

Short e Word Family Sort

Lesson 2: A Mess of God's Best

Directions for introducing the sort:

- Cut apart the words ahead of time (or your child can do this).
- Set up **went**, **bell**, and **best** as your headers: the other words will go in columns underneath (see below).
- Before starting the sort, tell the child that you are sorting by word family patterns -ent, -ell, and -est. It helps tremendously if your child has already been exposed to word family work of some sort.
- Read through the words together (*it is important that these words all be familiar to your child*). Discuss any words that your child doesn't know the meaning of, like *rent*, *quest* or *pest*.
- Model sorting a few words from each category, until your child seems comfortable with looking for the patterns. If this is your first time doing a word sort with your child, model sorting all of them the first time.
- Scramble the words up and let her re-sort it again *with support*.

Your sort should look like this when complete:

went	bell	best
spent	smell	nest
tent	tell	rest
rent	shell	chest
sent	well	quest
bent	spell	pest

For more word sorts, check out Words Their Way & their word sorting supplement books. I highly recommend them (designed for Pre-K through high school).

Short E Sort: -ent, -ell, & -est families (with blends and digraphs)

w <u>en</u> t	b <u>ell</u>	b <u>est</u>
spent	nest	smell
tell	tent	rest
chest	rent	shell
sent	quest	well
pest	spell	bent

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