

# South Australian Spelling Test

The South Australian Spelling Test is a standardised test of spelling achievement for students in the age range 6 years to 15 years. It will enable teachers to determine the spelling ability of each student and provide data that can be used for lesson design, group allocation, and reporting.

## Instructions:

1. Students should be seated in a position where copying from others is not possible.
2. Each student requires a sheet of paper and pencil.
3. Students should number each item before writing the response.
4. Students should be encouraged to attempt as many items as possible; but with young children, or students with learning difficulties, do not prolong the test unnecessarily.
5. It is usual to stop testing after a student has failed ten *consecutive* items.
6. When marking do not give credit for any words beyond the tenth *consecutive* error.
7. When marking do not penalise for reversals of 'b' and 'd'.
8. The method of administration is to say the number of the item. then say the word clearly. Embed the word in a sentence. Then repeat the word, saying for example: 'Number 6: *lost*. I lost my key. Write *lost*.'
9. If any of the sentences suggested here appear inappropriate for the age or ability level being tested they can be changed by the tester provided that the sense of the word is retained.

- |    |      |  |
|----|------|--|
| 1  | ON   | Please put your shoe ON. Write On                |
| 2  | HOT  | The water in the bath is HOT. Write HOT          |
| 3  | CUP  | I drink from a CUP. Write CUP                    |
| 4  | VAN  | The lady can drive the VAN. Write VAN.           |
| 5  | JAM  | I like JAM on my bread. Write JAM.               |
| 6  | LOST | I LOST my key. Write LOST.                       |
| 7  | SIT  | Please SIT on this chair. Write SIT.             |
| 8  | PLAN | I used a PLAN to make this model. Write PLAN.    |
| 9  | MUD  | I got MUD on my shoes when it rained. Write MUD. |
| 10 | BEG  | I taught my dog to BEG for a biscuit. Write BEG. |

- 11 THE Is the toy you want? Write THE.
- 12 GO I will GO to the shops after school. Write GO.
- 13 FOR Is this letter FOR me? Write FOR.
- 14 SO You did that job SO quickly. Write SO.
- 15 ME This present is not for ME. Write ME.
- 16 ARE Animals ARE in the field. Write ARE.
- 17 OF I am not sure OF your name. Write OF.
- 18 DO What will you DO next? Write DO.
- 19 WHO WHO was that knocking at the door? WHO.
- 20 HERE Put the box over HERE. Write HERE.
- 21 SHIP A SHIP is on the sea. Write SHIP.
- 22 CHOP The butcher will CHOP the meat. Write CHOP.
- 23 FOOD We must take FOOD to the picnic. Write FOOD.
- 24 FIRE We need dry sticks to start the FIRE. Write FIRE.
- 25 THIN The THIN cat squeezed under the fence. Write THIN.
- 26 DATE What is the DATE today? Write DATE.
- 27 SEEM The shop did not SEEM to be open. Write SEEM.
- 28 DART I threw a DART at the dartboard. Write DART.
- 29 LOUD Your voice is too LOUD. Write LOUD.
- 30 FROM Our new teacher comes FROM Sydney. Write FROM.
- 31 EYE Please shut one EYE and look at this. Write EYE.
- 32 FIGHT I saw two dogs FIGHT in the park. Write FIGHT.
- 33 FRIEND She is my best FRIEND. Write FRIEND.
- 34 DONE What have you DONE with your book? Write DONE.
- 35 ANY Are there ANY cakes left? Write ANY.

- 36 GREAT I was chased by a GREAT big dog. Write GREAT.
- 37 SURE I am not SURE how to spell this. Write SURE.
- 38 WOMEN Two WOMEN went for a swim. Write WOMEN.
- 39 ANSWER Please ANSWER my question. Write ANSWER.
- 40 BEAUTIFUL The flowers in the garden look BEAUTIFUL.
- 41 ORCHESTRA I play the piano in the ORCHESTRA.
- 42 EQUALLY They shared the money EQUALLY.
- 43 APPRECIATE Thank you. I APPRECIATE your help.
- 44 FAMILIAR His face seemed FAMILIAR. Had we met before?
- 45 ENTHUSIASTIC The student was an ENTHUSIASTIC player.
- 46 SIGNATURE She wrote her SIGNATURE on the paper.
- 47 BREATHE Fresh air is good to BREATHE.
- 48 PERMANENT Will that sign be taken away or is it PERMANENT?
- 49 SUFFICIENT We have SUFFICIENT food to last for the weekend.
- 50 SURPLUS We will sell the SURPLUS apples. We have too many.
- 51 CUSTOMARY It is CUSTOMARY to shake hands.
- 52 ESPECIALLY This gift is ESPECIALLY for you.
- 53 MATERIALLY This story is not MATERIALLY different from the one in your book.
- 54 CEMETERY The funeral took place at the CEMETERY.
- 55 LEISURE She spent her LEISURE time in the garden.
- 56 FRATERNALLY FRATERNALLY means the same as brotherly.
- 57 SUCCESSFUL The fund-raising was very SUCCESSFUL.
- 58 DEFINITE I agreed on a DEFINITE time to meet her.
- 59 EXHIBITION There is an EXHIBITION at the gallery.
- 60 APPARATUS We use this APPARATUS in the science lab.
- 61 MORTGAGE I bought the house by taking a MORTGAGE.

- 62 EQUIPPED The campers were EQUIPPED with new tents.
- 63 SUBTERRANEAN SUBTERRANEAN means under the ground.
- 64 POLITICIAN Did you vote for that POLITICIAN?
- 65 MISCELLANEOUS Mixing different items together makes a MISCELLANEOUS set.
- 66 EXAGGERATE The fish wasn't that big! Don't EXAGGERATE.
- 67 GUARANTEE My washing machine has a two-year GUARENTEE.
- 68 EMBARRASSING I find it EMBARRASSING to give a speech.
- 69 CONSCIENTIOUS Students who work hard are said to be CONSCIENTIOUS.
- 70 SEISMOGRAPH A SEISMOGRAPH is aninstrument to measure the strength of earthquakes.

## Interpretation of Scores

**Students' Age (yrs/mths)**   **Average Score**   **Normal Range**   **Critically Low Score**

6.0	14	8-20	4
6.1	15	9-21	5
6.2	15	9-21	5
6.3	16	10-22	6
6.4	16	10-22	6
6.5	17	11-23	7
6.6	18	12-24	8
6.7	18	12-24	8
6.8	19	13-25	9
6.9	19	13-25	9
6.10	20	14-26	10
6.11	21	15-27	11
7.0	22	16-28	12
7.1	22	16-28	12
7.2	23	17-29	13
7.3	23	17-29	13
7.4	24	18-30	14
7.5	24	18-30	14
7.6	25	19-31	15
7.7	25	19-31	15

7.8	26	20-32	16
7.9	27	21-33	17
7.10	27	21-33	17
7.11	28	22-34	18
8.0	28	22-34	18
8.1	29	23-35	19
8.2	29	23-35	19
8.3	30	24-36	20
8.4	30	24-36	20
8.5	31	25-37	21
8.6	31	25-37	21
8.7	31	26-36	21
8.8	32	26-37	22
8.9	32	26-38	22
8.10	32	26-38	22
8.11	33	27-39	23
9.0	33	27-39	23
9.1	33	27-39	23
9.2	34	28-40	24
9.3	34	28-40	24
9.4	35	29-41	25
9.5	35	29-41	25
9.6	35	29-41	25
9.7	36	30-42	26
9.8	36	30-42	26
9.9	36	30-42	26
9.10	37	31-43	27
9.11	37	31-43	27
10.0	37	31-43	27
10.1	37	31-43	27
10.2	38	32-44	28
10.3	38	32-44	28
10.4	38	32-44	28
10.5	39	33-44	29
10.6	39	34-44	29
10.7	40	35-45	30
10.8	40	35-45	30
10.9	40	35-45	30
10.10	41	35-47	31

10.11	41	35-47	31
11.0	41	35-47	31
11.1	42	36-48	32
11.2	42	36-48	32
11.3	42	36-48	32
11.4	43	39-49	33
11.5	43	39-49	33
11.6	44	38-50	34
11.7	44	38-50	34
11.8	44	38-50	34
11.9	44	38-50	34
12.0	45	39-51	35
12.1	46	40-52	36
12.2	46	40-52	36
12.3	46	40-52	36
12.4	47	40-54	37
12.5	47	40-54	37
12.6	47	40-54	37
12.7	47	40-54	37
12.8	48	41-55	38
12.9	48	41-55	38
12.10	48	41-55	38
12.11	48	41-55	38
13.0	48	41-55	38

## Approximate Spelling Ages

### Note:

Spelling ages are in years and tenths of a year (not months)

Apply Standard Error of Measurement +2 and -2 points on a raw score. Example:  
Child scores 26 marks.

Subtract 2 from 26 marks = 24

Add 2 to 26 = 28

Enter table at raw score 24 and at 29

Thus the child's spelling age is between 7.3 years and 8.0 years.

<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Approx. Spelling Age</b>	<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Approx. Spelling Age</b>
12	below 6.0 yrs	33	9.0 yrs
13	6.0 yrs	34	9.2 yrs
14	6.0 yrs	35	9.5 yrs
15	6.1 yrs	36	9.7 yrs
16	6.3 yrs	37	10.0 yrs
17	6.4 yrs	38	10.2 yrs
18	6.5 yrs	39	10.5 yrs
19	6.7 yrs	40	10.7 yrs
20	6.8 yrs	41	10.9 yrs
21	6.9 yrs	42	11.2 yrs
22	7.1 yrs	43	11.4 yrs
23	7.2 yrs	44	11.7 yrs
24	7.3 yrs	45	12.0 yrs
25	7.5 yrs	46	12.2 yrs
26	7.6 yrs	47	12.4 yrs
27	7.8 yrs	48	13.0 yrs
28	8.0 yrs	49	13.8 yrs
29	8.2 yrs	50	14.2 yrs
30	8.4 yrs	51	14.5 yrs
31	8.6 yrs	52	15.5 yrs
32	8.9 yrs	53	above 15.5 yrs