



**NFER**

Classroom

# spelling

# 5

year  
**5**

supplement to  
teacher guide

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To access the standardised and age standardised score converter and question grid spreadsheets, you will need to go to our secure School Portal on the NFER's website:

[www.nfer.ac.uk/portal](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/portal)

and then enter your

NFER Number: .....

Project Number: .....

Unique Password: .....

(please write them in above for quick reference).

The letter and despatch notes that accompanied the test materials are pre-populated with the details of the numbers and password.

If you have lost the letter and despatch notes, the portal website has links where you can request your details again.

## Using the outcomes of the test

This section provides teachers with information to convert pupils' test scores into more useful measures of their attainment.

If the Year 5 spelling tests are undertaken and marked in line with the guidance in this booklet, then both a standardised score and an age standardised score can be derived from a pupil's test score.

Standardised scores enable a comparison to be made between the performance of a pupil and that of other pupils who have taken the test. Age standardised scores mean that the comparison is with pupils who, in the case of the NFER tests, have the same month of birth.

The starting point for this outcome is to total a pupil's marks from a spelling test. A box is provided at the end of the test to assist in this. This gives each pupil's total score or 'raw' score.

In order to obtain reliable standardised scores and age standardised scores, you should administer the tests according to the guidance given in this booklet. It is particularly important that you mark spellings strictly according to the mark scheme. If not, the information derived from this section cannot be used reliably. We also strongly advise that you do not explicitly teach the target spelling words included in the spelling tests. Instead, we recommend teaching the spelling patterns using other words so that the target words can reliably be used for formative assessment.

If you wish to record and explore patterns of performance across the test as a whole, or across the whole class, you may find it helpful to complete a target word grid. There is a target word grid for each spelling test. For each target word, the target word grid shows the average mark of pupils in the standardisation sample. Completing pupils' scores in the target word grid will enable you to compare areas of performance with a nationally representative sample of year 5 pupils. The target word grids are available from the following website, which will require online registration for access: [www.nfer.ac.uk/portal](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/portal)

### Standardised scores

Standardised scores enable a comparison to be made between the performance of a pupil and that of other pupils who have taken the same test. The average standardised score is set at 100, based on the performance of a nationally representative sample. About two-thirds of pupils will have standardised scores between 85 and 115 and scores within this range can be broadly described as 'average'.

Almost all pupils fall within the range 70 to 140, so scores outside this range can be regarded as exceptional. These exceptional scores are marked with \*\*\* on the charts below as standardised scores cannot be calculated with the necessary statistical reliability. If an exact score is needed, for example to calculate an average score for the class, 69 or 141 should be used as appropriate for these pupils.

In order to save time and ensure accuracy, you can download a spreadsheet which will calculate each pupil's standardised score and age standardised score if you enter their date of birth and date of test from [www.nfer.ac.uk/portal](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/portal)

For example, a teacher administered Test A to her class in September. One pupil, Lucy, achieved a raw score of 14 on the test, giving her a standardised score of 105. The teacher could then say that Lucy achieved an average score on the test. Whilst the raw test scores achieved by the pupils on all three tests are not exactly equivalent, the standardised scores are equivalent as they are all on the same scale.

Test A		Test B		Test C	
Raw score	Standardised score	Raw score	Standardised score	Raw score	Standardised score
0	***	0	***	0	***
1	71	1	75	1	72
2	79	2	80	2	80
3	83	3	84	3	83
4	86	4	87	4	86
5	88	5	89	5	89
6	91	6	91	6	91
7	93	7	93	7	93
8	94	8	94	8	95
9	96	9	96	9	97
10	98	10	97	10	98
11	99	11	99	11	100
12	101	12	100	12	102
13	103	13	101	13	104
14	105	14	103	14	106
15	107	15	105	15	108
16	110	16	107	16	111
17	112	17	109	17	113
18	115	18	112	18	116
19	118	19	114	19	118
20	121	20	117	20	121
21	125	21	121	21	125
22	131	22	126	22	130
23	139	23	135	23	138
24	***	24	***	24	***

## Confidence bands

Confidence bands are used to show the extent of the margin of error in the standardised scores. In other words, they show how accurately the test measures pupils' ability in spelling.

The margin of error is simply a statistical estimate, based on the fact that tests can only sample the particular area of learning which they assess and that therefore the score a pupil achieves may vary within a few points of their 'true score'. To indicate how wide this margin of error is likely to be, a '90 per cent confidence band' has been calculated. This means that you can have 90 per cent certainty that the true score lies within the confidence band.

The table below gives the numbers that should be subtracted from and added to pupils' standardised scores at different score points to form the 90% confidence bands.

Test A	Standardised score	To form 90% confidence band:	
		subtract	add
	71	5	12
	79	6	11
	83	6	10
	86, 88	7	10
	91	7	9
	93, 94, 96, 98	8	9
	99, 101	8	8
	103, 105, 107	9	8
	110, 112, 115	10	7
	118, 121	11	6
	125	11	5
	131	12	5
	139	13	4

Test B	Standardised score	To form 90% confidence band:	
		subtract	add
	75	5	10
	80	5	9
	84, 87	6	9
	89, 91	6	8
	93, 94, 96, 97	7	8
	99, 100, 101	7	7
	103, 105, 107	8	7
	109, 112	8	6
	114, 117	9	6
	121	9	5
	126	10	5
	135	11	4

Test C	Standardised score	To form 90% confidence band:	
		subtract	add
	72	5	12
	80	6	11
	83	6	10
	86, 89	7	10
	91, 93	7	9
	95, 97, 98	8	9
	100	8	8
	102, 104, 106	9	8
	108	9	7
	111, 113	10	7
	116	10	6
	118, 121	11	6
	125	11	5
	130	12	5
	138	13	4

Take three pupils, Rachel, Nathan and David, with standardised scores of 101, 99 and 125 respectively on Test A. For Rachel, with a standardised score of 101 in this test, the 90 per cent confidence band is plus or minus 8. Therefore, you can be 90 per cent certain (there is a nine-out-of-ten chance) that Rachel's true score is between 93 and 109.

Both Nathan, who has a standardised score of 99, and Rachel are working at about the average for their age. There is no statistical difference between their scores: Nathan's true score is between 91 and 107.

However, David, with a standardised score of 125, has a 90 per cent likelihood of having a true score between 114 and 130, and has scored higher, in statistical terms, than Rachel or Nathan.

For high and low scores, the confidence bands are asymmetrical (they tend to be pulled towards the average test score).

### **Age standardised scores**

Age standardised scores take into account a pupil's age in years and months, in order that his or her performance can be compared with the performance of other pupils of the same age in a nationally representative sample. The age standardisation that has been undertaken means that these tests can be administered at different points in the school year and comparative information still be obtained. The age standardised scores in this booklet cover the age range 9 years 0 months to 11 years 3 months. If you have decided to give a test to pupils outside this range, you will not be able to use these tables.

In order to save time and ensure accuracy, you can download a spreadsheet which will calculate each pupil's standardised score and age standardised score if you enter their date of birth and date of test from [www.nfer.ac.uk/portal](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/portal)

If you have not downloaded the spreadsheet, you should convert the total score into an age standardised score as follows:

- list the ages of all pupils in your class in years and completed months at the time of testing
- for each pupil, locate his or her age in years and months along the top of the table
- locate the pupil's total score down the left side of the table
- read off the age standardised score from where the row and column meet.

The average age standardised score is set at 100, based on the performance of a nationally representative sample. About two-thirds of pupils will have age standardised scores between 85 and 115. Almost all pupils fall within the range 70 to 140, so scores outside this range can be regarded as exceptional. These exceptional scores are marked with \*\*\* on the charts on pages 10–15 as age standardised scores cannot be calculated with the necessary statistical reliability. If an exact score is needed, for example to calculate an average for the class, 69 or 141 should be used as appropriate for these pupils. As age standardised scores take the ages of pupils into account, it is possible that a younger pupil may have a lower raw score than an older pupil but a higher age standardised score. This is because the younger pupil may have a higher performance relative to his or her own age group than the older pupil.

Age standardised scores from the reading, mathematics, grammar and spelling tests cover generally the same range, so for most pupils, performance on the spelling tests can be compared directly to performance on the other NFER tests.

### Confidence bands

Confidence bands are used to show the extent of the margin of error in the age standardised scores. In other words, how accurately the test measures the pupil’s ability in spelling.

The margin of error is simply a statistical estimate, based on the fact that tests can only sample the particular area of learning which they assess and that therefore the score a pupil achieves may vary within a few points of their ‘true score’. To indicate how wide this margin of error is likely to be, a ‘90 per cent confidence band’ has been calculated. This means that you can have 90 per cent certainty that the true score lies within the confidence band.

The table below gives the numbers that should be added to and subtracted from pupils’ age standardised scores in different score ranges to form the 90% confidence bands.

Test A	Age standardised score range	To form 90% confidence band:	
		subtract	add
	70 – 71	5	12
	72 – 77	5	11
	78 – 80	6	11
	81 – 86	6	10
	87 – 88	7	10
	89 – 94	7	9
	95 – 97	8	9
	98 – 102	8	8
	103 – 105	9	8
	106 – 111	9	7
	112 – 113	10	7
	114 – 119	10	6
	120 – 122	11	6
	123 – 128	11	5
	129 – 130	12	5
	131 – 136	12	4
	137 – 139	13	4
	140	13	3

Test B	Age standardised score range	To form 90% confidence band:	
		subtract	add
	70 – 77	5	10
	78 – 79	5	9
	80 – 88	6	9
	89 – 90	6	8
	91 – 99	7	8
	100	7	7
	101 – 109	8	7
	110 – 111	8	6
	112 – 120	9	6
	121 – 122	9	5
	123 – 131	10	5
	132	10	4
	133 – 140	11	4



Test C	Age standardised score range	To form 90% confidence band:	
		subtract	add
	70–72	5	12
	73–77	5	11
	78–80	6	11
	81–86	6	10
	87–89	7	10
	90–94	7	9
	95–97	8	9
	98–102	8	8
	103–105	9	8
	106–110	9	7
	111–113	10	7
	114–119	10	6
	120–122	11	6
	123–127	11	5
	128–130	12	5
	131–135	12	4
	136–138	13	4
	139–140	13	3

## Age standardised scores: Test A

Age in years and (completed) months															
Raw Score	9.00	9.01	9.02	9.03	9.04	9.05	9.06	9.07	9.08	9.09	9.10	9.11	10.00	10.01	Raw Score
0	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	0
1	82	81	81	80	80	80	79	79	79	78	78	77	77	77	1
2	87	87	86	86	85	85	85	84	84	83	83	83	82	82	2
3	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	85	85	3
4	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	4
5	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	90	5
6	99	98	98	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	6
7	101	101	100	99	99	98	98	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	7
8	103	103	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	97	97	96	8
9	106	105	104	104	103	102	102	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	9
10	108	107	107	106	105	104	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	99	10
11	111	110	109	108	108	107	106	105	104	104	103	102	102	101	11
12	113	112	111	111	110	109	108	108	107	106	105	104	104	103	12
13	115	114	113	113	112	111	111	110	109	108	108	107	106	105	13
14	117	116	116	115	114	114	113	112	111	111	110	109	108	108	14
15	120	119	118	117	117	116	115	114	114	113	112	111	111	110	15
16	122	121	121	120	119	118	118	117	116	115	115	114	113	112	16
17	124	124	123	122	122	121	120	119	119	118	117	116	116	115	17
18	127	126	126	125	124	124	123	122	122	121	120	119	119	118	18
19	130	129	129	128	127	127	126	125	125	124	123	122	122	121	19
20	134	133	132	132	131	130	129	129	128	127	127	126	125	124	20
21	138	137	136	136	135	134	134	133	132	132	131	130	129	129	21
22	***	***	***	***	***	140	139	139	138	137	137	136	135	134	22
23	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	23
24	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	24

Age in years and (completed) months															
Raw Score	10.02	10.03	10.04	10.05	10.06	10.07	10.08	10.09	10.10	10.11	11.00	11.01	11.02	11.03	Raw Score
0	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	0
1	76	76	76	75	75	74	74	74	73	73	73	72	72	71	1
2	81	81	81	80	80	79	79	79	78	78	78	77	77	76	2
3	85	84	84	83	83	83	82	82	81	81	81	80	80	79	3
4	87	87	86	86	85	85	85	84	84	83	83	83	82	82	4
5	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	85	85	85	84	84	5
6	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	86	6
7	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	7
8	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	8
9	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	9
10	99	98	98	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	10
11	101	100	99	99	98	98	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	11
12	102	102	101	101	100	99	99	98	98	97	97	96	96	95	12
13	104	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	100	99	98	98	97	97	13
14	107	106	105	105	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	100	99	98	14
15	109	108	108	107	106	105	105	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	15
16	112	111	110	109	109	108	107	106	106	105	104	103	103	102	16
17	114	113	113	112	111	111	110	109	108	108	107	106	105	104	17
18	117	116	115	115	114	113	113	112	111	110	110	109	108	107	18
19	120	120	119	118	117	116	116	115	114	114	113	112	111	111	19
20	124	123	122	122	121	120	119	119	118	117	116	116	115	114	20
21	128	127	127	126	125	125	124	123	122	122	121	120	120	119	21
22	134	133	132	132	131	130	130	129	128	127	127	126	125	125	22
23	***	***	***	***	140	140	139	138	137	137	136	135	135	134	23
24	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	24

## Age standardised scores: Test B

Age in years and (completed) months															
Raw Score	9.00	9.01	9.02	9.03	9.04	9.05	9.06	9.07	9.08	9.09	9.10	9.11	10.00	10.01	Raw Score
0	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	0
1	83	83	83	82	82	81	81	81	80	80	79	79	79	79	1
2	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	85	85	84	84	84	83	83	2
3	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	3
4	95	95	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	4
5	98	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	5
6	100	99	98	98	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	93	93	92	6
7	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	97	96	96	95	95	94	7
8	103	102	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	97	96	96	8
9	105	104	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	97	9
10	107	106	106	105	104	103	103	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	10
11	109	108	108	107	106	105	105	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	11
12	111	110	110	109	108	107	107	106	105	104	104	103	102	102	12
13	113	112	112	111	110	109	109	108	107	106	105	105	104	103	13
14	115	114	114	113	112	111	111	110	109	108	107	107	106	105	14
15	117	116	116	115	114	113	112	112	111	110	110	109	108	107	15
16	120	119	118	117	116	116	115	114	113	112	112	111	110	109	16
17	122	121	120	120	119	118	117	116	116	115	114	113	112	112	17
18	125	124	123	122	121	121	120	119	118	117	117	116	115	114	18
19	128	127	126	125	125	124	123	122	121	120	120	119	118	117	19
20	131	131	130	129	128	127	126	126	125	124	123	122	121	121	20
21	136	135	134	133	132	132	131	130	129	128	127	127	126	125	21
22	***	***	140	139	138	137	137	136	135	134	133	132	132	131	22
23	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	140	23
24	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	24

Age in years and (completed) months															
Raw Score	10.02	10.03	10.04	10.05	10.06	10.07	10.08	10.09	10.10	10.11	11.00	11.01	11.02	11.03	Raw Score
0	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	0
1	78	78	78	78	77	77	77	77	76	76	76	76	75	75	1
2	82	82	82	81	81	80	80	80	79	79	79	78	78	78	2
3	85	85	84	84	84	83	83	82	82	82	81	81	80	80	3
4	88	87	87	86	86	85	85	85	84	84	83	83	82	82	4
5	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	86	85	85	84	84	5
6	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	85	6
7	94	93	93	92	92	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	7
8	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	90	90	89	89	88	8
9	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	92	92	91	91	90	90	9
10	98	98	97	97	96	96	95	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	10
11	100	99	99	98	98	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	11
12	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	12
13	103	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	97	97	96	95	13
14	105	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	97	97	14
15	106	106	105	104	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	100	99	98	15
16	109	108	107	106	106	105	104	103	103	102	101	101	100	100	16
17	111	110	109	109	108	107	106	106	105	104	103	103	102	101	17
18	113	113	112	111	110	110	109	108	107	107	106	105	104	104	18
19	116	115	115	114	113	112	112	111	110	109	109	108	107	106	19
20	120	119	118	117	117	116	115	114	113	112	112	111	110	110	20
21	124	123	122	122	121	120	119	118	117	117	116	115	114	113	21
22	130	129	128	127	127	126	125	124	123	122	122	121	120	119	22
23	139	139	138	137	136	135	134	134	133	132	131	130	129	129	23
24	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	24

## Age standardised scores: Test C

Age in years and (completed) months															
Raw Score	9.00	9.01	9.02	9.03	9.04	9.05	9.06	9.07	9.08	9.09	9.10	9.11	10.00	10.01	Raw Score
0	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	0
1	82	81	81	81	80	80	79	79	79	78	78	78	77	77	1
2	87	87	86	86	86	85	85	84	84	84	83	83	82	82	2
3	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	86	85	3
4	95	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	4
5	97	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	92	92	91	91	90	5
6	100	99	99	98	98	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	6
7	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	97	96	96	95	95	7
8	104	104	103	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	97	97	8
9	107	106	105	105	104	103	102	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	9
10	109	108	108	107	106	105	105	104	103	103	102	101	101	100	10
11	111	111	110	109	109	108	107	106	106	105	104	103	103	102	11
12	113	113	112	111	111	110	109	109	108	107	106	106	105	104	12
13	115	115	114	113	113	112	111	111	110	109	109	108	107	106	13
14	117	117	116	115	115	114	113	113	112	111	111	110	109	109	14
15	120	119	118	118	117	116	115	115	114	114	113	112	112	111	15
16	122	121	121	120	119	118	118	117	116	116	115	114	114	113	16
17	124	123	123	122	122	121	120	120	119	118	117	117	116	115	17
18	127	126	125	125	124	123	123	122	121	121	120	119	119	118	18
19	129	129	128	127	127	126	126	125	124	124	123	122	122	121	19
20	133	132	131	131	130	129	129	128	128	127	126	126	125	124	20
21	137	136	135	135	134	133	133	132	131	131	130	130	129	128	21
22	***	***	***	140	139	139	138	137	137	136	136	135	134	134	22
23	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	23
24	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	24

Age in years and (completed) months															
Raw Score	10.02	10.03	10.04	10.05	10.06	10.07	10.08	10.09	10.10	10.11	11.00	11.01	11.02	11.03	Raw Score
0	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	0
1	77	76	76	75	75	75	74	74	74	73	73	73	72	72	1
2	82	81	81	80	80	80	79	79	79	78	78	77	77	77	2
3	85	84	84	84	83	83	83	82	82	81	81	81	80	80	3
4	87	87	87	86	86	85	85	85	84	84	83	83	83	82	4
5	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	87	86	86	85	85	85	84	5
6	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	88	88	87	87	86	86	6
7	94	94	93	93	92	91	91	90	90	89	89	89	88	88	7
8	96	96	95	95	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	90	90	89	8
9	98	98	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	92	91	91	9
10	100	99	99	98	98	97	96	96	95	95	94	94	93	93	10
11	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	97	97	96	95	95	94	11
12	103	103	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	97	97	96	12
13	106	105	104	103	103	102	101	101	100	100	99	99	98	98	13
14	108	107	106	106	105	104	104	103	102	101	101	100	100	99	14
15	110	110	109	108	107	107	106	105	104	104	103	102	102	101	15
16	112	112	111	110	110	109	108	108	107	106	105	105	104	103	16
17	115	114	113	113	112	111	111	110	109	109	108	107	107	106	17
18	117	117	116	115	115	114	113	113	112	111	111	110	109	109	18
19	120	120	119	118	118	117	116	116	115	114	114	113	112	112	19
20	124	123	122	122	121	120	120	119	118	118	117	116	116	115	20
21	128	127	126	126	125	124	124	123	122	122	121	121	120	119	21
22	133	132	132	131	130	130	129	128	128	127	127	126	125	125	22
23	***	***	140	140	139	138	138	137	137	136	135	135	134	133	23
24	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	24



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