

# PRODUCT SUPPORT

## SPELLING

## PLACEMENT TEST



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## Placement Test

Students should begin at the lesson where they place based upon these sentences. Dictate these sentences. One whole sentence is dictated **until the student can repeat the sentence** correctly from memory. Then the student writes the whole sentence from memory. The teacher or the peer tutor should dictate the whole sentence and have the student(s) repeat the sentence along with them. Sometimes it is helpful to have the student(s) count the words as they are repeating the sentence to be sure they have said all of the words. Repeat the sentence together as needed for the student(s) to be able to repeat the whole sentence correctly. Test by having the student(s) repeat the sentence by themselves. Only after they can restate the sentence, have them write it from memory, *without any more repeating.* A sentence dictation would go something like this.

Teacher: Sentence dictation. When you are writing the sentence I can't give you any more help or repeat any words so you must learn the sentence so you can remember it while you are writing.

Listen. *Hold up a finger for each word as you say it.* **“The dog got off his lap fast.”** Say it with me.

Teacher & students: “The dog got off his lap fast.” *Repeat if needed.*

Teacher: Say all seven words in that sentence by yourselves.

Students: “The dog got off his lap fast.” *Repeat if needed.*

Teacher: Now write it all.

Give the entire list of sentences to the class. Each student begins at the lesson number indicated by the number of the first sentence where the child makes a mistake. So entry points are at each set of ten lessons.

### Lesson #

1. He sat at it.
10. We ate jam and got it on us.
20. When can you give us time to play?
30. We saw the wake of a ship at sea.
40. Show my father how to find these in black.
50. My brother was not being any too nice.
60. Can four people also help on the right side?
70. We better find a world where there is air and water because we must have it.
80. Why on earth would everyone have heard nothing?
90. Hold this half above us whether or not you're ready.
100. He probably bought them in several different American states.

### Students who can spell all these sentences accurately test out of both Mastering Alphabetic Spelling and Mastering Dictated Sentences.

Next you need to check to see where students should place in terms of words in isolation. The chances are good that the student will place in a higher lesson for the word lists than for sentences.

Sometimes students, especially older remedial students, know many words just barely well enough to spell on a tests, but not well enough to spell when writing a complete sentence. Some students can spell words on a Word List, but often miss the same words in the sentence dictation – you will be able to put them in a higher lesson for the Word List than the lesson they are on for sentence dictation. Give them the next test to find out where they should begin on the word lists.

Dictate these words. You can stop as soon as all of the children you are testing have made an error. The lesson number is next to the word. Have each child begin on the lesson number just BEFORE the number next to the word on which the child first makes a mistake.

*For example:* The first word a child misses is “enough” which has the number 84 to the right. So the child would begin doing the word list on lesson 83. The child may be doing sentences from lesson 32, but doing word lists from Lesson 83. Entry points are at every few lessons.

Word—Lesson #	Word—Lesson #	Word—Lesson #
sat 2	down 31	thought 66
fast 4	many 32	because 70
stop 5	read 33	every 73
she 6	each 34	few 76
end 10	here 36	sometime 78
home 11	were 37	stopped 81
this 12	very 38	enough 84
will 12	black 40	ready 85
from 14	about 42	you're 88
quit 15	could 43	across 92
come 17	little 44	between 93
you 18	should 46	learned 96
said 19	other 48	picture 98
name 20	present 50	brought 101
when 22	right 52	important 105
what 23	school 54	toward 108
while 27	something 57	animal 111
they 28	children 61	voice 112
small 29	eye 65	

**Students who can spell all, or over 50 of these 56 words, do not need Mastering Alphabetic Spelling. They may benefit simply from Mastering Dictated Sentences, if their placement testing indicates they need to learn more fluency in their spelling (e.g., they made errors in the sentences spelling test). Children who place into both the sentences and the words can get both of those in the Mastering Alphabetic Spelling book.**