

The Teaching of Reading: a Continuum from Kindergarten Through College



A Supplementary Textbook for College Education Majors
with Practical Classroom Diagnostic Tests and
Answers to the Phonics vs. Whole Language Controversy

and Especially for
College Reading Instructors
Willing to Try New Approaches to Old Problems

and for the Training of Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutors
and Parents Who Want to Homeschool Their Children

By

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Section 5, Chapter 32:
**A Sentence Dictation Test That Covers Over 300 of the
 Most Commonly Used Words**

GENERAL DIRECTIONS:

1. Tell the student/s that this test is NOT for grading purposes. Tell the student/s that the test is to help you find which of the most commonly used words the student/s need to learn. Tell them that it is far more important to MASTER the spellings of these words, words like *of, it, you, in, out*, than it is to try to learn the spellings of words they can look up in the dictionary, words like *separate, mortgage, and financial*.
2. Read the sentences normally. Repeat them as many times as necessary.

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS:

For QUICK class screening of those in grades three and up who need special help in spelling

Please, please **don't** bore the bright students and torture those with severe spelling problems by giving **all** the 34 sentences at one time. **Pick any five sentences.** Those who miss three or more need special help. Those who score perfectly probably don't.

For SYSTEMATIC spelling instruction in first or second grade and in upper grade remedial classes.

Give one sentence a week. Any word missed must go on a special student WORDS-TO-BE-MASTERED SHEET. To be considered mastered, a word must be correctly spelled on five CONSECUTIVE occasions when the student had no opportunity to "CRAM" for the "test."

Dictation Sentences

1. What is your name?
2. Do you like to eat apple pie?
3. Boys will be boys, and girls will be girls.
4. I like the colors brown, blue, yellow and red.
5. Some children have fun playing with cats and dogs.
6. Would you please help me find my pet rabbit after school?
7. Did she see my mother go into the house?
8. Once again it is time to pick apples off the trees.
9. The baby looked around and saw three pretty little kittens.
10. Cows and horses live on farms.
11. In a very few days her father will come home.
12. Could you stop by and show me your toy boat?
13. When we were eating, a man came in and sat down at our table.
14. Who said that workers just love to work for a living?
15. They took their time putting their toys away
16. So tell me, can you buy a doll for a dime?
17. The first thing to do is to let me look at your work.
18. Wouldn't you know that this is getting harder all the time.
19. You are doing just fine.

20. If I say jump, my dog just sits.
21. How are you doing? Are you finding out that you can spell?
22. If he gets here in time, he can ride the black horse.
23. That girl knows more about houses than most people do.
24. She likes it a lot where she lives.
25. Finding homes for rabbits is not easy.
26. Making a living is hard work.
27. A cow never jumped over the moon.
28. About all that I am after is a big piece of pie.
29. Knowing how to do something isn't the same as doing it.
30. Soon it will be time to go home.
31. No, it's not time to go right now.
32. It makes me mad to see books all over the place.
33. They went away last year.
34. We really had a good time, but we couldn't wait to get back.