

★ LESSON 106 & 106 CONTINUED: "THE BLUEBIRD" & HOMOPHONES BLUE / BLEW

SYLLABICATION HUNT • ORTHOEPY • PENMANSHIP

1 Poetry Syllabication: Read "The Bluebird." Write each two-syllable word divided by a hyphen on the handwriting line.

12 Disyllables • 26px Standard Line

▶ THE BLUEBIRD

TEXTBOOK PAGES 58–59

"Pretty little bluebird,
Won't you tell me true,
Why you wear a brown vest
With your suit of *blue*?"

"O little maiden, truly,
While flying very low,
I brushed against the brown earth,
Long and long ago.

"And once, my little maiden,
While flying very high,
My back and wings went brushing
Against the summer sky."

Merry little bluebird,
Singing, off he *flew*,
With his pretty brown vest
And his suit of *blue*.

DIVIDE EACH WORD INTO SYLLABLES (E.G., PRET-TY):

▶ 1. pretty (Adj.)

▶ 2. little (Adj.)

▶ 3. bluebird (Noun)

▶ 4. maiden (Noun)

▶ 5. truly (Adv.)

▶ 6. flying (Part./Adv.)

▶ 7. very (Adv.)

▶ 8. against (Prep.)

▶ 9. brushing (Participle)

▶ 10. summer (Noun)

▶ 11. merry (Adj.)

▶ 12. singing (Participle)

2 Homophone Clinic: Study "blue" and "blew." Both share the exact sound /blu:/, but differ in spelling and meaning.

Acoustic Twins • /blu: /

▶ blue

Color • Noun / Adj. • /blu: /

Meaning: The azure color of the clear sky or ocean; plumage of the bluebird.

Poem Sample: "Why you wear a brown vest with your suit of *blue*?"

Spelling Note: Digraph ue makes the long /u:/ sound (as in *true*, *clue*, *due*).

▶ blew

Past of Blow • Verb • /blu: /

Meaning: Expelled a stream of air; was moved or driven rapidly by the wind.

Poem Connection: Rhymes with *flew* ("Singing, off he flew").

Spelling Note: Digraph ew represents /u:/ in irregular past tense (*blew*, *flew*, *grew*, *knew*).

3 Classic Literature Synthesis: Fill in "blue" or "blew," then copy both classic sentences in your best handwriting.

Textbook Page 59 • Bryant & Welby

▶ "Even the deep _____ heavens look glad."

— WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

▶ "The breeze fluttered down and _____ open the flowers."

— AMELIA B. WELBY

1. Copy Bryant's line (deep blue heavens):

Supply "blue"

2. Copy Welby's line (blew open the flowers):

Supply "blew"

3. Original synthesis sentence using both blue and blew:

Creative Application

Wheeler's Elementary Speller (1901) • Lesson 106 • "The Bluebird" & Homophones blue / blew

Standard 26px Handwriting • Page 1 of 1 (Student Practice)

1 Disyllabic Phonics & Syllabication Matrix (Poem Text Analysis)

13 Disyllables • Complete Syllable Division • Orthographic Rules

Word	Part of Speech / IPA	Syllabication	Phonetic & Orthographic Analysis
1. pret-ty	Adj. /ˈprɪti/	pret · ty (2)	Doubled tt dividing short i and vowel suffix -y (/i/). Initial blend pr-.
2. lit-tle	Adj. /ˈlɪtəl/	lit · tle (2)	Doubled tt with consonant-le syllable (-tle). Silent final e rule.
3. blue-bird	Noun /ˈbluːbɜːrd/	blue · bird (2)	Compound noun: base blue (digraph ue) + base bird (r-controlled ir).
4. maid-en	Noun /ˈmeɪdən/	maid · en (2)	Vowel team ai (/eɪ/) + unstressed Germanic diminutive suffix -en (/ən/).
5. tru-ly	Adv. /ˈtruːli/	tru · ly (2)	Orthographic rule: root true drops silent final e before adding suffix -ly.
6. fly-ing	Part. /ˈflaɪ.ɪŋ/	fly · ing (2)	Accented open base syllable fly (y = /aɪ/) + inflectional suffix -ing.
7. ver-y	Adv. /ˈveri/	ver · y (2)	Single medial r after short e (/ɛ/); terminal y pronounced /i/.
8. a-gainst	Prep. /əˈɡeɪnst/	a · gainst (2)	Unstressed prefix a- (/ə/) + base with vowel digraph ai sounding short ě.
9. a-go	Adv. /əˈɡoʊ/	a · go (2)	Prefix a- + accented long open syllable -go (/goʊ/). Historical past.
10. brush-ing	Part. /ˈbrʌʃ.ɪŋ/	brush · ing (2)	Base verb brush (short ŭ + consonant digraph sh) + suffix -ing.
11. sum-mer	Noun /ˈsʌmə/	sum · mer (2)	Doubled consonant mm protecting short ŭ (/ʌ/) + noun ending -er.
12. mer-ry	Adj. /ˈmeri/	mer · ry (2)	Doubled rr protecting short ě (/ɛ/) + terminal y (/i/). Etym. OE myrge.
13. sing-ing	Part. /ˈsɪŋ.ɪŋ/	sing · ing (2)	Root sing with velar nasal phonogram -ing + inflectional suffix -ing.

2 Orthoepic & Etymological Clinic: Homophones blue vs. blew

Digraph -ue vs. -ew Families • Classical Authors

1. blue (/bluː/) • Old French bleu (Germanic origin)

- **Grammar:** Adjective (a blue sky, a suit of blue) and Noun.
- **Spelling Family:** The -ue phonogram: blue, true, clue, due, flue, sue.
- **Bryant Quote:** "Even the deep **blue** heavens look glad." — From William Cullen Bryant's celebratory hymn of nature and renewal.

2. blew (/bluː/) • Old English blēow (Past of blāwan)

- **Grammar:** Irregular Strong Verb (Past tense of blow; past participle: blown).
- **Spelling Family:** The -ew past-tense phonogram: blew, flew, grew, knew, threw, drew.
- **Welby Quote:** "The breeze fluttered down and **blew** open the flowers." — From Amelia B. Welby's lyric poetry depicting the gentle stirring of spring.

3 Standard Dictation Sentences (Administer Orally)

Strict Decodability • Syllabication & Homophone Reinforcement

1. The **merry** little **bluebird** sang sweetly before he **flew** across the **summer** sky.
2. A fresh morning breeze **fluttered down** and **blew** open the petals of the **pretty** rose.
3. "Even the deep **blue** heavens look glad," wrote the poet of the sunny skies.
4. The **little** maiden **truly** wondered why the bird wore a brown vest with his suit of **blue**.
5. While **flying** **very** **high**, the bird went **brushing** **against** the clouds long and long ago.

4 Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total) & Socratic Discussion

Standards-Based Mastery Assessment

Four-Domain Scoring Criteria:

1. **Syllable Division Accuracy (6 pts):** Correctly divides at least 10 disyllables (e.g., *pret-ty*, *lit-tle*, *blue-bird*) with hyphen notation.
2. **Homophone Precision (5 pts):** Flawlessly distinguishes *blue* (color) from *blew* (wind motion) in Bryant and Welby sentences.
3. **Penmanship & Midline (5 pts):** Letters sit firmly on baseline; lowercase tops reach the 13px dashed midline without collision.
4. **Orthographic Conventions (4 pts):** Capitalizes proper nouns (Bryant, Welby) and observes end punctuation.

Socratic Pedagogical Prompts:

- **Morphological Rule:** "When adding '-ly' to 'true', what letter vanishes? Why does 'truly' drop the 'e' while 'lonely' keeps it?" (Rule: words ending in 'ue' drop silent 'e' before '-ly').
- **Compound Words:** "What two base words unite to make 'bluebird'? How many syllables does each base word have?" (blue + bird = 1 + 1 = 2 syllables).
- **Vowel Team Divergence:** "Why do we write 'suit of blue' with '-ue' but 'the wind blew' with '-ew'? Which one rhymes with 'flew'?"