

Letter Length Spelling:
Instructions for Use

This task is designed to reveal letter length effects in single word spelling-to-dictation. Patients with an acquired 'peripheral' dygraphia affecting 'grapheme-level representations' show length effects in spelling single words (and nonwords) (eg. Ellis, A.W. (1988) **Language and Cognitive Processes**, 3, 99 - 127).

All the materials are monosyllabic words and vary in letter length from 3 letters to 6 letters. Across each letter length, words are matched as closely as possible for frequency, imageability and morphemic complexity. The word set is the same as that used to test letter length effects in Oral Reading [29].

Special Points:

Find out about pre-morbid spelling ability.

Descriptive Statistics:

Norms are not currently available.

Suggestions for Where to go next: If the subject has more difficulty in spelling the longer words to dictation, you may wish to find out whether the probability of error per letter increases as string length increases (see Caramazza, A., Miceli, G., Villa, G. & Romani, C. (1987) **Cognition**, 26, 59 - 85), though, to do this, you will have to test the subject with a greater number of words of each length. Test performance on nonword materials varying in letter length [45]. Find out whether the spelling is influenced by lexical and semantic variables (eg. Regularity [44]; Imageability and Frequency [40]). Examine the kinds of error that the subject makes (see Ellis, A.W. (1988, op. cit.)). Check ability to spell aloud.

If the spelling is unaffected by letter length, look at the effects of other variables on spelling performance.

PALPA

Letter Length Spelling:
Presenter's and Marking Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions to Subject: I'm going to say a word to you. Then I want you to write it down.

3-Letter		Response
1	key	
2	car	
3	fox	
4	bed	
5	cup	
6	bat	
Total Correct		/6
4-Letter		
1	ship	
2	door	
3	duck	
4	book	
5	bird	
6	soup	
Total Correct		/6
5-Letter		
1	knife	
2	house	
3	glove	
4	smoke	
5	horse	
6	ghost	
Total Correct		/6
6-Letter		
1	bridge	
2	church	
3	cheese	
4	square	
5	tongue	
6	priest	
Total Correct		/6