

★ LESSON 116: SOUND OF O IN WORD (= û IN FUR) • ALICE CARY
POETRY

W-CONTROLLED VOWEL SHIFT (/wɜ:R/) • 26PX
STANDARD LINES

1 Write from Dictation • Place the Proper Circumflex (^) Mark Over Each o

8 Target Words • Sound of û (/ɜ:r/)

Wheeler's Law: "Sound of o as in word, = û as in fur. Write the following from dictation, and put the proper mark over each o." Notice how the preceding **w** shifts the vowel sound of o into the r-controlled sound /ɜ:r/!

wôrd

/wɜ:rd/



Mark ô = sound of û

wôrld

/wɜ:rld/



Mark ô = sound of û

wôrth

/wɜ:rθ/



Mark ô = sound of û

wôrse

/wɜ:rs/



Mark ô = sound of û

wôrk

/wɜ:rk/



Mark ô = sound of û

wôrm

/wɜ:rm/



Mark ô = sound of û

wôrthy

/'wɜ:r.ði/



Mark ô = sound of û

wôrst

/wɜ:rst/



Mark ô = sound of û

2 Alice Cary's Poetic Lyric • The Cross-Vowel Acoustic Rhyme

Rhyme Discovery: words (/wɜ:rdz/) • birds (/bɜ:rdz/)

Acoustic Rhyme Discovery: Notice how *words* (spelled with **o**) and *birds* (spelled with **i**) rhyme perfectly! Both share the identical /ɜ:rdz/ sound!

"I'll be a poet and paint with *words*
Talking children and chirping *birds*."

— ALICE CARY

Listen to Lyric

3 Dictation & Penmanship: Transcribe Alice Cary's Lines with Precision

Contraction I'll • Capitalization • 26px Standard Lines

Transcribe the couplet carefully, observing the apostrophe in *I'll* and the rhyming pair:

Standard 26px Baseline • 13px Dashed Midline

4 Contextual Sentence Synthesis • Apply Target Vocabulary

Application • 3 Sentences • 26px Standard Lines

Complete each sentence with a Lesson 116 word (*work, world, worth, worse, worm*), then copy below:

Precision Orthography

1. The honest farmer does faithful _____ from dawn to dark.

2. A gentle and kind _____ brings joy to the whole _____.

3. A good deed done for others is _____ more than silver or gold.

1 Complete Orthoepic & Morphological Matrix (Lesson 116 Vocabulary)

8 Target Words • Labial Assimilation (/wɜ:r/)

WORD	IPA	DIACRITIC MARKING	GRAMMAR	PHONETIC & ETYMOLOGICAL NOTES
word	/wɜ:rd/	ô = û	Noun / Verb	OE <i>word</i> . Labial /w/ pulls the following vowel to central r-colored /ɜ:r/.
work	/wɜ:rk/	ô = û	Noun / Verb	OE <i>weorc</i> . Shifted from diphthong /eo/ to /ɜ:r/ under labial glide.
world	/wɜ:rld/	ô = û	Noun	OE <i>weorold</i> (lit. 'age of man', <i>wer</i> + <i>ald</i>). Complex cluster /-rld/.
worm	/wɜ:rm/	ô = û	Noun / Verb	OE <i>wyrm</i> (serpent, reptile, crawler). Rounded vowel merges into /ɜ:r/.
worth	/wɜ:rθ/	ô = û	Adjective / Noun	OE <i>weorþ</i> . Voiceless dental fricative /θ/ following /ɜ:r/.
worthy	/ˈwɜ:r.ði/	ô = û + -y	Adjective	Base <i>worth</i> + adjective suffix -y. Fricative voices to /ð/.
worse	/wɜ:rs/	ô = û	Comparative Adj.	OE <i>wyrsa</i> . Suppletive comparative form of <i>bad</i> . Silent terminal e.
worst	/wɜ:rst/	ô = û	Superlative Adj.	OE <i>wyrsta</i> . Suppletive superlative form of <i>bad</i> . Consonant blend -rst.

\$ 1. The "W-Controlled" Vowel Shift

- **The Labial Effect:** Preceding bilabial glide /w/ dramatically alters standard vowel values in English:
 - w + a often yields /wɔ/ (*wash, want*) or /wɔ:/ (*warm, war*).
 - w + o uniformly yields /wɜ:r/ (*word, work, worm*) instead of /wɔ:r/ (*wore, worn*).
- **Wheeler's Marking:** Marked as ô (= û) to show the student that o speaks the identical sound of u in *fur*.

🕒 2. Alice Cary's Acoustic Rhyme Clinic

- **The words / birds Rhyme:**
 - *words*: /wɜ:rdz/ (spelled with o)
 - *birds*: /bɜ:rdz/ (spelled with i)
 This acoustic pairing proves that orthography often preserves different historical roots while orthoepy has merged into the exact same sound.
- **Contraction Mechanics:** /'ll = *I will*. The apostrophe replaces the elided letters *wi-*.

3 Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer in Class)

Contextual Application • Exact Decodability

1. A kind **word** brings sunshine to all the **world**.
2. The honest farmer does faithful **work** from dawn to dusk.
3. An early bird found a little **worm** upon the ground.
4. A true and **worthy** action is of great **worth**.
5. Cold rain is bad, but a bitter frost is even **worse**.

4 Orthoepic Contrast: Preceding /w/ Glide vs. Standard Vowels

Phonetic Rule Demonstration

Standard or (/ɔ:r/):

- *for* (/fɔ:r/)
 - *cord* (/kɔ:r/)
 - *storm* (/stɔ:rm/)
- Vowel remains open back-mid.

W-Shifted wor (/wɜ:r/):

- *word* (/wɜ:rd/ = /wûrd/)
 - *work* (/wɜ:rk/ = /wûrk/)
 - *worm* (/wɜ:rm/ = /wûrm/)
- Bilabial /w/ shifts vowel to central /ɜ:r/.

Morphological Degrees:

- Positive: *bad* / ill
- Comparative: **worse** (/wɜ:rs/)
- Superlative: **worst** (/wɜ:rst/)
- Root: **worth** – **worthy**

Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total)

Mastery Assessment

- **1. Circumflex Marking Accuracy (6 pts):** Correctly places circumflex (^) over the o in all 8 target words.
- **2. Alice Cary Dictation Precision (6 pts):** Transcribes the 2-line lyric with 100% orthographic precision, including apostrophe in *'ll*.
- **3. Oral Dictation Application (5 pts):** Correctly spells target words in the 5 administered dictation sentences.
- **4. 26px Penmanship Standard (3 pts):** Uniform letter slant, ascenders and descenders properly placed, lowercase letters touching the 13px dashed midline.

Socratic Discussion Prompts

Classroom Administration

1. **Acoustic Riddle:** "Say 'for' and 'cord'. Now say 'word' and 'work'. How does the letter 'w' change the sound of 'o'?"
2. **Rhyme Inquiry:** "In Alice Cary's poem, which two words rhyme? Are they spelled with the same vowel letter?"
3. **Morphology Check:** "If something has great worth, what adjective do we use to describe it?" (worthy).
4. **Comparative Degrees:** "What is the comparative of bad? What is the superlative?" (bad, worse, worst).