

★ LESSON 121 • SOUND OF OU IN OUT (= OW /aʊ/) • HOMOPHONES OUR / HOUR DIPHTHONG /Aʊ/ • 26PX STANDARD LINES

1 Write from Dictation • Sound of *ou* as in *out*, unmarked (= *ow*)

12 Target Words • 4 Phonics Families

-out Family	/aʊt/	-our Family	/aʊ.ər/	-ound Family	/aʊnd/	-oud Family	/aʊd/
out	/aʊt/	our	/aʊər/	sound	/saʊnd/	loud	/laʊd/
shout	/ʃaʊt/	sour	/saʊər/	round	/raʊnd/	cloud	/klaʊd/
stout	/staʊt/	flour	/flaʊər/	found	/faʊnd/	proud	/praʊd/

2 Frank Dempster Sherman's Nature Lyric • Diphthong Couplet: *sound* / *around*

Poetic Dictation • 26px Standard Lines

"I listen, and I hear the *sound*
Of music floating all *around*."
— FRANK DEMPSTER SHERMAN

Listen to Couplet

Transcribe Sherman's lines with exact punctuation and rhyming precision:

Standard 26px Baseline • 13px Dashed Midline

3 Homophone Clinic • Pronounced Alike: *our* vs. *hour*

Silent H • Proverbial Wisdom • 26px Standard Lines

Wheeler's Homophone Rule: *our* (belonging to us) vs. *hour* (60 minutes, silent *h*)

Both Spoken /aʊər/

"Write from dictation, and supply the missing words (*our* or *hour*):"

"The darkest hour, our good friend says, is the hour before the dawning."

Transcribe the complete proverb on the lines below:

Standard 26px Baseline • 13px Dashed Midline

4 Contextual Sentence Synthesis • Apply Lesson 121 Vocabulary

Application • 26px Standard Lines

Complete each sentence with a word from Lesson 121 (*flour*, *proud*, *loud*, *sour*, *cloud*, *stout*), then copy below:

Precision Orthography

1. The baker used fine white _____ to bake good bread for our hungry friends.

2. A dark storm _____ gathered over the mountain with a _____ clap of thunder.

1 Complete Orthoepic & Morphological Matrix (Lesson 121 Vocabulary)

14 Target Words • Diphthong /au/

WORD	IPA	PHONICS PATTERN	GRAMMAR	PHONETIC & ETYMOLOGICAL NOTES
out / shout / stout	/aʊt/, /ʃaʊt/, /staʊt/	-out family	Adv. / Verb / Adj.	OE ūt, ME schouten, OF estout. Voiceless dental stop /t/ coda.
sound / round / found	/saʊnd/, /raʊnd/, /faʊnd/	-ound family	Noun / Adj. / Verb	OF son (excrecent -d), OF roond, OE fundon. Nasal + stop cluster.
loud / cloud / proud	/laʊd/, /klaʊd/, /praʊd/	-oud family	Adj. / Noun / Adj.	OE hlūd, clūd (rock/hill mass), prūd. Voiced alveolar stop /d/ coda.
our / sour / flour	/aʊər/, /saʊər/, /flaʊər/	-our family	Pronoun / Adj. / Noun	OE ūre, sūr, OF fleur (finest part of meal). Triphthongal glide /au.ər/.
hour	/aʊər/	silent h + -our	Noun	OF heure, Latin hora. Initial h is entirely silent in English!

\$ 1. Digraph OU vs. OW Distribution

- **The General Rule:** Both *ou* and *ow* spell the diphthong /au/. Digraph *ou* is the primary internal spelling before consonants (*sound, cloud, out*).
- **When OW is Used Instead:** English avoids terminal *u*; therefore, final positions require *ow* (*how, brow, plow*), as do combinations before final *-n, -l, -d* (*town, down, brown, crowd, howl*).

🕒 2. The our / hour Homophone Clinic

- **Identical Sound:** Both *our* and *hour* are pronounced /aʊər/.
- **Semantic Discrimination:** *Our* is possessive ("our home"); *hour* measures 60 minutes of time.
- **Proverb Analysis:** "*The darkest hour is the hour before the dawning*"—an inspiring idiom reminding children that hope returns after trial.

3 Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer in Class)

Contextual Application • Exact Decodability

1. The shepherd boy gave a **loud shout** across the green hill.
2. We **found** a sweet **round** apple upon **our** garden path.
3. A dark **cloud** covered the sky for nearly an **hour**.
4. The baker took fine white **flour** to make bread for the **proud** king.
5. We hear the joyful **sound** of sweet music all **around** us.

4 Homophone Discrimination: our vs. hour and flour vs. flower

Etymological Precision

our vs. hour (/aʊər/):

- **our:** Possessive pronoun (*our teacher, our country*).
- **hour:** 60 minutes of time (*silent h* from OF *heure*).

flour vs. flower (/flaʊər/):

- **flour:** Milled grain for baking bread.
 - **flower:** The blossom of a plant.
- Historically identical word ('flower of the wheat').*

Rhyme Families (/aʊnd/ & /aʊd/):

- *sound, round, found, ground, bound*
- *loud, proud, cloud*
- *out, shout, stout, trout*

5 Morphological Word Building: Base Words with -ly, -ness, and -ful

Vocabulary Expansion

loud → loudly / loudness:

- Adverb: *loudly* (with great volume)
- Abstract Noun: *loudness* (intensity of sound)

proud → proudly / pride:

- Adverb: *proudly* (in a proud manner)
- Root Cognate: *pride* (feeling of honor)

round → roundly / surround:

- Adverb: *roundly* (thoroughly, plainly)
- Verb: *surround* (enclose on all sides)

Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total)

Mastery Assessment

- **1. Digraph OU Spelling Accuracy (6 pts):** Correctly spells target words containing *ou* (/au/) across all 4 rhyming families.
- **2. Homophone Discrimination (5 pts):** Correctly distinguishes between *our* and *hour* in the proverbial sentence completion.
- **3. Sherman Couplet Precision (5 pts):** Transcribes the 2-line lyric with 100% orthographic precision and proper punctuation.
- **4. 26px Penmanship Standard (4 pts):** Letters aligned to 26px baseline, ascenders and descenders properly formed, midline touches at 13px.

Socratic Discussion Prompts

Classroom Administration

1. **Homophone Inquiry:** "Say 'our' and 'hour'. Do they sound the same? How do their spellings tell us what each word means?"
2. **Silent Letter Study:** "Why do we write the letter 'h' in 'hour' if we do not pronounce it?"
3. **Poetic Listening:** "In Frank Dempster Sherman's lines, what two words rhyme? What is the music that floats all around?"
4. **Proverb Meaning:** "What does it mean that 'the darkest hour is before the dawning'? How does that give us courage?"