

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 126 • UNSTRESSED PREFIX A- & HOMOPHONES THEIR / THERE

12 PREFIX A- WORDS

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 68

Anglo-Saxon Prefix a- • Unstressed Schwa /ə-/ • Homophone Discrimination

"In Old English, prepositions like on and of joined base words to form single words beginning with unstressed a- (/ə-/): a•bout, a•round, a•sleep."

CONCEPT

Wheeler's 12 Core Words:
above • about • again • aloud • agree • ahead • against • among • asleep • abroad • afraid • around

1

12-Word Unstressed Prefix a- Matrix

Copy the 12 target words with syllable division hyphens, observing the unaccented initial a-:

a-bove • a-bout • a-gain

a-loud • a-gree • a-head

a-against • a-mong • a-sleep

a-broad • a-fraid • a-round

2

Homophone Discrimination • Their vs. There

Fill in the blanks with **their** (possessive — belonging to them) or **there** (place/location):

1. The children left _____ books over _____ on the bench.

2. The trees spread _____ broad leafy branches high up in the air.

3

Sentence Composition • Wheeler's Selection

Compose an original sentence using at least two words with prefix a- (e.g., asleep, around, again, afraid):

WHEELER'S ORTHOGRAPHY RULES • PREFIX A- & HOMOPHONES

1. 1. Unaccented Prefix a-: In words like asleep, abroad, ahead, the prefix a- is unaccented and pronounced as neutral schwa (/ə/). Never separate it from the root.

2. 2. Possessive Their: Their shows ownership and contains heir. Example: their hats, their home.

3. 3. Adverb There: There indicates location (rhyming with here and where). Example: Put the box over there.

LESSON 126 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LESSON 126 • TEACHER MASTER KEY

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 68

TARGET WORD	PRONUNCIATION	ETYMOLOGY / ORIGIN	TEACHING POINT
aloud	/ə-ˈlaʊd/	Prefix a- + base <i>loud</i>	Diphthong in accented root
asleep	/ə-ˈsliːp/	Prefix a- (on) + base <i>sleep</i>	Digraph = long ē
their	/ðeər/	Old Norse <i>þeirra</i> (possessive)	Possessive pronoun containing <i>heir</i>
there	/ðeər/	Old English <i>þær</i> (locative)	Locative adverb paired with <i>here</i> , <i>where</i>

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 (Matrix Copywork): 12 words hyphenated correctly by syllable (a-bove, a-bout, etc.).

Exercise 2 (Their vs. There):

- their** (possessive) • **there** (place).
- their** (belonging to the trees).

Exercise 3 (Sentence Composition):

Sample: "The little child was fast **asleep** while the wind blew **around** the house."

Homophone Memory Trick: **T-HERE** is a place (contains *here*); **T-HEIR** belongs to them (contains *heir*).

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Say 'sleep' and 'asleep'. What did adding the prefix 'a-' do to the word?
- Look at 'there' and 'their'. Which one tells WHERE something is? (Notice it has 'here' inside it).
- Why is the 'a' at the beginning of 'about' spoken so softly? (Because the second syllable is accented).

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

- The weary travelers were fast asleep after their long journey abroad.
- Do not be afraid to read aloud before the whole class once again.
- The children looked around and saw their teacher standing over there.
- All the pupils agreed to work together against the cold winter winds.