Pre-Testing: DO NOT GIVE STUDENTS THE WORD LIST IN ADVANCE.

1. Dictate the words.

Pronounce each word. Use it in a phrase or sentence. Have students say the word and then write it. Ask students to do their best but assure them that this survey does not affect their grade.

2. Monitor the class.

As you dictate the words, watch what students are doing. If they are struggling (and many will), you do not have to give the whole list. Dictate the first 15 words and pause to check the results. If most students have spelled at least 10 words correctly, give them the rest of the list so that you can assess the full range of their knowledge.

3. Score the results.

Fill out a Book A *Spellography* Survey for each student. Circle each element spelled correctly. Note elements in each column that are giving students difficulty. Unless students have mastered

a linguistic feature or element (such as short vowels, consonant doubling, or the drop e rule), they need more instruction and practice with that aspect of spelling.

Book A Post-Testing: DO NOT ASK STUDENTS TO MEMORIZE THIS LIST.

1. Dictate the same list of words on the Book A survey.

After students have completed the Book A review, dictate the list of words on the Book A survey. The point of the survey is to see what the students have internalized about spelling patterns and word structure, not what they can memorize by rote over the short term.

2. Compare pre-test and post-test results.

Score the survey and compare each student's pre-test and post-test results. Students who can spell 20 of the 25 words correctly are ready to move on to Book B.

Students who can spell 15 to 19 words correctly may need ongoing review of the concepts taught in Book A, even if they move to Book B.

For students spelling less than 15 words correctly, use the survey to evaluate what specific concepts are giving them difficulty. Provide additional practice by using the appropriate exercises from the Book A units before moving on to Book B.

3. Evaluate student progress.

An important criterion for evaluating student progress is whether students understand the spelling concepts and can apply them when spelling. When students are progressing, they will make closer and closer approximations to accurate spelling, even if they are not totally accurate. Close approximations will be helpful to students for using spellcheckers and recognizing correct words.

Book A Spellography Survey

Student: _____

Date: _____

Total Words Correct _____

	Word list	Short vls.	VCe, long vls.	Cons. di-graphs	Beg. cons. blends	Final cons. blends	j/g, ge/dge	Cons. dbling	Drop e rule	Inflect. suffix	Roots	Pre-fixes	Deriv. suffix
1	shell	e		sh				ll					
2	thing	i		th,ng									
3	chomp	o		ch		mp							
4	slack	a		ck	sl								
5	clunk	u			cl	nk							
6	broke		o_e		br								
7	quite		i_e		qu								
8	plunge	u			pl		(n)ge						
9	dredge	e			dr		dge						
10	trapped	a			tr			pp	ed				
11	quizzes	i			qu			zz	es				
12	skidded				sk			dd	ed				
13	scatter				sc			tt					
14	confused		u_e						fus(e) ed		fuse	con	
15	waving		a_e						wav(e) ing				
16	tongs	o		ng					s				
17	flecks			ck	fl				s				
18	reflexes				fl				es		flex	re	
19	extended					nd			ed		tend	ex	
20	begrudge						dge					be	
21	jolted					lt	j		ed				
22	ginger						g						
23	hugely		u_e				ge						ly
24	injects					ct			s		ject	in	
25	submerged						ge		merg(e) ed		merge	sub	
	TOTALS	/10	/5	/7	/12	/5	/7	/5	/3	/12	/5	/6	/1