



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:

	Beg	Mid	End
1. too			
2. a lot			
3. because			
4. there			
5. their			
6. that's			
7. they			
8. it's			
9. when			
10. favorite			
11. went			
12. Christmas			
13. were			
14. our			
15. they're			
16. said			
17. know			
18. you're			
19. friend			
20. friends			
21. really			
22. finally			
23. where			
24. again			
25. then			

	Beg	Mid	End
26. didn't			
27. people			
28. until			
29. with			
30. different			
31. outside			
32. we're			
33. through			
34. upon			
35. probably			
36. don't			
37. sometimes			
38. off			
39. everybody			
40. heard			
41. always			
42. I			
43. something			
44. would			
45. want			
46. and			
47. Halloween			
48. house			
49. once			
50. to			

	Beg	Mid	End
51. like			
52. whole			
53. another			
54. believe			
55. I'm			
56. thought			
57. let's			
58. before			
59. beautiful			
60. everything			
61. very			
62. into			
63. caught			
64. one			
65. Easter			
66. what			
67. there's			
68. little			
69. doesn't			
70. usually			
71. clothes			
72. scared			
73. everyone			
74. have			
75. swimming			

	Beg	Mid	End
76. about			
77. first			
78. happened			
79. Mom			
80. especially			
81. school			
82. getting			
83. started			
84. was			
85. which			
86. stopped			
87. two			
88. Dad			
89. took			
90. friend's			
91. presents			
92. are			
93. morning			
94. could			
95. around			
96. buy			
97. maybe			
98. family			
99. pretty			
100. tired			