

★ LESSONS 126 & 127 • UNSTRESSED PREFIX "A-" • HOMOPHONES & PLURAL "-ES"

DICKSON LYRIC • 26PX STANDARD LINES

1. Unstressed Initial "a-" (/ə-/) Vocabulary (Lesson 126)

12 Words • Schwa Prefix /ə-/

above  a•bove /əˈbʌv/ _____	about  a•bout /əˈbaʊt/ _____	again  a•gain /əˈɡeɪn/ _____	aloud  a•loud /əˈlaʊd/ _____
agree  a•gree /əˈɡriː/ _____	ahead  a•head /əˈhɛd/ _____	against  a•gainst /əˈɡɛnst/ _____	among  a•mong /əˈmʌŋ/ _____
asleep  a•sleep /əˈsliːp/ _____	abroad  a•broad /əˈbrɔːd/ _____	afraid  a•fraid /əˈfreɪd/ _____	around  a•round /əˈraʊnd/ _____

2. Homophone Study: "their" vs. "there" • S. H. Dickson Verse

Syntax • 26px Standard Lines

their (/ðeər/): Possessive form — belonging to them. (*"their branches", "their books"*). Contains *heir*.

there (/ðeər/): Place or expletive introduction. (*"over there", "there is a way"*). Triad: *here, there, where*.

Samuel Henry Dickson Lyric: Supply *their* or *there*:

"Here the roses delight to twine / _____ branches with the laughing vine."

Classic Proverb: Supply *their* or *there*:

"Where _____ is a will _____ is a way."

3. Sibilant Plurals: Reversing Plural to Singular Form (Lesson 127)

12 Words • Omit "-es" to Find the Singular

Wheeler's Law of Sibilant Plurals: "Notice that words ending in a hissing sound (-sh, -ch, -s, -x) form their plurals by adding **-es** to the singular. Write the singular form of each word below by omitting the ending letters **-es**."

fishes  fishes – es = fish _____	boxes  boxes – es = box _____	blushes  blushes – es = blush _____	wishes  wishes – es = wish _____
peaches  peaches – es = peach _____	glasses  glasses – es = glass _____	churches  churches – es = church _____	bushes  bushes – es = bush _____
watches  watches – es = watch _____	classes  classes – es = class _____	witches  witches – es = witch _____	matches  matches – es = match _____

1. Orthoepic & Morphological Analysis Matrix (Representative Vocabulary)

Lessons 126 & 127 Linguistic Keys

WORD	SYLLABICATION	IPA	CLASS / STRUCTURE	MORPHOLOGICAL & ETYMOLOGICAL INSIGHT
above	a•bove	/əˈbʌv/	Prefix a-	Old English <i>onbūfan</i> (on + by + up). Unstressed initial <i>a-</i> reduces to schwa /ə-/.
asleep	a•sleep	/əˈsli:p/	Prefix a-	Old English <i>on slæpe</i> (in/into a state of sleep). Forms predicate adjective.
their	their	/ðeər/	Possessive Pronoun	Old Norse <i>þeira</i> (of them). Shows ownership: <i>their branches</i> , <i>their homes</i> .
there	there	/ðeər/	Adverb / Expletive	Old English <i>þær</i> . Deictic locative triad: <i>here</i> , <i>there</i> , <i>where</i> . Expletive in " <i>there is</i> ".
fishes	fish•es	/ˈfɪʃ.ɪz/	Plural in -es	Base ends in voiceless postalveolar sibilant /ʃ/. Suffix adds full syllable [ɪz].
peaches	peach•es	/ˈpi:tʃ.ɪz/	Plural in -es	Base ends in voiceless affricate /tʃ/. Suffix inserts epenthetic vowel [ɪ] + voiced [z].
boxes	box•es	/ˈbɒks.ɪz/	Plural in -es	Base ends in consonant cluster /ks/. Plural /ɪz/ prevents unpronounceable /kss/.
glasses	glass•es	/ˈglæs.ɪz/	Plural in -es	Base ends in twin sibilant -ss /s/. Suffix adds syllable [ɪz]: singular <i>glass</i> (1 syl) → plural (2 syl).
watches	watch•es	/ˈwɒtʃ.ɪz/	Plural in -es	Base ends in trigraph -tch /tʃ/. Singular forms by omitting -es → <i>watch</i> .

\$ 1. Phonological Law of Epenthetic "-es"

Why do words ending in -s, -x, -z, -ch, -sh take -es instead of simple -s?

- **Articulatory Clash:** The vocal tract cannot articulate two successive sibilants (e.g. */fɪs/ or */bɒkss/) without an intervening vowel.
- **Syllable Addition:** Adding -es creates an entire new syllable pronounced /ɪz/, increasing syllable count by one (*box* [1] → *box-es* [2]).
- **Reverse Deduction:** Wheeler instructs students to reverse this process: drop -es to discover the base singular root.

🕒 2. Unstressed "a-" Prefix & Homophone Syntax

Syntactic and morphological discrimination in Lesson 126:

- **The "a-" Prefix (/ə-/):** Historically derived from prepositional phrases (*on sleep* → *asleep*, *on ground* → *around*, *of loud* → *aloud*). Never separated with a hyphen or space.
- **Their vs. There:**
 - *Their:* Modifies a noun (*their branches*, *their homes*). Contains *heir*.
 - *There:* Indicates location or existential subject (*there is a way*). Pairs with *here* and *where*.

3. Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer in Class)

Contextual Application • Exact Decodability

1. The little birds flew **above** the green bushes and were not **afraid** to sing **aloud**.
2. All the scholars were **asleep** in **their** warm beds while the wind blew **around** the house.
3. **There** were three large wooden **boxes** of ripe **peaches** and fresh **glasses** upon the table.
4. The boys saw many silver **fishes** swimming **among** the reeds near the old stone **churches**.
5. Where **there** is a will, **there** is a way for all diligent students to learn **their** lessons.

⚠ Diagnostic Pitfalls & Remediation

- **Dropping 'e' in Sibilant Plurals:** Writing *boxs*, *fishs*, *peachs*. Rule: "After a hissing snake sound (-sh, -ch, -s, -x), we must write -es!"
- **Homophone Confusion:** Writing *there branches* instead of *their branches*. Test: Replace with *our* or *his*. If it makes sense, use *their*.
- **Prefix Separation:** Writing *a loud* or *a round* as two words. Emphasize that *a-* is an inseparable prefix in these words.

✅ Socratic Discussion Prompts

- **Syllable Counting:** "How many syllables in 'peach'? How many in 'peaches'? What letter made the extra syllable?"
- **Sibilant Sensation:** "Make the sound at the end of 'box' (/ks/) and 'wish' (/ʃ/). Can you add an 's' without opening your mouth to say /ɪz/?"
- **Visual Clue for 'Their':** "Notice the word 'heir' inside 'their'. An heir inherits property, so 'their' always shows who owns something!"

📄 Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total)

1. Prefix a- Words (5 pts)

Correctly transcribes and spells all 12 initial *a-* words without accidental word splitting.

2. Homophone Syntax (5 pts)

Accurately distinguishes possessive *their* from locative/expletive *there* in Dickson verse and proverb.

3. Plural -es Reversal (6 pts)

Correctly identifies base singular forms by omitting -es across all 12 sibilant nouns.

4. 26px Penmanship (4 pts)

Baseline alignment at 26px; midline touches dashed 13px guide; uniform letter proportions.