

Demystifying Polysyllables

Shortened version of Pseudoword Spelling Test

Explain to students that this test is to see how they write down the sounds of English. The words are made-up nonsense words. They must try to write down all the sounds they hear in each word. Explain that pseudo means false in Greek. They only write the word once under the “Pseudoword” column on the answer sheet. Also there will be more than one way to spell some of the words, if you (the teacher administering the test) can read the word the way it was pronounced then it is correct. **The words in brackets are NOT to be read out aloud – just there to help with pronunciation...**

1. fradding (said like cladding)
2. nushplock (like mush and clock as one word)
3. choamscraited (like home and waited as one word)
4. splodgement (like lodge and mint)
5. squainful (like painful)
6. brawpision (braw like claw, pision like division)
7. vorjopely (like more hope ly)
8. jorthilogue (sounds like ‘jaw’ + ‘thee’ + ‘log’)
9. gowmicious (gow like cow – icious like vicious)
10. stroidation (like void and end of station)

Pseudoword Spelling Test Student Answer Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pseudoword	Sounds	Patterns	Conventions
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

Short Pseudoword Spelling Marking Guide

Give one mark for each column. Each word has three marks.

For the **sounds** just check that all **phonemes** (Individual sounds in a word, ch ur ch has three phonemes) are represented with at least one letter. As long as there is a letter that is remotely connected to the sound then the student has phonemic awareness.

Patterns are mostly to do with long or short vowels or digraphs (two letters used to write a sound such a oy or ch)

Conventions are to do with correct orthography (spelling)

So if a student wrote

Frading for the first word = Sounds = 1 mark correct

Patterns correct 1 mark

Conventions Incorrect – no double d to keep vowel short.

Pseudoword	Sounds	Patterns	Conventions
fradding		short 'a'	double dd
nushplock		short a and o sh digraph	-ck ending
choamscraited		ch 'oa' o+e	-ed ending
splodgement		short 'o' dge pattern	ment ending
squainful		ai	ful ending
brawpision		aw	sion ending
vorjopely		or o+e /oa	ly ending
jorthilogue		or aw th i/y	gue ending
gowmicious		ow	cious ending
stroidation		oi / oy	oi in mid syll tion ending

Total marks = 30

Dyslexic students will have trouble with all three columns.

Most students will have phonemic awareness and will get good marks for sounds.

Poor spellers will have trouble with patterns and conventions and this test is a help diagnosing problems.

Any questions. email me – Jessica.Craig@accent.ac.nz