

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ CLASS: _____ SCORE: _____

WEEK 4 • LEVEL C — /ĀR/ SPELLED AIR, /OY/ SPELLED OY, FINAL /Ē/, & UNACCENTED /ə/

Building Spelling Skills

Phonological Study: Vowel team /ā/ (spelled air [Debt Repaid]), final /oy/ (spelled oy), unaccented endings -ie /-y (/ē/), unaccented schwa /ə/ (u, e, a & -en), and homophones (stairs / stares).

/ā/ SPELLED AIR • /oy/ SPELLED OY • UNACCENTED SCHWA /ə/

1 Read each word aloud, observe primary stress (ˈ) and syllable breaks (•), and copy neatly:

WORDS 1 – 5

/ĀR/ & ROOTS

1. stairs
2. prair•ie
3. du•ty
4. rules
5. min•ute

WORDS 6 – 10

/ə/, /oy/ & -y

6. se•cret
7. sec•re•tar•y
8. hos•pi•tal
9. en•joy
10. de•stroy

WORDS 11 – 15 + HOMO

-ERN, /əR/ & HOMO

11. to•geth•er
 12. for•est
 13. nor•thern
 14. mod•ern
 15. pat•ern
- H1. stairs / H2. stares

2 Sort the spelling words into all matching phonics rules (including Debt Repayment):

RULE 1 • Pattern: /ā/ spelled air

2 WORDS

1. _____
2. _____

RULE 2 [Deb] • /ā/ can be spelled are, air, or ear

2 WORDS

1. _____
2. _____

RULE 3 • Pattern: /oy/ spelled oy that we may use at the end of English words

2 WORDS

1. _____
2. _____

RULE 4 • /ē/ spelled ie or y at the end of a word

3 WORDS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

RULE 5 • /ə/ spelled u, e, or a in an unaccented syllable

5 WORDS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

REVIEW • UNACCENTED 'ern' & ROOT WORD RULES

4 WORDS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

3 Homophones Practice: Complete each sentence with stairs or stares:

1. We carefully climbed the wooden _____ to reach the quiet library upstairs.
2. The curious kitten _____ fixedly at the flutter of butterflies in the garden.

SPELLING RULES TO REMEMBER • WEEK 4 LEVEL C

Rule 1

Pattern: /ā/ spelled air

Rule 2 [Deb]

/ā/ can be spelled are, air, or ear

Rule 3

Pattern: /oy/ spelled oy that we may use at the end of English words

Rule 4

/ē/ spelled ie or y at the end of a word

Rule 5

/ə/ spelled u, e, or a in an unaccented syllable

WEEK 4 • LEVEL C — MASTER LINGUISTIC BREAKDOWN & DICTATION KEY

Teacher Edition

A Comprehensive Linguistic & Phonics Matrix (15 Target Words + Homophone):

WORD	WEBSTER	IPA	PHONICS PATTERN	LINGUISTIC & TEACHING NOTES
stairs	stārz	/ˈstɛərz/	/ā/ spelled air + plural -s	Single-syllable; pays off W3 Level B debt! Homophone: stares
prairie	prār'ē	/ˈpreɪ.ri/	/ār/ spelled air + final /ē/ spelled ie	2 syllables; pays off W3 Level B debt! Trochaic stress
duty	dao'tē	/ˈduː.ti/	Long /u:/ + final /ē/ spelled y	2 syllables; open 1st syllable; final y = /ē/
rules	roolz	/ruːlz/	Root rule (silent e) + plural -s	Single-syllable; voiced /z/ ending; vowel-consonant-e review
minute	mīn'it	/ˈmɪn.ɪt/	Unaccented /a/ or /ɪ/ spelled u + silent e	2 syllables; noun of time; unaccented 2nd syllable
secret	sē'krīt	/ˈsiː.krət/	Open 1st syllable /ē/ + unaccented /a/ spelled e	2 syllables; trochaic stress; schwa in 2nd syllable
secretary	sēk'rī-tēr'ē	/ˈsek.rə.ter.i/	4 syllables; unaccented /a/ spelled e + final -y	Primary stress on 1st syllable; final y = /ē/
hospital	hōs'pī-tal	/ˈhɒs.pɪ.təl/	3 syllables; unaccented /a/ spelled a before /l/	Closed 1st syllable; schwa in final syllable
enjoy	ēn-joi'	/ɪnˈdʒɔɪ/	Prefix en- + diphthong /oy/ spelled oy	2 syllables; iambic stress; oy at end of English root
destroy	dī-stroi'	/dɪˈstrɔɪ/	Prefix de- + diphthong /oy/ spelled oy	2 syllables; 3-consonant blend str-; oy at word end
together	tə-gēth'ēr	/təˈɡeð.ər/	3 syllables; unaccented to- (/tə/) + voiced th (/ð/)	Stress on 2nd syllable; final unaccented /ər/
forest	fōr'ɪst	/ˈfɒr.ɪst/	Vocalic /ɔːr/ + unaccented /a/ spelled e	2 syllables; trochaic stress; closed 2nd syllable -est
northern	nōr'th'ērən	/ˈnɔːr.ðərn/	Directional suffix -ern with vocalic /ər/	2 syllables; voiced interdental /ð/ + unaccented -ern
modern	mōd'ērən	/ˈmɒd.ərən/	Short o /ɒ/ + unaccented /ər/ spelled -ern	2 syllables; trochaic adjective; unaccented 2nd syllable
pattern	pāt'ērən	/ˈpæ.tərən/	Short a /æ/ + twin tt + unaccented -ern	2 syllables; twin consonant syllable division; noun
stares	stārz	/ˈstɛərz/	/ār/ spelled are + 3rd person -s	Homophone with stairs; looks with fixed wide eyes

B Official Answer Key: Exercise 2 (Rules Sorting) & Exercise 3 (Homophones):

EXERCISE 2: ALL PHONICS RULES SORTING ANSWERS

- Rule 1 (Pattern: /ār/ spelled air): stairs, prairie (2 words)
- Rule 2 [Deb] (/ār/ can be spelled are, air, or ear): stairs, prairie (2 words)
- Rule 3 (Pattern: /oy/ spelled oy that we may use at the end of English words): enjoy, destroy (2 words)
- Rule 4 (/ē/ spelled ie or y at the end of a word): duty, secretary, prairie (3 words)
- Rule 5 (/ə/ spelled u, e, or a in an unaccented syllable): minute, secret, hospital, together, forest (5 words)
- Review (Unaccented '-ern' & root word rules): northern, modern, pattern, rules (4 words)

EXERCISE 3: HOMOPHONES ANSWERS

1. stairs: "We carefully climbed the wooden **stairs** to reach the quiet library upstairs."

2. stares: "The curious kitten **stares** fixedly at the flutter of butterflies in the garden."

*Teaching Tip: 'stairs' refers to flights of steps; 'stares' is the verb for looking intently with wide eyes.

C Classroom Dictation Sentences (Evaluation of Spelling in Context):

SENTENCE 1 (TARGET: SECRETARY, STAIRS, DUTY)

"The **secretary** climbed the wooden **stairs** to start her daily **duty**."

SENTENCE 2 (TARGET: ENJOY, NORTHERN, FOREST, TOGETHER)

"Visitors truly **enjoy** exploring the **northern forest together**."

SENTENCE 3 (TARGET: DESTROY, MODERN, PRAIRIE, HOSPITAL)

"A wild fire could quickly **destroy** the **modern prairie hospital**."

SENTENCE 4 (TARGET: STARES, SECRET, PATTERN, MINUTE, RULES)

"He **stares** at the **secret pattern** for a **minute** to learn all the **rules**."