

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 125 • PLURAL FORMS & ADVANCED MORPHOPHONOLOGY

12 PLURAL CHALLENGES

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 67

Plural Formation • Multisyllables • Epenthetic Syllables
“Write the plural form of the following words. Notice that when a word ends in a soft sound like **-ge**, adding **-s** adds a whole new syllable: **or•ange** → **or•an•ges** (/ɪz/).”

Wheeler's 12 Core Words:
home • sister • carpet • friend • table • window • letter • cloud • scholar • basket • apple • orange

CONCEPT

1
12 Singular → Plural Transformation Matrix
Write the plural form of each singular noun on the guidelines by appending suffix **-s**:

home → **homes**
sister → **sisters**
carpet → **carpets**

friend → **friends**
table → **tables**
window → **windows**

letter → **letters**
cloud → **clouds**
scholar → **scholars**

basket → **baskets**
apple → **apples**
orange → **oranges**

2
Syllable Count Audit • Orange vs. Oranges
Count the syllables in the singular and plural forms below. Notice which word gains an extra syllable:

apple → **apples**:
2 syllables → 2 syllables

carpet → **carpets**:
2 syllables → 2 syllables

orange → **oranges**:
2 syllables → 3 syllables (/ɪz/)

3
Plural Context Sentence Composition
Fill in the blanks using plural nouns from this lesson (*apples, oranges, baskets*):
Sweet red _____ and ripe yellow _____ filled the woven _____ on the table.

The good **scholars** wrote cheerful **letters** to their dear **friends**.

WHEELER'S GRAMMAR RULES • PLURAL MORPHOPHONOLOGY

1. 1. **Sibilant Syllable Law:** When a singular word ends in a sibilant sound like soft **-ge** (/dʒ/), adding **-s** creates a new syllable: *orange* → *or-an-ges* (/ɪz/).

2. 2. **Spelling of Scholar:** *Scholar* contains Greek digraph **ch** sounding as /k/ and ends in unaccented **-ar** (plural: *scholars*).

3. 3. **Consonant Blend in Friend:** *Friend* uses digraph **ie** pronounced as short **ĕ** (/frend/). The plural adds **-s** sounding as voiced **/z/** (*friends*).

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Lesson 125 • Plural Forms & Syllables • Wheeler Lesson 125

Page 1 of 2 (Student Worksheet)

LESSON 125 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LESSON 125 • TEACHER MASTER KEY

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 67

SINGULAR	PLURAL	SYLLABLE COUNT	ALLOMORPH & PHONIC RULE
carpet	carpets	2 → 2	Stem ends in voiceless /t/ → /s/
friend	friends	1 → 1	Stem ends in voiced /d/ → /z/
orange	oranges	2 → 3	Stem ends in affricate /dʒ/ → extra syllable /ɪz/
scholar	scholars	2 → 2	Stem ends in liquid /r/ → voiced /z/

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 (12 Plurals):
homes, sisters, carpets, friends, tables, windows, letters, clouds, scholars, baskets, apples, oranges.

Exercise 2 (Syllable Count):

- apple → apples: 2 → 2.
- carpet → carpets: 2 → 2.
- orange → oranges: 2 → 3 (epenthetic /ɪz/).

Exercise 3 (Context Sentence):

1. apples • oranges • baskets.
2. Sentence copied neatly with accurate plural spellings.

Grammar Rule: Collective grouping retains plural agreement: "Sweet apples fill the bowl."

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Say 'apple' and 'apples'. Did the number of syllables change?
- Now say 'orange' and 'oranges'. Why did 'oranges' gain an extra syllable?
- Look at the word 'friend'. How do we pronounce the letters 'ie' in this word?

DICTATION & ORAL APPLICATION SENTENCES (READ SLOWLY AT NORMAL SPEAKING PACE):

1. The good scholars wrote cheerful letters to their dear friends across the sea.
2. Sweet ripe apples and juicy oranges filled the woven baskets on the kitchen tables.
3. Dark storm clouds gathered quickly outside the high classroom windows.
4. The two little sisters loved to help mother sweep the woven parlor carpets.