



EduTrend Contents

EDUTECH · CASE STUDIES AND SUCCESS STORIES · PRIMARY

Spelling Ladder Trial

Climb a ten-level spelling ladder, then check whether the words stick in real writing

Ages 8–11

Level: Developing

45 minutes

Pairs · up to 30

Activity 02

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

Spelling Ladder Trial

Pairs use a ten-level spelling ladder with word cards and mini whiteboards. A pupil moves up a level after spelling a set of words correctly twice in a row. The teacher keeps a private record rather than a public chart. At the end, pupils write a short paragraph using ladder words, and compare ladder scores with accuracy in their own writing.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- practise spellings in pairs;
- record levels privately;
- use words in independent writing;
- compare two measures of learning.

KEY WORDS

ladder · level · practise · private · accuracy · writing

CURRICULUM LINKS

English: spelling and composition.
Maths: comparing scores. PSHE: supporting a partner.

1

GOAL

What is the learning goal?

2

CHALLENGE

What is the task?

3

FEEDBACK

How do players know?

4

PROGRESS

How is growth shown?

5

RETRY

Can they try again?

6

REFLECT

Did it help learning?

Materials (per pair)

- Ten-level word cards
- Mini whiteboards and pens
- Private level record
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Prepare word cards for each level.
- Print private level records.
- Choose a writing prompt.
- Plan pairs.

SAFETY

Keep levels private. Praise effort and correction, not who climbs fastest.

ACTIVITY 02 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Run the ladder for several sessions before the writing check.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Launch	Explain the ladder and the two-in-a-row rule.	<i>“How do you move up?”</i>
5–25 min Ladder	Pairs test each other and record.	<i>“Was it right twice?”</i>
25–35 min Writing check	Write a paragraph using ladder words.	<i>“Can you spell them without cards?”</i>
35–45 min Compare	Compare ladder and writing accuracy.	<i>“Did the ladder help your writing?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Climb the spelling ladder, then prove the words have stuck by spelling them correctly in your own writing.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The evaluation know-how in brief

Spaced, repeated practice with feedback helps words move into long-term memory.

A ladder score shows practice; accuracy in independent writing shows whether learning transfers. Good evaluation checks both.

Common ideas to listen for

- “A high level means I have learned it.” Check in writing too.
- “Fast is best.” Accuracy matters more.
- “Mistakes lose points.” Mistakes show what to practise.

Adapting the activity

Support

Start with five words per level.

Stretch

Write a sentence for each word.

WORKSHEET 1

Ladder record

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Tick each correct run.

Ladder record

Level	Run 1	Run 2	Moved up?

WORKSHEET 2

Writing check

Ladder words in your paragraph.

Writing check

Word	Spelled right on ladder?	Spelled right in writing?

WORKSHEET 3

What I found

Compare the two.

Did the ladder help my writing? How do I know?

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Practises accurately	Uses words in writing	Compares two measures

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Spelling Ladder Trial is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents Edutech Case Studies and Success Stories programme (primary, level: developing). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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