

## **THE GENTRY DEVELOPMENTAL GRADE LEVEL SPELLING TEST (GRADES 1-8)**

Dr. Richard Gentry, a spelling series author and spelling authority, has developed a graded list of spelling words that allows teachers and parents to determine a student's "spelling grade level" without analyzing the student's errors or stage of spelling development (Gentry, 1997—2022). The test consists of eight lists of 20 words each for grades 1 through 8. Words selected are those that students in a particular grade often misspelled at the beginning of that grade but typically spelled correctly by the end of that grade. A student who spells 50 percent or more of the words on a particular list is said to be spelling comfortably at that grade level. This is a quick screening device that can be useful in placing students in a commercial spelling series and in determining if further spelling analysis and intervention may be needed.

**Directions:** Call out each word and give a sentence for meaning. Have the child say each word and then spell it on paper in a numbered column. Stop the test when the child is missing more than half of the words in the list. The highest level with 50% spelled correctly is the child's approximate Grade Level for spelling.

### ***THE GENTRY DEVELOPMENTAL GRADE LEVEL SPELLING TEST***

#### **GRADE ONE**

- |         |          |         |
|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. all  | 8. on    | 15. you |
| 2. me   | 9. the   | 16. see |
| 3. do   | 10. and  | 17. is  |
| 4. come | 11. one  | 18. ten |
| 5. play | 12. be   | 19. was |
| 6. at   | 13. like | 20. no  |
| 7. yes  | 14. am   |         |

#### **GRADE TWO**

- |          |           |              |
|----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. jump  | 8. fine   | 15. hope     |
| 2. apple | 9. off    | 16. much     |
| 3. five  | 10. bell  | 17. seven    |
| 4. other | 11. say   | 18. egg      |
| 5. that  | 12. part  | 19. sometime |
| 6. more  | 13. like  | 20. wall     |
| 7. house | 14. brown |              |

#### **GRADE THREE**

- |           |            |              |
|-----------|------------|--------------|
| 1. spring | 8. placed  | 15. airplane |
| 2. helps  | 9. below   | 16. learn    |
| 3. farmer | 10. walked | 17. those    |
| 4. people | 11. also   | 18. cream    |
| 5. bones  | 12. often  | 19. eight    |
| 6. saved  | 13. wrong  | 20. carry    |
| 7. roof   | 14. things |              |

#### GRADE FOUR

- |             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. worry    | 8. blame     | 15. wrote    |
| 2. twenty   | 9. wreck     | 16. iron     |
| 3. you're   | 10. November | 17. fifth    |
| 4. dozen    | 11. loud     | 18. tomorrow |
| 5. thumb    | 12. wasn't   | 19. writing  |
| 6. carried  | 13. finish   | 20. frozen   |
| 7. surprise | 14. middle   |              |

#### GRADE FIVE

- |             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. neighbor | 8. hungry    | 15. library  |
| 2. parties  | 9. subject   | 16. yawn     |
| 3. rotten   | 10. claim    | 17. midnight |
| 4. worst    | 11. unknown  | 18. steady   |
| 5. laid     | 12. American | 19. prepare  |
| 6. manners  | 13. officer  | 20. village  |
| 7. parents  | 14. prove    |              |

#### GRADE SIX

- |                |                |             |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. jewel       | 8. depot       | 15. hymn    |
| 2. thief       | 9. ruin        | 16. lettuce |
| 3. avenue      | 10. yield      | 17. burden  |
| 4. arrangement | 11. seize      | 18. canvas  |
| 5. theme       | 12. difference | 19. grocery |
| 6. system      | 13. interview  | 20. lawyer  |
| 7. written     | 14. zero       |             |

#### GRADE SEVEN

- |               |                |                 |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. possession | 8. agriculture | 15. straighten  |
| 2. yacht      | 9. scientist   | 16. establish   |
| 3. thorough   | 10. anchor     | 17. laboratory  |
| 4. gymnasium  | 11. announce   | 18. cashier     |
| 5. interrupt  | 12. revenue    | 19. wrath       |
| 6. athletic   | 13. patient    | 20. intelligent |
| 7. secretary  | 14. pressure   |                 |

#### GRADE EIGHT

- |                |                      |                  |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. fierce      | 8. appropriateness   | 15. restaurant   |
| 2. analyze     | 9. cheetah           | 16. alliteration |
| 3. committee   | 10. schedule         | 17. grievance    |
| 4. predominant | 11. autobiographical | 18. vengeance    |
| 5. pursue      | 12. executive        | 19. guarantee    |
| 6. chemically  | 13. coincidence      | 20. columnist    |
| 7. financial   | 14. seniority        |                  |