

★ LESSON 109: TEST WORDS & REVIEW OF VOWEL SOUNDS

VOWEL PHONICS REVIEW • ORTHOGRAPHY • PENMANSHIP

1

Review of Vowel Sounds: Copy each test word on the handwriting line under its proper vowel column.

24 Test Words • 26px Standard Line

ā	Long ā (a_e)	ai	Long ai (ai)	ă	Short ă	ē	Long ē
▶ same	a_e (Long ā)	▶ vain	v- + ai team	▶ clam	cl- + short ă	▶ scene	silent c (sc-) + e_e
▶ frame	fr- + a_e	▶ stain	st- + ai team	▶ lamb	short ă + silent b	▶ theme	th- + e_e
▶ flame	fl- + a_e	▶ chain	ch- + ai team	▶ latch	short ă + frigraph -tch	▶ speech	sp- + ee team + -ch
▶ brave	br- + a_e	▶ brain	br- + ai team	▶ snatch	sn- + short ă + -tch	▶ breeze	br- + ee team + -ze
▶ strange	str- + -ange (soft g)	▶ frail	fr- + ai team	▶ scratch	scr- + short ă + -tch	▶ freezing	freeze + -ing (drop e)
▶ changing	change + -ing (drop e)	▶ praising	praise + -ing (drop e)	▶ sprang	spr- + short ă + -ng	▶ cheese	ch- + ee team + -se

2

Wheeler's Rule: "What became of the silent e in changing praise to praising, and freeze to freezing?"

Suffixation with -ing

▶ praise → praise + ing → praising

Drop Silent E

The Rule: When adding a suffix that begins with a vowel (like -ing), drop the silent final e of the base word.
Application: praise (ends in silent e) drops e → praising.

▶ freeze → freezing • change → changing

Preserving Soft Sounds

Application: freeze drops silent e → freezing.
Soft g rule: In change → changing, the soft g (/dʒ/) is protected because the vowel i immediately follows!

3

Dictation & Review Synthesis: Copy each sentence carefully. Observe vowel sounds and silent-e dropping.

26px Standard Lines • 13px Midline

1. Dictation Line 1: "The brave child saw the strange flame rise above the wooden frame."

Review Long ā

2. Dictation Line 2: "A cool breeze sprang up and was rapidly freezing the calm lake."

Drop e in freezing

3. Synthesis: Write an original sentence using at least three test words (e.g., praising, lamb, cheese):

Creative Application

1 Complete 24-Word Orthographic & Phonics Matrix

4 Vowel Categories • IPA • Morphological Rules

Word	Vowel	IPA	Phonogram Pattern	Orthographic & Etymological Notes
1. same	ā	/seɪm/	split digraph a_e	Base CVCe. Silent final e makes preceding vowel long.
2. frame	ā	/freɪm/	fr- + a_e	Initial blend fr- with long ā.
3. flame	ā	/fleɪm/	fl- + a_e	Initial blend fl- with long ā.
4. brave	ā	/breɪv/	br- + a_e	Initial blend br-; English words do not end in v without silent e.
5. strange	ā	/streɪndʒ/	str- + -ange	Triple blend str-; soft g (/dʒ/) conditioned by silent e.
6. changing	ā	/ˈtʃeɪndʒɪŋ/	change + -ing	Silent e dropped before -ing; soft g preserved by vowel i.
7. vain	āi	/veɪn/	ai vowel team	Homophone with vane and vein; digraph ai = /eɪ/.
8. stain	āi	/steɪn/	st- + ai	Initial blend st- + vowel digraph ai.
9. chain	āi	/tʃeɪn/	ch- + ai	Voiceless palatal affricate ch- + ai phonogram.
10. brain	āi	/breɪn/	br- + ai	Initial blend br- with vowel team ai.
11. frail	āi	/freɪl/	fr- + ai	Initial blend fr-; adjective meaning delicate or easily broken.
12. praising	āi	/ˈpreɪzɪŋ/	praise + -ing	Silent e dropped; medial s pronounced voiced /z/.
13. clam	ă	/klæm/	cl- + short ă	Initial blend cl- + short ă (/æ/) closed syllable.
14. lamb	ă	/læm/	silent b (-mb)	Historical silent b; short ă closed by bilabial nasal /m/.
15. latch	ă	/lætʃ/	-tch trigraph	Spelling rule: trigraph -tch follows a single short vowel.
16. snatch	ă	/snætʃ/	sn- + -tch	Initial blend sn- with short ă + -tch.
17. scratch	ă	/skrætʃ/	scr- + -tch	Triple blend scr- with short ă + -tch.
18. sprang	ă	/spræŋ/	spr- + -ang	Triple blend spr- + nasal digraph -ng (past of spring).
19. scene	ē	/si:n/	silent c + e_e	Initial digraph sc- = /s/; split digraph e_e = /i:/.
20. theme	ē	/θi:m/	th- + e_e	Voiceless digraph th- + split digraph e_e.
21. speech	ē	/spi:tʃ/	sp- + -eech	Vowel team ee = /i:/ followed by affricate -ch.
22. breeze	ē	/bri:z/	br- + -eeze	Vowel team ee followed by voiced fricative -ze (/z/).
23. freezing	ē	/ˈfri:zɪŋ/	freeze + -ing	Base freeze drops silent final e before suffix -ing.
24. cheese	ē	/tʃi:z/	ch- + -eeze	Digraph ch- + ee; final -se sounds voiced /z/.

2 The Morphological Dropping Law: Suffixation with -ing

Wheeler's Socratic Inquiry Analyzed

1. The Universal Silent-E Rule

- The Principle:** English avoids redundant vowel letters in suffixation. When adding a suffix beginning with a vowel (-ing, -ed, -er, -able), a single silent final e is dropped.
- Wheeler's Text Examples:** praise → praising, freeze → freezing, and change → changing. The student must understand that the dropped e is replaced in function by the vowel of the suffix.

2. Preservation of Soft Sounds (c and g)

- Condition for Soft g:** In changing, the soft g (/dʒ/) is preserved because the suffix -ing begins with i (letters e, i, y soften c and g).
- Contrast with Silent b and -tch:** Note the silent b in lamb (etymological Germanic *lambaz), and the trigraph -tch in latch, snatch, scratch which strictly follows a single short vowel.

3 Standard Dictation Sentences (Administer Orally)

Strict Decodability • Multi-Vowel Integration

1. The brave child saw the strange flame rise above the wooden frame.

2. A brisk breeze sprang up and was rapidly freezing the quiet winter scene.

3. We were praising the gentle lamb that leaped over the garden latch.

4. A frail stain upon his coat sleeve was slowly changing under the warm sun.

5. The hungry bird made a quiet speech before he gave a quick snatch at the cheese.

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

Standards-Based Mastery Assessment

Four-Domain Scoring Criteria:

1. Vowel Column Categorization (6 pts): Accurately writes all 24 words in their designated vowel column with correct spelling.

2. Silent-E Dropping Rule (5 pts): Demonstrates complete understanding that silent e is dropped before vowel suffix -ing.

3. Penmanship & Midline (5 pts): Writing sits firmly on 26px baseline; lowercase letters align with 13px dashed midline.

4. Orthographic Conventions (4 pts): Accurately spells silent-letter words (lamb, scene) and trigraphs (latch, snatch, scratch).

Socratic Pedagogical Prompts:

- Orthographic Law:** "What happened to the 'e' when 'freeze' became 'freezing'? Why don't we write 'freezeing'?" (Rule: drop silent final 'e' before a vowel suffix).
- Silent Letter Exploration:** "Can you hear the 'b' in 'lamb'? What about the 'c' in 'scene'? Why do we keep them in spelling?" (Historical etymology and word distinction).
- Trigraph Rule:** "Why do 'latch', 'snatch', and 'scratch' end in '-tch' while 'speech' ends in '-ch'?" (Rule: '-tch' follows a single short vowel; '-ch' follows a vowel team like 'ee').