



Placement Test

Use the Placement Test to determine where individual students should begin the program. Placement level is not correlated to grade level.

Note that the directions for the Placement Test differ slightly in format between the online version and the print version. If administering the test in print, refer to the instructions and recording form in this document. If administering the test online, refer to the experience itself.

The student portion of the test (pages 11–18) is the same no matter how it is administered.

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Placement Test Directions

(if administering in print)

Preparation and Administration

- Make a master copy of the **Placement Test**, plus one copy per student of the **Placement Test Recording Form**.
- Select a place to administer the test one-on-one. Choose an area where students will not be distracted or observed as they are being tested.
- When administering the test, sit across from the student and position the Recording Form so the student cannot see what you are writing. Be discreet when recording observations.

Part A: Phonograms

Part A involves naming letters and saying the sounds the letters make.

- Instruct the student to read the list from left to right and to state the name of each letter and the sound it makes.
- Circle each letter on the Recording Form that a student incorrectly identifies.
 - A correct response includes both the correct letter name *and* its sound; if either is incorrect, circle the item.
- Do not prompt the student unless he or she produces only one correct sound for a letter that has multiple sounds.
 - Example: If a student correctly identifies the letter **c** and pronounces it with a soft **c**, /s/, prompt for the hard **c** sound, /k/, by asking, “Is there another sound for that letter?”
- Place the student in **Sounds Sensible** if he or she does not correctly identify all the letters and letter sounds. If a student misses 1–3 consonant sounds, you may choose to teach only the corresponding lessons for those sounds in *Sounds Sensible*, Step 4.
- If the student correctly identifies all of the letters and sounds in Part A, continue testing with Part B.

Part B: Word Lists

Part B is a series of word lists organized by level and concept. It includes words for every concept taught in *S.P.I.R.E.* and *iSPIRE*, Levels 1–6. Some nonsense words are included to assess decoding skill and set it apart from sight recognition. Instruct the student to read these words as if they were real words.

- Instruct the student to start reading the word lists, from left to right, beginning with the Level 1 Word List. Explain that he or she will read each word aloud, slowly and clearly, as you listen carefully.

- Follow along on the Recording Form and circle each word the student decodes incorrectly. To accurately assess the student’s ability to decode, do not prompt the student.
- If the student reads each sound individually before blending the word, count it correct, but mark the word “s/o” for “sounded out.”
- Discontinue if the student makes more than 8 errors on a Level Word List. The discontinue point is where the student is placed in the program.
 - Example: If a student makes 8 errors while reading Level 3 Word List B, the student is placed in Level 3.
- A student who reaches the end of the Level 6 Word List may not need a *S.P.I.R.E.* intervention.

The *S.P.I.R.E. Initial Placement Assessment (IPA)*, which offers a more extensive diagnostic assessment for placement into *S.P.I.R.E.*, is available for purchase.

Placement Test Schedule

	Errors	Placement or Next Steps
Part A: Phonograms	*1 or more	Place in <i>Sounds Sensible</i> .
	0	Continue with Part B.
Part B: Word Lists	0 to 7	Continue with Level 2 Word List
Level 1	8	Place in Level 1
Level 2	0 to 7	Continue with Level 3 Lists A and B
	8	Place in Level 2
Level 3A	0 to 7	Continue with Level 3 List B
	8	Place in Level 3
Level 3B	0 to 7	Continue with Level 4 Word List
	8	Place in Level 3
Level 4	0 to 7	Continue with Level 5 Word List
	8	Place in Level 4
Level 5	0 to 7	Continue with Level 6 Word List
	8	Place in Level 5
Level 6	0 to 7	Doesn’t need <i>S.P.I.R.E.</i> or <i>iSPIRE</i>
	8	Place in Level 6

* If a student misses 1–3 consonant sounds, the teacher may choose to teach only the corresponding lessons for those sounds from ***Sounds Sensible***, Step 4, before continuing with placement in Level 1.



Placement Test Recording Form

(if administering in print)

Name: _____ Class: _____

School: _____ Date: _____

Placement: _____ Tester: _____

Part A: Phonograms

p f w (as in *water*)

b v h (as in *hat*)

t s (as in *sip*) y (as in *yellow*)

d z l

k j (as in *job*) r

c (as in *cat*) m x

g (as in *give*) n

Notes

Part B: Word Lists

Level 1

 Error Count

68 items (discontinue after 8 errors)

Short *a*

1. **van**
4. **pan**
7. **cap**
10. **lan**

Short *o*

13. **cob**
16. **fog**
19. **cot**
22. **fom**

ch

25. **punch**
28. **chug**
31. **chin**
34. **luch**

ang

37. **rang**
40. **bang**
43. **gang**
46. **cang**

ung

49. **flung**
52. **dung**
55. **hung**
58. **wung**

onk

61. **honk**
63. **conk**
65. **bonk**
67. **lonk**

Short *e*

2. **let**
5. **set**
8. **fed**
11. **lem**

Short *u*

14. **bun**
17. **cub**
20. **gut**
23. **pum**

th

26. **them**
29. **moth**
32. **thus**
35. **thig**

ing

38. **ding**
41. **ping**
44. **zing**
47. **ling**

ink

50. **sink**
53. **fink**
56. **link**
59. **yink**

unk

62. **punk**
64. **lunk**
66. **funk**
68. **wunk**

Short *i*

3. **wig**
6. **six**
9. **dip**
12. **ril**

sh

15. **shut**
18. **wish**
21. **bash**
24. **shem**

wh

27. **whip**
30. **which**
33. **whisk**
36. **whid**

ong

39. **gong**
42. **song**
45. **long**
48. **nong**

ank

51. **yank**
54. **tank**
57. **dank**
60. **fank**

Level 2 **Error Count**

52 items (discontinue after 8 errors)

ff

1. **huff**
4. **stuff**
7. **stiff**
10. **sloff**

al

13. **small**
16. **stall**
19. **fall**
22. **frall**

ck

25. **tack**
28. **speck**
31. **smack**
34. **vack**

i-e

37. **quite**
39. **bite**
41. **time**
43. **dize**

u-e

45. **mule**
47. **mute**
49. **June**
51. **stuze**

ll

2. **bell**
5. **thrill**
8. **swell**
11. **mell**

wa

14. **swat**
17. **wand**
20. **swan**
23. **wald**

tch

26. **switch**
29. **hutch**
32. **match**
35. **scatch**

o-e

38. **robe**
40. **joke**
42. **stove**
44. **grofe**

e-e

46. **Pete**
48. **here**
50. **eve**
52. **spete**

ss

3. **dress**
6. **miss**
9. **glass**
12. **hoss**

qu

15. **quest**
18. **quill**
21. **squid**
24. **squich**

a-e

27. **maze**
30. **shake**
33. **spade**
36. **mape**

Level 3 List A

	Error Count
--	--------------------

56 items (discontinue after 8 errors in Lists A and B combined)

e

1. **belong**
4. **he**
7. **renew**
10. **je**

ild

13. **mild**
16. **child**
19. **wild**
22. **kild**

ost

25. **post**
28. **most**
31. **host**
34. **zost**

ed

37. **hunted**
40. **tested**
43. **planted**
46. **tated**

ing

49. **lifting**
51. **sending**
53. **thinking**
55. **manding**

o

2. **lo**
5. **solo**
8. **polo**
11. **po**

old

14. **mold**
17. **scold**
20. **bold**
23. **wejold**

oll

26. **toll**
29. **scroll**
32. **poll**
35. **groll**

s

38. **frogs**
41. **lamps**
44. **sands**
47. **cugs**

er

50. **boxer**
52. **colder**
54. **simper**
56. **zayer**

y

3. **fly**
6. **try**
9. **sly**
12. **sny**

ind

15. **grind**
18. **blind**
21. **mind**
24. **drind**

ay

27. **tray**
30. **stay**
33. **clay**
36. **blay**

es

39. **boxes**
42. **wishes**
45. **benches**
48. **zeshes**

Level 3 List B
 Error Count

56 items (discontinue after 8 errors in Lists A and B combined)

est

1. **pinkest**
4. **wildest**
7. **fastest**
10. **yeyest**

ly

13. **gladly**
16. **boldly**
19. **bravely**
22. **softly**

ness

25. **gladness**
28. **boldness**
31. **kindness**
34. **zinness**

non-twin consonant

37. **umpire**
40. **plastic**
43. **contest**
46. **intis**

ou

49. **country**
51. **tough**
53. **cousin**
55. **enough**

en

2. **olden**
5. **lengthen**
8. **thicken**
11. **landen**

y

14. **rusty**
17. **frisky**
20. **sandy**
23. **umpy**

less

26. **matchless**
29. **hatless**
32. **restless**
35. **indless**

ou

38. **proud**
41. **blouse**
44. **sound**
47. **couch**

ou

50. **croup**
52. **coupon**
54. **group**
56. **troupe**

ish

3. **selfish**
6. **tallish**
9. **pinkish**
12. **yallish**

ful

15. **playful**
18. **restful**
21. **useful**
24. **sishful**

twin consonant

27. **traffic**
30. **rabbit**
33. **supper**
36. **rillet**

ou

39. **shoulder**
42. **soul**
45. **court**
48. **pour**

Level 4
 Error Count

48 items (discontinue after 8 errors)

ea

1. neat
4. meal
7. each
10. weave

ea

2. meant
5. thread
8. instead
11. threat

le

3. brittle
6. ankle
9. middle
12. muttle

ea

13. great
16. break
19. steak
22. wear

oa

14. float
17. loan
20. toast
23. moach

ai

15. chain
18. sail
21. train
24. slait

ee

25. street
28. sweep
31. need
34. leeg

oo

26. scoop
29. tool
32. tooth
35. proof

oo

27. brook
30. stood
33. hook
36. shook

igh

37. sigh
40. bright
43. night
46. swight

ie

38. lie
41. flies
44. tie
47. dries

ie

39. thief
42. grief
45. yield
48. brief

Level 5
 Error Count

60 items (discontinue after 8 errors)

Soft c

1. **piece**
4. **cell**
7. **space**
10. **cyss**

ir

13. **twirl**
16. **squirt**
19. **thirst**
22. **nirt**

wor

25. **worth**
28. **worst**
31. **worm**
34. **worch**

ow

37. **blown**
40. **shadow**
43. **flown**
46. **crow**

or

49. **order**
52. **stork**
55. **worn**
58. **shord**

Soft g

2. **general**
5. **giblet**
8. **page**
11. **gymitol**

ur

14. **sturdy**
17. **furnish**
20. **curve**
23. **wurty**

dge

26. **wedge**
29. **badger**
32. **budge**
35. **medge**

ow

38. **prowl**
41. **clown**
44. **howl**
47. **drown**

ar

50. **marble**
53. **starch**
56. **chart**
59. **parn**

er

3. **term**
6. **lantern**
9. **clerk**
12. **onerge**

ear

15. **yearn**
18. **heard**
21. **earth**
24. **sheart**

ose / ise

27. **suppose**
30. **wise**
33. **rose**
36. **trose**

oe

39. **woe**
42. **Joe**
45. **doe**
48. **noe**

ar

51. **swarm**
54. **wart**
57. **quart**
60. **swarp**

Level 6

 Error Count

63 items (discontinue after 8 errors)

a-

1. **abide**
4. **amend**
7. **avoid**

-a

2. **umbrella**
5. **Montana**
8. **novella**

-able

3. **serviceable**
6. **enforceable**
9. **manageable**

ph

10. **apostrophe**
13. **philodendron**
16. **graph**

ought

11. **sought**
14. **brought**
17. **forethought**

ue

12. **grueling**
15. **residue**
18. **duel**

ue

19. **barbeque**
22. **argue**
25. **pursue**

ew

20. **shrewd**
23. **mildew**
26. **crew**

ew

21. **pewter**
24. **yew**
27. **askew**

tu

28. **fluctuate**
31. **infatuate**
34. **punctuate**

oi

29. **embroider**
32. **cloister**
35. **moist**

oy

30. **corduroy**
33. **flamboyant**
36. **voyage**

aw

37. **prawn**
40. **awl**
43. **fawn**

au

38. **laurel**
41. **tarpaulin**
44. **distraught**

ey

39. **chutney**
42. **pulley**
45. **kidney**

ey

46. **prey**
49. **obey**
52. **convey**

kn

47. **knapsack**
50. **knave**
53. **knead**

wr

48. **wretched**
51. **wrongdoing**
54. **wrestler**

mb

55. **numbness**
58. **jamb**
61. **plumber**

gh

56. **ghoul**
59. **gherkin**
62. **aghast**

gu

57. **disguise**
60. **guinea pig**
63. **guild**



Placement Test

Part A: Phonograms

p

f

w

b

v

h

t

s

y

d

z

l

k

j

r

c

m

x

g

n

Part B: Word Lists

Level 1

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. van | 2. let | 3. wig |
| 4. pan | 5. set | 6. six |
| 7. cap | 8. fed | 9. dip |
| 10. lan | 11. lem | 12. ril |
| 13. cob | 14. bun | 15. shut |
| 16. fog | 17. cub | 18. wish |
| 19. cot | 20. gut | 21. bash |
| 22. fom | 23. pum | 24. shem |
| 25. punch | 26. them | 27. whip |
| 28. chug | 29. moth | 30. which |
| 31. chin | 32. thus | 33. whisk |
| 34. luch | 35. thig | 36. whid |
| 37. rang | 38. ding | 39. gong |
| 40. bang | 41. ping | 42. song |
| 43. gang | 44. zing | 45. long |
| 46. cang | 47. ling | 48. nong |
| 49. flung | 50. sink | 51. yank |
| 52. dung | 53. fink | 54. tank |
| 55. hung | 56. link | 57. dank |
| 58. wung | 59. yink | 60. fank |
| 61. honk | 62. punk | 63. conk |
| 64. lunk | 65. bonk | 66. funk |
| 67. lonk | 68. wunk | |

Level 2

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 1. huff | 2. bell | 3. dress |
| 4. stuff | 5. thrill | 6. miss |
| 7. stiff | 8. swell | 9. glass |
| 10. sloff | 11. mell | 12. hoss |
| 13. small | 14. swat | 15. quest |
| 16. stall | 17. wand | 18. quill |
| 19. fall | 20. swan | 21. squid |
| 22. frall | 23. wald | 24. squich |
| 25. tack | 26. switch | 27. maze |
| 28. speck | 29. hutch | 30. shake |
| 31. smack | 32. match | 33. spade |
| 34. vack | 35. scatch | 36. mape |
| 37. quite | 38. robe | 39. bite |
| 40. joke | 41. time | 42. stove |
| 43. dize | 44. grofe | 45. mule |
| 46. Pete | 47. mute | 48. here |
| 49. June | 50. eve | 51. stuze |
| 52. spete | | |

Level 3 List A

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. belong | 2. lo | 3. fly |
| 4. he | 5. solo | 6. try |
| 7. renew | 8. polo | 9. sly |
| 10. je | 11. po | 12. sny |
| 13. mild | 14. mold | 15. grind |
| 16. child | 17. scold | 18. blind |
| 19. wild | 20. bold | 21. mind |
| 22. kild | 23. wejold | 24. drind |
| 25. post | 26. toll | 27. tray |
| 28. most | 29. scroll | 30. stay |
| 31. host | 32. poll | 33. clay |
| 34. zost | 35. groll | 36. blay |
| 37. hunted | 38. frogs | 39. boxes |
| 40. tested | 41. lamps | 42. wishes |
| 43. planted | 44. sands | 45. benches |
| 46. tated | 47. cugs | 48. zeshes |
| 49. lifting | 50. boxer | 51. sending |
| 52. colder | 53. thinking | 54. simper |
| 55. manding | 56. zayer | |

Level 3 List B

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. pinkest | 2. olden | 3. selfish |
| 4. wildest | 5. lengthen | 6. tallish |
| 7. fastest | 8. thicken | 9. pinkish |
| 10. yeyest | 11. landen | 12. yallish |
| 13. gladly | 14. rusty | 15. playful |
| 16. boldly | 17. frisky | 18. restful |
| 19. bravely | 20. sandy | 21. useful |
| 22. scoftly | 23. umpy | 24. sishful |
| 25. gladness | 26. matchless | 27. traffic |
| 28. boldness | 29. hatless | 30. rabbit |
| 31. kindness | 32. restless | 33. supper |
| 34. zimness | 35. indless | 36. rillet |
| 37. umpire | 38. proud | 39. shoulder |
| 40. plastic | 41. blouse | 42. soul |
| 43. contest | 44. sound | 45. court |
| 46. intis | 47. couch | 48. pour |
| 49. country | 50. croup | 51. tough |
| 52. coupon | 53. cousin | 54. group |
| 55. enough | 56. troupe | |

Level 4

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. neat | 2. meant | 3. brittle |
| 4. meal | 5. thread | 6. ankle |
| 7. each | 8. instead | 9. middle |
| 10. weave | 11. threat | 12. muttle |
| 13. great | 14. float | 15. chain |
| 16. break | 17. loan | 18. sail |
| 19. steak | 20. toast | 21. train |
| 22. wear | 23. moach | 24. slait |
| 25. street | 26. scoop | 27. brook |
| 28. sweep | 29. tool | 30. stood |
| 31. need | 32. tooth | 33. hook |
| 34. leeg | 35. proof | 36. shook |
| 37. sigh | 38. lie | 39. thief |
| 40. bright | 41. flies | 42. grief |
| 43. night | 44. tie | 45. yield |
| 46. swight | 47. dries | 48. brief |

Level 5

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. piece | 2. general | 3. term |
| 4. cell | 5. giblet | 6. lantern |
| 7. space | 8. page | 9. clerk |
| 10. cyss | 11. gymitol | 12. onerge |
| 13. twirl | 14. sturdy | 15. yearn |
| 16. squirt | 17. furnish | 18. heard |
| 19. thirst | 20. curve | 21. earth |
| 22. nirt | 23. wurty | 24. sheart |
| 25. worth | 26. wedge | 27. suppose |
| 28. worst | 29. badger | 30. wise |
| 31. worm | 32. budge | 33. rose |
| 34. worch | 35. medge | 36. trose |
| 37. blown | 38. prowl | 39. woe |
| 40. shadow | 41. clown | 42. Joe |
| 43. flown | 44. howl | 45. doe |
| 46. crow | 47. drown | 48. noe |
| 49. order | 50. marble | 51. swarm |
| 52. stork | 53. starch | 54. wart |
| 55. worn | 56. chart | 57. quart |
| 58. shord | 59. parn | 60. swarp |

Level 6

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. abide | 2. umbrella | 3. serviceable |
| 4. amend | 5. Montana | 6. enforceable |
| 7. avoid | 8. novella | 9. manageable |
| 10. apostrophe | 11. sought | 12. grueling |
| 13. philodendron | 14. brought | 15. residue |
| 16. graph | 17. forethought | 18. duel |
| 19. barbeque | 20. shrewd | 21. pewter |
| 22. argue | 23. mildew | 24. yew |
| 25. pursue | 26. crew | 27. askew |
| 28. fluctuate | 29. embroider | 30. corduroy |
| 31. infatuate | 32. cloister | 33. flamboyant |
| 34. punctuate | 35. moist | 36. voyage |
| 37. prawn | 38. laurel | 39. chutney |
| 40. awl | 41. tarpaulin | 42. pulley |
| 43. fawn | 44. distraught | 45. kidney |
| 46. prey | 47. knapsack | 48. wretched |
| 49. obey | 50. knave | 51. wrongdoing |
| 52. convey | 53. knead | 54. wrestler |
| 55. numbness | 56. ghoul | 57. disguise |
| 58. jamb | 59. gherkin | 60. guinea pig |
| 61. plumber | 62. aghast | 63. guild |