

Correct Writing Sequences (CWS)

Instructions

First, circle **Words** that are spelled incorrectly in the WE-CBM sample. This will help in determining pairs of correct adjacent words. Second, place a caret “^” between words that are (1) mechanically (spelled correctly, appropriate capitalization), (2) semantically, and (3) syntactically correct. Sum the number of carets “^”s. Scoring CWS requires more inferences about what the student intended such as whether a sentence “ended” when a period was omitted.

What is a Correct Writing Sequence?

Two adjacent writing units (words and punctuation) that are correct within the context of what is written.

Scoring Correct Writing Sequences

A caret “^” is used to mark each unit of the correct writing sequence. There is an implied space at the beginning of the first sentence.

^The^sky^was^blue.^ CWS = 5

Rule 1. Pairs of Words Must Be Spelled Correctly

^All^of^the^kids^started^to^laugh.^ CWS = 8

^All^of^the^kids^started^to_laghf._ CWS = 6

Rule 2. Words Must Be Capitalized and Punctuated Correctly with the Exception of Commas. Correct punctuation must be present at the end of the sentence. The first word of the next sentence must be capitalized and be spelled correctly for a correct writing sequence to be scored.

^The^sky^was^blue.^ ^It^was^pretty.^ CWS = 9

^The^sky^was^blue.^ it was^pretty CWS = 6

Rule 3. Words Must Be Syntactically Correct. Sentences that begin with conjunctions are considered syntactically correct.

^I^had^never^seen^the^wolves^before.^ CWS = 8

^I^never_seen^the^wolves^never.^ CWS = 6

^And^then^the^boy^gave^the^duck^some^bread.^ CWS = 10

Rule 4. Words Must Be Semantically Correct

^Jamaal^went^to^the^library.^ CWS = 6

^Jamaal^went_too_the^library.^ CWS = 4

^My^dad^made^the^treehouse^especially^for^me.^ CWS = 9

^My^dad^made^the^treehouse_specially_for^me.^ CWS = 7

Rule 5. Contractions. Apostrophes are required if the word cannot stand alone without it.

- ^I^went^to^Sam's^house.^ CWS = 6
- ^I^went^to Sams house.^ CWS = 4

Rule 6. Words with Reversed Letters. Words containing reversed letters are included in the total CWS count unless the reversed letter causes a word to be spelled incorrectly.

- ^There^was^a^bad^storm.^ CWS = 6
- ^There^was^a^dad^storm.^ CWS = 6
- ^The^dolphin^swam^in^the^sea.^ CWS = 7
- ^The bolphin swam^in^the^sea.^ CWS = 5

Rule 7. Story Titles and Endings. Words written in the title or endings that are capitalized and spelled correctly are included in the total CWS.

- ^The^Big^Run^ CWS = 4
- the Big ^Run^ CWS = 2
- the big run CWS = 0
- ^The^End.^ CWS = 3
- ^The end.^ CWS = 2

Rule 8. Abbreviations. Commonly used abbreviations that are spelled correctly are included in the total CWS count.

- ^Jan^lives^on ^Sunset ^Blvd.^ CWS = 6

Rule 9. Hyphens. Hyphenated words are counted in the total CWS count as long as each morpheme separated by hyphens is spelled correctly

- ^My^sister-in-law^graduated^from^school.^ CWS = 6
- ^My siter-in-law graduated^from^school.^ CWS = 4

Rule 10. Numbers. With the exception of dates, numbers that are not spelled out are not included in the total CWS count.

- 3 men^ran.^ CWS = 2
- ^Three^men^ran.^ CWS = 4
- ^It^is^June^10, ^2004.^ CWS = 4

Rule 11. Unusual Characters. Symbols used in writing that are not spelled out are not included in the total CWS count.

- ^I^won^a^prize @ the^carnival.^ CWS = 6