



100 Most Frequently Misspelled Words Across Eight Grade Levels

A small number of words—about 300—account for more than half the words students misspell in their writing. A Research in Action project reviewed 18,599 written compositions of children in grades 1–8 (Cramer and Cipielewski, 1995). The researchers noted spelling errors in these compositions and compiled the results. They found that a small set of common words tend to be misspelled over and over. The words students misspell in the primary grades continue to be misspelled by students in the intermediate grades and in middle school. The researchers compiled this list of the *100 Most Frequently Misspelled Words Across Eight Grade Levels*.

Here are some suggestions for using this list:

Assessment:

Assess students on the words at the beginning of the year to determine which frequently misspelled words require additional focus and instruction. Depending on the grade level you teach, you may want to assess one column at a time and provide instruction before assessing the next column.

Assess students again mid-year and at the end of the year to monitor progress and to identify words that students are continuing to misspell. The columns (Beg/Mid/End) can be used to check off words that are misspelled for each testing period.

Checklist for planning instruction:

For a whole class, you can use one copy of the checklist to keep track of words you want to teach (or reteach). For a small intervention group, you can reproduce a copy of the checklist for each student and provide more individualized instruction.

Plan a system for teaching and recycling the frequently misspelled words until students master them. Students should show mastery of these words on assessments and, *more importantly*, students should spell these words correctly in their daily writing—the best confirmation that these words are no longer misspelled! (See the *Focus Word Study Sheet* and *Focus Word Test* for a suggested system.)

100 Most Frequently Misspelled Words

Across Eight Grade Levels

Name:

1. too	Beg	Mid	End	26. didn't	Beg	Mid	End	51. like	Beg	Mid	End	76. about	Beg	Mid	End
2. a lot				27. people				52. whole				77. first			
3. because				28. until				53. another				78. happened			
4. there				29. with				54. believe				79. Mom			
5. their				30. different				55. I'm				80. especially			
6. that's				31. outside				56. thought				81. school			
7. they				32. we're				57. let's				82. getting			
8. it's				33. through				58. before				83. started			
9. when				34. upon				59. beautiful				84. was			
10. favorite				35. probably				60. everything				85. which			
11. went				36. don't				61. very				86. stopped			
12. Christmas				37. sometimes				62. into				87. two			
13. were				38. off				63. caught				88. Dad			
14. our				39. everybody				64. one				89. took			
15. they're				40. heard				65. Easter				90. friend's			
16. said				41. always				66. what				91. presents			
17. know				42. I				67. there's				92. are			
18. you're				43. something				68. little				93. morning			
19. friend				44. would				69. doesn't				94. could			
20. friends				45. want				70. usually				95. around			
21. really				46. and				71. clothes				96. buy			
22. finally				47. Halloween				72. scared				97. maybe			
23. where				48. house				73. everyone				98. family			
24. again				49. once				74. have				99. pretty			
25. then				50. to				75. swimming				100. tired			