The Nonsense Word Test

Preparing the Test

- Type or print the test and make a copy to record the student's responses.

Administering the Test

- Administer the test to one student at a time.
- Explain to the student that she is to read each word. Point out that the words are nonsense, or made-up, words.
- As the student reads the entire list, put a check mark on the answer sheet beside each word she reads correctly. (The word is correct if the student's pronunciation is correct according to common sound-spelling relationships.)

Scoring the Test

- Total the number of words the student read correctly. Analyze the mispronounced words, looking for patterns that might give you information about the student's decoding strengths and weaknesses.
- Focus future instruction on those sound-spelling relationship categories (short vowels, long vowels, etc.) in which the student made three or more errors.
The Nonsense Word Test

A. Short Vowels
1. lat
2. ped
3. sib
4. mog
5. vun
6. fim
7. hep
8. yot
9. rud
10. cag

B. Digraphs, Blends
1. sheg
2. chab
3. stot
4. whid
5. thuzz
6. bruck
7. cliss
8. smend
9. thrist
10. phum

C. Long Vowels
1. sote
2. mabe
3. foap
4. weam
5. flay
6. shain
7. dright
8. hupe
9. heest
10. sny

D. Other Vowels
1. doit
2. spoud
3. clar
4. foy
5. jern
6. moof
7. lurst
8. porth
9. stook
10. flirch

E. Multisyllabic Words
1. rigfap
2. churbit
3. napsate
4. reatloid
5. foutray
6. moku
7. wolide
8. lofam
9. pagbo
10. plizzle