

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 103 • THE SOUND OF E AS IN HER (Ē)12 MONOSYLLABLES

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Tilde E • Marked ē • Digraph ea as in earn = ē
“The sound of **e** in her is marked with a tilde: **h&etilde;r**. The digraph **ea** in earn has the same sound: **&etilde;arn**.”

Wheeler's 12 Core Monosyllables:
fern • verse • were • earn • verb • nerve • term • earth • clerk • serve • stern • learn

CONCEPT

1

12-Word Tilde ē Orthographic Matrix

Copy each target word neatly in 4 balanced columns, placing the tilde (~) over each **&etilde;** vowel:

fern • verse • were

earn • verb • nerve

term • earth • clerk

serve • stern • learn

2

Digraph <ea> = ē Detective Isolation

Identify the **3 words** from the list where the digraph team **ea** takes the tilde ē sound:

1. To gain by labor

2. Our green planet

3. To acquire knowledge

3

Silent Final -e Conservation Rule

Examine verse, nerve, and serve. Why do they end with silent -e? Write the orthographic rules:

1. Why must nerve and serve end with -e? (Rule: English words never end in bare 'v').

2. Why must verse end with -e? (Rule: To prevent looking like plural 'vers').

WHEELER'S ORTHOGRAPHY RULES • TILDE E (Ē)

1. 1. **Tilde ē Quality**: The tilde mark (ē) represents the stressed r-controlled central vowel (/ɜ:r/). The tongue is mid-central and the lips unrounded.

2. 2. **Digraph Team** : Before r, the vowel digraph **ea** regularly yields tilde ē: earn, earth, learn, pearl, early.

3. 3. **Terminal Consonant Guard**: Silent final -e prevents words from ending in letter v (nerve, serve) and preserves singular root nouns in -rse (verse).

LESSON 103 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LESSON 103 • TEACHER MASTER KEY

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TARGET WORD	DIACRITIC MARKING	DIGRAPH / STRUCTURE	ETYMOLOGICAL TEACHING POINT
earn	&etilde;arn • /<c::rn/	Digraph before r • Old English <i>earnian</i>	Contrast homophone <i>urn</i> (vessel)
earth	&etilde;arth • /<c::rθ/	Digraph before r • Voiceless -th	Old English <i>eorðe</i> ; vowel team = ē
learn	l&etilde;arn • /<c::rn/	Digraph before r • Old English <i>leornian</i>	Past tense forms: <i>learned</i> , <i>learnt</i>
serve	s&etilde;rve • /s<c::rv/	Latin <i>servire</i> • Silent terminal -e	Silent -e prevents terminal bare -v
verse	v&etilde;rse • /v<c::rs/	Latin <i>versus</i> (a turning) • Silent -e	Silent -e marks root singular word
clerk	cl&etilde;rk • /kl<c::rk/ (US) /kla:rk/ (UK)	Old French <i>clerc</i> • Latin <i>clericus</i>	Classic historic orthoepic vowel variation

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 (Matrix Copywork): All 12 monosyllables copied with tilde diacritic (&etilde;) placed above the vowel.

Exercise 2 (Digraph Words):

- &etilde;arn (to gain through labor)
- &etilde;arth (the globe / soil)
- l&etilde;arn (to gain wisdom)

Exercise 3 (Silent E Rule):

- English spelling convention: no native English word ends in the letter v; an orthographic silent e must be appended (*serve*, *nerve*).
- Words ending in -se preserve the singular identity so they are not mistaken for a plural noun (*verse* vs **vers*).

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Listen to 'her', 'fern', and 'learn'. What vowel sound do all three share?
- Look at the word 'clerk'. In England, it is often pronounced 'clark'. In America, what vowel sound do we give it?
- Why can't we write 'nerv' or 'serv' without the final 'e'?

DICTATION & ORAL APPLICATION SENTENCES (READ SLOWLY AT NORMAL SPEAKING PACE):

- We must study diligently and learn every spelling rule for this term.
- Honest men work hard every day to earn their bread upon the earth.
- The green fern grew quietly in the shade of the ancient forest oak.
- The faithful clerk was ready to serve all customers with great courtesy.