

★ LESSON 118 • TEST WORDS & VOWEL REVIEW • WORDS OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED

ORTHOEPIC PRECISION • 26PX STANDARD LINES

1 Test Words & Review of Vowel Sounds • Short ĕ vs. Long ēa

16 Review Words • Silent Letters • Sound Mastery

Short ĕ (/ɛ/)	Basic	Short ĕ • Silent Letters	debt = silent b	Long ēa (/i:/)	Digraph ea	Long ēa (/i:/)	Clusters
else	/ɛls/			ease	/i:z/	least	/li:st/
fresh	/frɛʃ/			cheat	/tʃi:t/	yeast	/ji:st/
helm	/hɛlm/			please	/pli:z/	gleam	/gli:m/
chest	/tʃɛst/			preach	/pri:tʃ/	scream	/skri:m/

2 Words Often Mispronounced • In These Words **a, ai, or ay** Has the Sound of ĕ

6 Target Words • Sound of Short ĕ (/ɛ/)

Wheeler's Rule: "In the following words **a, ai, or ay**, has the sound of **ĕ**." Never say 'ay-gain' or 'say-z'—speak with accurate orthoepy!

any Letter <i>a</i> speaks short ĕ /ɛ/ _____	again Digraph <i>ai</i> speaks short ĕ /ɛ/ _____	said Digraph <i>ai</i> speaks short ĕ /ɛ/ _____
many Letter <i>a</i> speaks short ĕ /ɛ/ _____	against Digraph <i>ai</i> speaks short ĕ /ɛ/ _____	says Diphthong <i>ay</i> speaks short ĕ /ɛz/ _____

3 Sentence Dictation • Test Words & Common Irregulars in Context

Silent B • Short ĕ Shift • 26px Standard Lines

Transcribe the sentences from dictation, watching silent *b* in *debt* and the ĕ sounds in *said* and *many*:

Standard 26px Baseline • 13px Dashed Midline

4 Contextual Sentence Synthesis • Apply Lesson 118 Vocabulary

Precision Orthography • 26px Standard Lines

Complete each sentence with a word from Lesson 118 (*debt, please, again, says, chest, fresh*), then copy below:
1. The honest sailor paid every honest _____ and opened the cedar _____.

2. Mother _____ that _____ cool water will refresh the weary traveler.

Standard 26px Baseline • 13px Dashed Midline

1 Complete Orthoepic & Morphological Matrix (Lesson 118 Vocabulary)

22 Target Words • Short ē Vowel Shifts

WORD	IPA	WHEELER RESPELL	CATEGORY	ORTHOEPIC & ETYMOLOGICAL NOTES
debt	/dɛt/	dēt (silent b)	Noun	Latin <i>debitum</i> via OF <i>dette</i> . Silent <i>b</i> inserted by Renaissance etymologists.
hence / whence	/hɛns/, /wɛns/	hēns, whēns	Adverb	OE adverbial genitives (<i>heonan</i> + <i>-es</i>). Soft <i>-ce</i> represents voiceless /s/.
ease / please	/i:z/, /pli:z/	ēz, plēz	Noun / Verb	OF <i>aise</i> , <i>plaisir</i> . Digraph <i>ea</i> speaks long /i:/; final <i>-se</i> voices to /z/.
any / many	/ˈɛn.i/, /ˈmɛn.i/	ēn'y, mēn'y	Adj. / Pronoun	OE <i>ǣnig</i> , <i>manig</i> . Vowel /æ:/ shortened to /ɛ/ before high front vowel /i/.
again / against	/əˈɡɛn/, /əˈɡɛnst/	āgēn', āgēnst'	Adv. / Prep.	OE <i>ongean</i> . Standard American orthoepy mandates short /ɛ/; avoid British /eɪ/.
said / says	/sɛd/, /sɛz/	sēd, sēz	Past / Pres. Verb	OE <i>sæġde</i> , <i>secgþ</i> . Shortened vowel /ɛ/ retained despite <i>ai/ay</i> spelling.

\$ 1. The Vowel Shift in Common Irregulars

- **The /ɛ/ Shift:** English preserves historical spellings while speech sounds evolve. In *any*, *many*, *said*, *says*, *again*, *against*, the vowels *a*, *ai*, *ay* speak short ē (/ɛ/).
- **Orthoepic Warning:** Wheeler warns against hyper-correct spelling-pronunciations (*ay-gain*, *say-z*). Teach the student that written symbols reflect history while phonetic respellings guide oral mastery.

⌚ 2. Silent Letters & Review Patterns

- **Silent B in Debt:** The *b* in *debt* (and *doubt*) was inserted by 16th-century scholars to mirror Latin *debitum*. It is never sounded.
- **Short ē vs. Long ēa:** Contrast short closed syllables (*fresh*, *chest*, *helm*) with open digraph *ea* (*ease*, *please*, *cheat*, *preach*).

3 Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer in Class)

Contextual Application • Exact Decodability

1. He paid every single **debt** with honest **ease**.
2. Mother **says** that **many** hands make light work.
3. The minister will **preach** a **fresh** sermon upon the mount.
4. A sudden **theft** was committed **against** the noble merchant.
5. "Please tell me **whence** you came," **said** the captain at the **helm**.

4 Orthoepic Contrast: Written Digraph vs. Spoken Value

Orthographic Anomaly Resolution

Spelled *a* → Sounds /ɛ/:

- *any* (/ˈɛn.i/) = **ēn'y**
 - *many* (/ˈmɛn.i/) = **mēn'y**
- Fronting and raising before nasal /n/.

Spelled *ai* / *ay* → Sounds /ɛ/:

- *said* (/sɛd/) = **sēd**
- *says* (/sɛz/) = **sēz**
- *again* (/əˈɡɛn/) = **āgēn'**
- *against* (/əˈɡɛnst/) = **āgēnst'**

Review Digraph *ea* → Sounds /i:/:

- *ease* (/i:z/) • *please* (/pli:z/)
- *preach* (/pri:tʃ/) • *cheat* (/tʃi:t/)
- *yeast* (/ji:st/) • *scream* (/skri:m/)

Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total)

Mastery Assessment

- **1. Short ē Identification (6 pts):** Correctly pronounces and spells words with irregular short ē (*any*, *many*, *said*, *says*, *again*, *against*).
- **2. Silent Letter Precision (5 pts):** Correctly includes silent *b* in *debt* and soft *-ce* in *hence*, *whence*.
- **3. Oral Dictation Accuracy (5 pts):** Spells all target words correctly in the 5 administered oral sentences.
- **4. 26px Penmanship Standard (4 pts):** Consistent letter slant, clear ascenders and descenders, midline touches at 13px.

Socratic Discussion Prompts

Classroom Administration

1. **Pronunciation Inquiry:** "How do we pronounce 'says'? Why do we not say 'say-z' like 'plays' or 'days'?"
2. **Etymology Detective:** "Why do you think there is a 'b' in 'debt' when we never pronounce it? What Latin word gave us 'debt'?"
3. **Vowel Contrast:** "Say 'chest' and then say 'cheat'. What happens to your mouth as the vowel changes from short ē to long ēa?"
4. **Context Check:** "What is the difference between 'hence' (from here) and 'whence' (from where)?"