

Schonell Spelling Test

see	cut	mat	in	ran
bag	ten	hat	dad	bed
leg	dot	pen	yet	hay
good	till	be	with	from
time	call	help	week	pie
boat	mind	sooner	year	dream
sight	mouth	large	might	brought
mistake	pair	while	skate	stayed
yoke	island	nerve	join	fare
iron	health	direct	calm	headache
final	circus	increase	slippery	lodge
style	bargain	copies	guest	policy
view	library	cushion	safety	patient
account	earliest	institution	similar	generous
orchestra	equally	individual	merely	enthusiastic
appreciate	familiar	source	immediate	breathe
permanent	sufficient	broach	customary	especially
materially	cemetery	leisure	accredited	fraternally
subterranean	apparatus	portmanteau	politician	miscellaneous
mortgage	equipped	exaggerate	amateur	committee

$$\text{Spelling Age} = \frac{\text{no. of correctly spelt words}}{10} + 5$$

$$\text{e.g. Spelling Age} = \frac{25}{10} + 5 = 7.5 \text{ years}$$

* Please note that with all standardised spelling tests it is essential that there is no teaching to the test. None of the above words should be taught in preparation for the test. Doing so renders any results useless.

Spelling Test Procedure (Schonell)

These instructions are for testing one child at a time.

1. Sit the child at a table in a **quiet** area away from distractions.
2. Give him/her a sheet of lined A4 paper and a sharp pencil.
3. Write or have the child write their name and the date at the top.
4. Decide beforehand with the child whether they should write their answers along a row or in columns.
5. Explain the procedure to the child (as given below).

Giving the test .

Work in blocks of ten, reading from left to right:

1. call out each word, starting at the top and going from left to right (i.e. 'see')
2. use the word in a sentence so that its meaning is clear (i.e. "I can see the lion.")
3. say the word again - "see"
4. Check the spellings after each block of 10, but don't let the child know which they have right or wrong - but be encouraging!
5. Stop once the child makes 10 mistakes in a row.
6. Do not go over the spellings with the child (you may wish to use the test again in 6 months time).

Keep the 'test' as relaxed as possible and tell the child not to worry about whether they were right or not. Tell them that you fully expect that they won't know some of the words at all.

Scoring

Take the raw score, i.e. the total number of words spelt correctly. Divide this number by 10, and then add 5 .

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{36}{10} + 5 \text{ years} = 8.6 \text{ (decimal score)}$$

To convert the score to years and months you must convert the decimal remainder into months according to the chart below.

Thus 8.6 (decimal) = 8 Years 7 Months (spelling age)

You can compare this 'spelling age' to the child's actual chronological age to give some indication of the child's spelling ability.

Conversion Table:

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