

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 104 • THE SOUND OF Ē IN DISYLLABLES (-ER) 12 DISYLLABLES

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 57

Unaccented Syllable Reduction • Terminal -er = ě (/ər/) • Agentive Suffix
“In words of two syllables ending in **-er**, the vowel **e** has the sound of **e** in **her**, slightly softened by lack of accent: **toil&etilde;r**, **moth&etilde;r**, **work&etilde;r**.”
Wheeler's 12 Core Disyllables:
toiler • ever • hover • other • caller • never • cover • mother • worker • proper • speller • brother

CONCEPT

1
12-Word Disyllable Orthographic Matrix
Copy each word with syllable division hyphens and place the tilde (~) over unaccented **&etilde;r**:

toil-er • ev-er • hov-er

oth-er • call-er • nev-er

cov-er • moth-er • work-er

prop-er • spell-er • broth-er

2
Agentive Suffix Morphology (-er = "one who does")
Break down the 4 agentive nouns into their base action verb and the suffix -er:

toiler:
toil + er

caller:
call + er

worker:
work + er

speller:
spell + er

3
Kinship Group & Short O Vowel Sound
Identify the 3 words where o has the short sound of u (/ʌ/) before voiced **th**:

1. Female parent / Male sibling / Different one:

2. Write a complete sentence using both *mother* and *brother*:

WHEELER'S ORTHOGRAPHY RULES • DISYLLABLES IN -ER

1. 1. **Agentive Suffix -er:** Adding suffix **-er** to an action verb forms an agent noun naming the person or instrument that performs the action (work → worker).

2. 2. **Unaccented Syllable ě:** In English disyllables, the primary accent falls on the first syllable; the second syllable -er softens into unstressed ě (/ər/).

3. 3. **The Kinship Trio:** *Mother*, *brother*, and *other* share Anglo-Saxon roots with letter o sounded as short ũ (/ʌ/) followed by voiced digraph **th**.

LESSON 104 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LESSON 104 • TEACHER MASTER KEY

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TARGET WORD	SYLLABICATION	MORPHOLOGICAL PATTERN	PEDAGOGICAL NOTE
toiler	toil-&etilde;r	Base <i>toil</i> (diphthong oi) + suffix <i>-er</i>	Agent noun: one who labors patiently
caller	c&adotbelow;ll-&etilde;r	Base <i>call</i> (broad a before double l) + <i>-er</i>	Base ends in double -ll, suffix attaches directly
worker	wōrk-&etilde;r	Base <i>work</i> (tilde o before r) + <i>-er</i>	First syllable tilde ō; second syllable tilde ē
speller	sp&ebreve;ll-&etilde;r	Base <i>spell</i> (short ě) + suffix <i>-er</i>	Regular agent noun; double -ll preserved
mother	mŭth-&etilde;r	Old English <i>mōdor</i> • Voiced medial th	Letter o pronounced as short ŭ (/mʌð-ər/)
brother	brŭth-&etilde;r	Old English <i>brōþor</i> • Voiced medial th	Letter o pronounced as short ŭ (/brʌð-ər/)

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 (Matrix Copywork): All 12 words hyphenated correctly by syllable with tilde (&etilde;) over terminal -er.

Exercise 2 (Agentive Suffix):

- *toiler*: toil + er (one who toils)
- *caller*: call + er (one who calls)
- *worker*: work + er (one who works)
- *speller*: spell + er (one who spells)

Exercise 3 (Kinship & Short O):

1. **mother, brother, other** (letter o sounds as short ŭ /ʌ/).
2. Sentence: "Mother asked my older brother to help weed the vegetable garden."

Teaching Tip: Contrast *proper* (Latin root) with agent nouns.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- What does the suffix '-er' tell you about what a 'worker' or 'speller' does?
- Look at 'mother', 'brother', and 'other'. What sound does the letter 'o' make in all three words?
- Why don't we need to double the letter 'l' in 'caller' or 'speller' when adding '-er'?

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

1. My mother praised my older brother for being such a diligent worker.
2. A good speller must always use proper care and neat penmanship.
3. The weary toiler rested under the shade tree after a long day in the field.
4. A friendly caller came to our door to bring good news to all the family.