



# ***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 | 6. fim  |
| 2. ped | 7. hep  |
| 3. sib | 8. yot  |
| 4. mog | 9. rud  |
| 5. vun | 10. cag |

## B. Digraphs, Blends

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. sheg  | 6. bruck  |
| 2. chab  | 7. cliss  |
| 3. stot  | 8. smend  |
| 4. whid  | 9. thrist |
| 5. thuzz | 10. phum  |

## C. Long Vowels

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

## D. Other Vowels

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

## E. Multisyllabic Words

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