

Diagnostic Commentaries for Year 6 Spelling Example Questions

Example 1



I am the **youngest** person in my class.

Diagnostic commentary

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Correct | 1 mark – 85% |
| Overview of performance | <p>This question assesses the Years 3 and 4 statutory requirement: the /ʌ/ sound spelt <i>ou</i>. In the word <i>youngest</i>, the /ʌ/ sound is spelt <i>ou</i>. While the majority of pupils were able to write <i>youngest</i> correctly, just over a tenth of pupils (13 per cent) misspelt <i>young</i>, for example, writing <i>yongest</i> or <i>yungest</i>.</p> <p>Only five per cent of pupils misspelt the suffix <i>-est</i> which is added to <i>young</i> to form the superlative: for example, writing <i>youngist</i> or <i>yungist</i>.</p> |
| lower achieving pupils | <p>1 mark – 52%</p> <p>Misspelling <i>young</i> – 42%</p> <p>Misspelling the suffix <i>-est</i> – 20%</p> |
| middle achieving pupils | <p>1 mark – 90%</p> <p>Misspelling <i>young</i> – 9%</p> |
| higher achieving pupils | 1 mark – 99% |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Other words | Words with the /ʌ/ sound spelt <i>ou</i> | Words with the suffix <i>-est</i> |
| | country doubling touched troubles | funniest hottest shortest widest |

Example 2

Count the jigsaw pieces in the _____ ***palm*** _____ of your hand.

Diagnostic commentary**Correct**

1 mark – 85%

Overview of performance

This question assesses the Years 5 and 6 statutory requirement: words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word).

The most common error made by pupils was to **substitute the letter *r* for the silent *l*** in the word, which nine per cent of pupils did, writing *parm* or *parme*, for instance.

lower achieving pupils

1 mark – 49%

Substituting the letter *r* for the silent *l* – 33%**middle achieving pupils**

1 mark – 91%

higher achieving pupils

1 mark – 99%

Other words

Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)

half
folk
salmon
would

Example 3



You need to train hard to be a good gymnast .

Diagnostic commentary

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Correct | 1 mark – 79% |
| Overview of performance | This question assesses the Years 3 and 4 statutory requirement: the /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words. Just over one in ten pupils (12 per cent) misspelt the y (for example, writing <i>gimnast</i> or <i>gyimnast</i>), while five per cent of pupils misspelt the /dʒ/ sound represented by the letter g (for example, writing <i>jymnast</i>). |
| lower achieving pupils | 1 mark – 42% |
| | Misspelling y – 42% |
| | Misspelling the /dʒ/ sound represented by the letter g – 16% |
| middle achieving pupils | 1 mark – 83% |
| higher achieving pupils | 1 mark – 97% |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Other words | Words with the /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words | Words with the /dʒ/ sound spelt g |
| | Egyptian mystery mythology pyramid | college large page strange |

Example 4

- I had _____ **mistaken** _____ the peaches for apricots because they were similar.

Diagnostic commentary**Correct**

1 mark – 82%

Overview of performance

This question assesses the Years 3 and 4 statutory requirement: adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable.

The suffix *-en* is added to the word *mistake* to form *mistaken*. When the suffix is added, the final *e* in *mistake* has to be dropped. Less than a tenth of pupils (8 per cent) **misspelt the suffix *-en***, for example, writing *mistakan* or *mistackin*.

The same proportion (8 per cent) **misspelt *mis*** at the start of the word, often writing *miss*.

lower achieving pupils

1 mark – 48%

Misspelling the suffix *-en* – 28%**Misspelling *mis* – 25%****middle achieving pupils**

1 mark – 85%

higher achieving pupils

1 mark – 98%

Other wordsWords with the suffix *-en*

broken
hidden
spoken
written

Words beginning with *mis*

misbehave
mischief
mislead
misplace