

Ayres Spelling Scale

from the 1957 *Writing Road to Reading*

For Word Reading and Word Spelling Fluency Practice

By Donald L. Potter

www.donpotter.net

**November 13, 2015
Odessa, TX**

Ayres List from the 1957 *Writing Road to Reading*

For Word Reading Fluency Practice

Words in Sections A to G – 89 Words (5340/sec. = wpm)

me	do	and	go	at	on
a	it	is	she	can	see
run	the	in	so	no	now
man	ten	bed	top	he	you
will	we	an	my	up	last
not	us	am	good	little	ago
old	bad	red	of	be	but
this	all	<u>your</u>	<u>you</u>	out	time
may	into	him	today	look	did
<u>like</u>	<u>lice</u>	six	boy	book	by
have	are	had	over	must	make
school	street	say	come	hand	ring
<u>live</u> (i-e)	<u>live</u> (-i-)	kill	late	let	big
mother	three	land	cold	hot	hat
child	ice	play	<u>sea</u>	<u>see</u>	

Section H – 55 Words (3300/sec. = wpm)

day	eat	sit	lot	box
belong	<u>door</u>	<u>floor</u>	yes	low
soft	stand	yard	bring	tell
ball	law	ask	<u>just</u>	<u>gust</u>
way	get	home	much	call
long	love	then	house	year
to	I	as	send	one
has	some	if	how	her
them	other	baby	well	about
<u>men</u>	<u>man</u>	for	<u>ran</u>	<u>run</u>
was	that	his	led	lay

Section I – 69 Words (5760/sec.=wpm)

nice	face	miss	ride	tree	sick
got	north	white	spent	foot	blow
block	spring	river	plant	cut	<u>song</u>
<u>sing</u>	<u>sang</u>	<u>sung</u>	winter	stone	<u>lake</u>
<u>lace</u>	page	nice	end	fall	feet
went	back	away	paper	put	each
soon	came	Sunday	show	<u>Monday</u>	<u>moon</u>
yet	find	give	new	letter	take
<u>Mr.</u>	<u>Mister</u>	after	thing	what	than
<u>its</u>	<u>it's</u>	very	or	thank	dear
west	sold	told	best	form	far
gave	alike	add			

Section J – 93 Words (5400.sec.=wpm)

seven	forg ^{er}	happy	noon	think
sister	cast	card	south	deep
inside	blue	post	town	stay
grand	outside	dark	band	game
boat	rest	east	<u>son</u>	<u>sun</u>
help	hard	race	cover	<u>fire</u>
<u>wire</u>	<u>tire</u>	age	gold	<u>read</u> _(-e-)
<u>read</u> _(ee)	<u>red</u>	fine	cannot	<u>May</u>
<u>may</u>	line	left	ship	train
saw	pa	large	near	down
why	bill	want	girl	part
still	place	report	never	found
side	kind	life	here	car
word	every	under	most	made
<u>said</u>	<u>say</u>	work	our	more
when	<u>from</u>	<u>form</u>	<u>wind</u> _(-i-)	<u>wind</u> _(i-e)
print	air	fill	along	lost
name	room	hope	same	glad
with	mine			

Section K - 97 Words (5820/sec.=wpm)

became	brother	rain	keep
start	<u>mail</u>	<u>male</u>	<u>female</u>
<u>eye</u>	<u>I</u>	glass	party
upon	<u>two</u>	<u>twin</u>	<u>twain</u>
they	would	<u>any</u>	<u>many</u>
could	should	city	where
<u>week</u>	<u>weak</u>	first	<u>sent</u>
<u>cent</u>	mile	<u>seem</u>	<u>see</u>
even	without	afternoon	Friday
<u>hour</u>	<u>our</u>	wife	state
July	head	story	open
short	lady	reach	better
water	round	cost	price
become	class	horse	care
try	move	delay	pound
behind	around	burn	camp
<u>bear</u>	<u>bare</u>	clear	clean
spell	poor	finish	hurt
maybe	across	tonight	tenth
sir	<u>these</u>	<u>those</u>	club
<u>seen</u>	<u>see</u>	fell	full
fail	set	stamp	light
<u>coming</u>	<u>come</u>	<u>cent</u>	<u>sent</u>
nigh	pass	shut	<u>easily</u>
<u>ease</u>			

Section L - 109 Words (6540/sec.=wpm)

catch	black	warm	unless	<u>clothing</u>
<u>clothe</u>	<u>began</u>	<u>begin</u>	<u>begun</u>	able
<u>gone</u>	<u>go</u>	<u>done</u>	<u>do</u>	suit
track	watch	dash	fell	fight
<u>buy</u>	<u>by</u>	stop	<u>walk</u>	<u>talk</u>
<u>balk</u>	grant	soap	news	new
small	war	summer	above	express
turn	lesson	half	father	anything
table	high	talk	June	<u>right</u>
<u>write</u>	<u>wrote</u>	<u>road</u>	<u>rote</u>	<u>ride</u>
<u>March</u>	<u>march</u>	next	indeed	four
herself	power	wish	because	world
country	<u>meet</u>	<u>meat</u>	another	trip
list	people	ever	held	church
<u>once</u>	<u>one</u>	own	before	<u>know</u>
<u>no</u>	<u>were</u>	<u>where</u>	<u>there</u>	<u>here</u>
dead	leave	early	<u>close</u>	<u>close</u>
<u>flower</u>	<u>four</u>	nothing	ground	<u>lead</u>
<u>led</u>	<u>lead</u>	such	many	morning
however	mind	shall	alone	order
third	push	point	within	<u>done</u>
<u>do</u>	<u>gone</u>	<u>go</u>	body	

(This is the point of minimum accomplishment for a second grade)

By now Rules 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 26 should be understood. They will no longer be noted.

Section M - 96 Words – (5760/sec.=wpm)

trust	extra	dress	beside
teach	happen	begun	collect
file	provide	sight	stood
fix	born	<u>goes</u>	<u>go</u>
<u>does</u>	<u>do</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	hold
drill	army	pretty	stole
income	bought	<u>paid</u>	pay,
<u>laid</u>	<u>lay,</u>	<u>said</u>	<u>say</u>
enter	railroad	unable	ticket
account	driven	real	recover
mountain	steamer	speak	past
might	begin	contact	deal
<u>almost</u>	<u>all</u>	bought	less
even	<u>off</u>	<u>of</u>	true
took	again	inform	both
heart	month	<u>children</u>	<u>child</u>
<u>build</u>	<u>built</u>	understand	follow
charge	<u>days</u>	<u>say</u>	member
case	while	also	return
<u>those</u>	<u>these</u>	office	great
<u>Miss</u>	<u>miss</u>	who	died
die	change	wire	few
please	picture	money	ready
omit	<u>anyway</u>	<u>any</u>	<u>way</u>

Section N – 91 Words (5460/sec.=wpm)

except	<u>aunt</u>	<u>ant</u>	capture
<u>wrote</u>	<u>write</u>	else	bridge
offer	suffer	<u>built</u>	<u>build</u>
center	front	rule	carry
chain	death	learn	wonder
tire	<u>pair</u>	<u>pear</u>	<u>pare</u>
check	prove	<u>heard</u>	<u>hear</u>
inspect	itself	always	something
<u>write</u>	<u>wrote</u>	expect	need
thus	<u>woman</u>	<u>women</u>	young
<u>fair</u>	<u>fare</u>	dollar	<u>evening</u>
<u>eve</u>	plain	broke	feel
<u>sure</u>	<u>sugar</u>	least	sorry
<u>God</u>	<u>god</u>	teacher	November
subject	April	history	cause
study	himself	matter	use
thought	person	<u>nor</u>	<u>or</u>
January	mean	vote	court
copy	act	<u>been</u>	<u>be</u>
yesterday	among	<u>question</u>	<u>quest</u>
doctor	hear	size	December
dozen	there	tax	number
October	reason	fifth	

Section 0 - 94 Words (5640/sec.=wpm)

<u>eight</u>	<u>ate</u>	afraid	uncle
rather	comfort	elect	aboard
jail	shed	retire	refuse
district	restrain	royal	<u>objection</u>
<u>object</u>	pleasure	<u>measure</u>	<u>treasure</u>
navy	<u>fourth</u>	<u>four</u>	population
proper	judge	<u>weather</u>	<u>whether</u>
worth	contain	figure	sudden
<u>forty</u>	<u>four</u>	<u>fourth</u>	<u>fourteen</u>
instead	<u>throw</u>	<u>threw</u>	personal
everything	rate	chief	perfect
second	slide	farther	duty
intend	company	<u>quite</u>	<u>quit</u>
<u>quiet</u>	none	<u>knew</u>	<u>know</u>
remain	direct	appear	liberty
enough	fact	board	September
station	attend	between	<u>public</u>
<u>music</u>	picnic	friend	<u>during</u>
<u>endure</u>	through	police	until
madam	<u>truly</u>	<u>true</u>	<u>whole</u>
<u>hole</u>	address	request	raise
August	Tuesday	<u>goes</u>	<u>does</u>
struck	<u>getting</u>	<u>get</u>	don't
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>		

(This is the point of minimum accomplishment for third grade)

Section P – 79 Word (4740/sec.=wpm)

spend	enjoy	<u>awful</u>	<u>awe</u>
usual	complain	auto	vacation
<u>beautiful</u>	<u>beauty</u>	flight	travel
rapid	repair	<u>trouble</u>	<u>double</u>
entrance	<u>importance</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>carried</u>
<u>carry</u>	loss	fortune	empire
mayor	wait	beg	degree
prison	engine	visit	<u>guest</u>
<u>guess</u>	department	obtain	family
animal	favor	<u>Mrs.</u>	<u>Mr.</u>
<u>Miss</u>	husband	amount	human
view	<u>election</u>	<u>elect</u>	clerk
though	o'clock	support	<u>does</u>
<u>goes</u>	regard	escape	since
which	<u>length</u>	<u>long</u>	<u>strength</u>
<u>strong</u>	destroy	newspaper	<u>daughter</u>
<u>naughty</u>	<u>caught</u>	<u>taught</u>	answer
reply	oblige	<u>sail</u>	<u>sale,</u>
<u>cities</u>	<u>city,</u>	<u>known</u>	<u>know</u>
several	desire	nearly	

Section Q – 100 Words (6000/sec.=wpm)

sometimes	declare	engage	final
terrible	surprise	period	addition
employ	property	select	<u>connection</u>
<u>connect</u>	firm	<u>region</u>	<u>religion</u>
convict	private	command	debate
crowd	factory	publish	represent
term	section	<u>relative</u>	<u>relate,</u>
<u>prögress</u>	<u>progress</u>	entire	<u>president</u>
<u>preside</u>	measure	<u>famous</u>	<u>fame</u>
serve	estate	remember	either
effort	<u>important</u>	<u>importance</u>	<u>due</u>
<u>dew</u>	include	<u>running</u>	<u>run</u>
allow	position	field	ledge
claim	primary	result	Saturday
appoint	information	<u>whom</u>	<u>who</u>
arrest	<u>themselves</u>	<u>self</u>	<u>calves</u>
<u>halves</u>	<u>half,</u>	<u>special</u>	especially,
<u>woman</u>	<u>women,</u>	<u>präsent</u>	<u>present,</u>
<u>action</u>	<u>act,</u>	<u>justice</u>	<u>just,</u>
<u>gentleman</u>	<u>gentle,</u>	enclose	await
suppose	wonderful	direction	<u>forward</u>
<u>backward</u>	<u>toward</u>	although	prompt
attempt	<u>whose</u>	<u>who,</u>	<u>statement</u>
<u>state</u>	perhaps	<u>their</u>	<u>they</u>
imprison	<u>written</u>	<u>writ</u>	arrange

(This is the point of minimum accomplishment for fourth grade.)

Section R – 71 Words (4260/sec.=wpm)

<u>forenoon</u>	<u>before</u>	<u>lose</u>
loose	loss	<u>combination</u>
<u>combine</u>	avenue	neighbor
weigh	wear	entertain
salary	<u>visitor</u>	<u>visit</u>
publication	<u>machine</u>	<u>engine</u>
toward	success	drown
adopt	secure	honor
promise	wreck	prepare
vessel	busy	<u>prefer</u>
<u>preference,</u>	<u>illustrate</u>	<u>illustration</u>
<u>different</u>	<u>differ</u>	object
provision	according	already
attention	education	<u>director</u>
<u>direct</u>	purpose	common
diamond	together	convention
increase	manner	feature
article	<u>service</u>	<u>serve,</u>
<u>injure</u>	<u>injury</u>	effect
distribute	general	tomorrow
consider	<u>against</u>	<u>again</u>
gain	complete	search
treasure	popular	<u>Christmas</u>
<u>Christ</u>	interest	

Section S – 56 Words (3360/sec.=wpm)

often	<u>stopped</u>	<u>stop</u>
motion	theater	<u>improvement</u>
<u>improve,</u>	<u>century</u>	<u>cent</u>
total	mention	arrive
supply	assist	difference
<u>examination</u>	<u>examine</u>	particular
affair	<u>course</u>	<u>coarse</u>
neither	local	<u>marriage</u>
<u>marry</u>	<u>carriage</u>	<u>carry</u>
further	serious	doubt
condition	<u>government</u>	<u>govern,</u>
<u>opinion</u>	<u>onion</u>	<u>union</u>
<u>familiar</u>	<u>behavior</u>	<u>companion</u>
<u>million,</u>	believe	system
<u>possible</u>	<u>possibly,</u>	<u>piece</u>
<u>peace</u>	certain	witness
investigate	<u>therefore</u>	<u>before,</u>
too	<u>two</u>	<u>to,</u>
<u>pleasant</u>	<u>please</u>	

Section T – 46 Words (2760/sec.=wpm)

<u>guess</u>	<u>guest</u> ,	<u>circular</u>
<u>circle</u> ,	<u>argument</u>	<u>argue</u>
<u>volume</u>	<u>organize</u>	<u>summon</u>
<u>official</u>	<u>officer</u>	<u>office</u>
<u>victim</u>	<u>estimate</u>	<u>accident</u>
<u>invitation</u>	<u>invite</u>	<u>accept</u>
<u>impossible</u>	<u>concern</u>	<u>associate</u>
<u>automobile</u>	<u>various</u>	<u>vary</u>
<u>very</u>	<u>entitle</u>	<u>politician</u>
<u>national</u>	<u>nation</u>	<u>recent</u>
<u>business</u>	<u>busy</u>	<u>refer</u>
<u>minute</u> (size)	<u>minute</u> (time)	<u>ought</u>
<u>absence</u>	<u>absent</u> ,	<u>conference</u>
<u>confer</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>really</u>
<u>real</u>	<u>celebration</u>	<u>folks</u>
<u>folk</u>		

(This is the minimum accomplishment for a fifth grade.)

Section U – 60 (Words 3600/sec.=wpm)

<u>meant</u>	<u>mean,</u>	<u>earliest</u>
<u>early</u>	<u>whether</u>	<u>distinguish</u>
<u>consideration</u>	<u>colonies</u>	<u>colony</u>
<u>colonial,</u>	<u>assure</u>	<u>sure</u>
<u>relief</u>	<u>occupy</u>	<u>probably</u>
<u>probable</u>	<u>foreign</u>	<u>expense</u>
<u>responsible</u>	<u>response,</u>	<u>beginning</u>
<u>begin,</u>	<u>application</u>	<u>apply,</u>
<u>difficulty</u>	<u>difficult,</u>	<u>scene</u>
<u>science</u>	<u>scissors</u>	<u>descend</u>
<u>descent,</u>	<u>finally</u>	<u>final</u>
<u>develop</u>	<u>circumstance</u>	<u>circumference</u>
<u>circle,</u>	<u>issue</u>	<u>tissue</u>
<u>material</u>	<u>suggest</u>	<u>mere</u>
<u>senate</u>	<u>senator</u>	<u>senatorial</u>
<u>receive</u>	<u>respectfully</u>	<u>respectful</u>
<u>respect,</u>	<u>agreement</u>	<u>agree</u>
<u>unfortunate</u>	<u>majority</u>	<u>major</u>
<u>elaborate</u>	<u>citizen</u>	<u>city,</u>
<u>necessary</u>	<u>necessity</u>	<u>divide</u>

Section V – 17 Words (1020/sec.=wpm)

<u>principal</u>	<u>principle</u>	testimony
<u>discussion</u>	<u>discuss,</u>	<u>arrangement</u>
<u>arrange,</u>	<u>reference</u>	<u>refer</u>
evidence	experience	session
secretary	association	career
<u>height</u>	<u>weight</u>	

Section W – 16 Words (960/sec.=wpm)

<u>organization</u>	<u>organize</u>	emergency
appreciate	<u>sincerely</u>	<u>sincere</u>
<u>athletic</u>	<u>athlete</u>	extreme
practical	proceed	<u>cordially</u>
<u>cordial</u>	separate	<u>February</u>
<u>library</u>		

Section XYZ – 19 words (1140/sec=wpm)

immediate	convenient	receipt
preliminary	disappoint	<u>especially</u>
<u>special</u>	annual	<u>committee</u>
<u>employee</u>	<u>coffee</u>	<u>decision</u>
<u>decide</u>	principle	<u>judgment</u>
<u>judge</u>	recommend	<u>allege</u>
<u>allegiance</u>		

The sixth-grade work should continue with and complete all of the Buckingham Extension to the *Ayres Spelling Scale*.

The Ayres list is primarily one of base words and may be expanded by adding prefixes and endings. It is interesting to note that we recently had two second-grade classes, each of more than fifty pupils, who completed the Ayres list through the fourth-grade words. More than half made sixth-grade Metropolitan test scores and not one of the 108 scored below fourth grade. Thus children taught by this method do require supplemental words lists beyond Ayres list for grades beyond the second. (WRTR 1957, p. 211)

After each word is written a child should read it and give a sentence containing the word. This latter may well be postponed until all the words in the day's lesson are written.

Almost all of this list of 1000 words are in the spoken or "understanding" vocabulary of normal six-year old children. Teachers should of course introduce and teach no words far beyond the easy understanding of the child in their age group. It seems silly to mention this but critics of phonics seem to assume that if the sounds of a language are taught the meaning of individual words and sentences is overlooked. Experience with our phonics is quite the reverse and such criticism is quite unfounded. (WRTR 1957, 131)

Note concerning Spalding's Ayres list: "Some words are bracketed together. In such cases the first word is in the Ayres list. The others have been added to show (1) the base word, or (2) several words in the same peculiarity in spelling, or (3) how some words are said alike but use different phonograms in spelling, or (4) contrast in the sounds of two words that might easily be confused. (WRTR 1957, 130)

At the end of Section J we read, "At this point we should discuss base words and derivatives. Many words are derived from "base" words and it is always important for word meaning, grammar and a grasp of how the language is formed that the base word be taught with each derived word. For example, please is the base word for pleasant, pleasure, displease, etc. It is important also important that children learn that, although many words contain the spellings of shorter words which are not related in meaning – this fact is a mere coincidence which they should ignore. The phonics teaching now being used in schools classifies rhyming words like ill, will, bill, fill, kill, mill, etc., as word families. This is wrong. They are not families but completely unrelated words. (p. 152)

The Ayres list and above information was taken from the 1957 edition of Romalda and Walter Spalding's *The Writing Road to Reading* by Donald L. Potter - in the interest of understanding the history and pedagogy of the method.

Note: This is a Fluency Drill Version of Spalding's 1957 Ayres' Spelling Scale is to be use along with my Phonovisual Remedial Program. I believe students who master the Phonovisual Charts and can spell and read my Phonovisual words will be able read and spell most if not all of the Ayres Spelling Scale Words. The Fluency Drills also serve to round out their reading and spelling ability. Work with the Ayres Spelling Fluency List should not be started until **after** the students have finished the Phonovisual work. 11/13/2015. I would caution against using the Ayres Spelling Scale as a sight-word memorization program, my purpose here is quite the opposite.