

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class / Grade: _____ Score: _____

LESSON 4.

Original Page 8

SHORT A Short **a** as in *hat*, marked **ă**.

LONG A Long **a** as in *hate*, marked **ā**.

1 Copy these words carefully.

COLUMN 1

bank

rank

tank

thank

COLUMN 2

gave

save

wave

cave

COLUMN 3

tack

track

back

black

COLUMN 4

safe

grace

fade

shade

2 Write them neatly from dictation, putting the proper mark over each **a**.

Directions: Listen carefully as the teacher pronounces each word. Write the word on the line and place the proper mark (breve ˘ for short sound, macron ˉ for long sound) over each letter **a**.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ | 9. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ | 10. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ | 11. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ | 12. _____ | 16. _____ |

Phonics Observation Rule:

Notice that the words which have the long sound of **a** end with silent **e**.

LESSON 4: Short a (ă), Long a (ā) & The Silent E Rule — Master Key

100% Mastery

Answers, Classroom Administration Guide, Science of Reading & Dictation Script

Task 1 & 2: Word Study & Diacritic Mark Master Key

Structure & Patterns

Column 1: Short a (ă)

b ă nk (/æŋk/)
r ă nk (/æŋk/)
t ă nk (/æŋk/)
th ă nk (/θæŋk/)
Pattern: -ank nasal blend
(closed syllable).

Column 2: Long a (ā)

g ā ve (/eɪv/)
s ā ve (/eɪv/)
w ā ve (/eɪv/)
c ā ve (/eɪv/)
Pattern: -ave (VCe pattern with
silent e).

Column 3: Short a (ă)

t ă ck (/æk/)
tr ă ck (/æk/)
b ă ck (/æk/)
bl ă ck (/æk/)
Pattern: -ack digraph (short
vowel indicator).

Column 4: Long a (ā)

s ā fe (/eɪf/)
gr ā ce (/eɪs/)
f ā de (/eɪd/)
sh ā de (/eɪd/)
Pattern: -afe, -ace, -ade (VCe
long vowel).

TEACHER DICTATION SCRIPT (ADMINISTER IN RANDOMIZED ORDER):

1. **bank** (The river has a steep grassy bank.) • 2. **gave** (She gave her sister a gift.) • 3. **tack** (He pushed the tack into the board.) • 4. **safe** (The money is locked in the safe.) • 5. **rank** (Soldiers stood in straight rank.) • 6. **save** (We save our pennies in a jar.) • 7. **track** (The train sped along the track.) • 8. **grace** (The ballerina danced with poise and grace.) • 9. **tank** (Fish swim inside the water tank.) • 10. **wave** (A gentle wave rolled onto the shore.) • 11. **back** (He carried the backpack on his back.) • 12. **fade** (Bright colors faded in strong sunlight.) • 13. **thank** (Always remember to thank your helpers.) • 14. **cave** (Bears sleep in the mountain cave.) • 15. **black** (The raven has glossy black feathers.) • 16. **shade** (We rested under the oak tree's shade.)

SCIENCE OF READING: LINGUISTIC & ARTICULATORY INSIGHTS:

- **The Silent E Marker (VCe Pattern / Split Digraph):** In English orthography, final unstressed -e signals that the preceding vowel represents its long alphabetical name (/eɪ/). Notice in *gave*, *cave*, *wave*, *safe*, *grace*, *fade*, *shade*, the letter e is phonetically mute but orthographically vital.
- **The Digraph -ck Rule:** The digraph -ck (/k/) immediately follows a single short vowel in a closed syllable (e.g., *tack*, *track*, *back*, *black*). English words do not end in single letter c for the native /k/ sound.
- **The Velar Nasal Assimilation (-nk):** The letter n before k assimilates to the velar nasal /ŋ/ (pronounced /ŋk/ as in *bank*, *rank*, *tank*, *thank*).

Instructional Steps & Scoring Rubric

Rubric

Activity	Instructional Focus	Scoring Standard
1. Copy carefully	Handwriting posture, baseline alignment, ascender/descender proportion across all 16 target words.	16 pts (1 pt/word copied accurately and neatly).
2. Dictation with Marks	Auditory phoneme segmentation, accurate spelling from memory, and placing proper diacritics (ă vs. ā).	16 pts (1 pt per accurately spelled & marked word).
3. Phonics Rule	Conceptual articulation that silent final -e indicates preceding long vowel sound.	4 pts (Mastery of silent e rule).