

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

LESSON 127 • PLURALS IN -ES & SINGULAR REVERSAL

12 SIBILANT NOUNS • -ES

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 68

**Sibilant Epenthetic Plural • Plural -es (/ɪz/) • Base Root Reversal**

*"When a word ends in a hissing sound (-s, -x, -z, -ch, -sh), we cannot add just -s without creating an impossible sound. We must add -es, which forms an extra syllable: **box•es, glass•es.**"*

 **CONCEPT**

**Wheeler's 12 Core Plural Words:**  
**fishes • boxes • blushes • wishes • peaches • glasses • churches • bushes • watches • classes • witches • matches**

1

Wheeler's Singular Reversal Matrix (Plural → Singular)  
Write the base **singular form** of each plural word by omitting the suffix **-es**:

fishes → **fish**  
boxes → **box**  
blushes → **blush**  
\_\_\_\_\_

wishes → **wish**  
peaches → **peach**  
glasses → **glass**  
\_\_\_\_\_

churches → **church**  
bushes → **bush**  
watches → **watch**  
\_\_\_\_\_

classes → **class**  
witches → **witch**  
matches → **match**  
\_\_\_\_\_

2

Wheeler's Socratic Plural Inquiry  
Answer Wheeler's textbook inquiry in clear, complete sentences on the guidelines:

1. What letters did you omit when you wrote the singular form?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why was the letter 'e' necessary before 's' in the plural forms?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3

Sibilant Ending Classification  
Group the singular words by their final hissing sibilant letters:

**Ends in -sh (4 words):**  
fish, blush, wish, bush  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ends in -ch (5 words):**  
peach, church, watch, witch, match  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ends in -ss or -x (3 words):**  
box, glass, class  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHEELER'S GRAMMAR RULES • PLURAL -ES**

1. **1. Sibilant Rule:** Nouns ending in sibilant sounds (s, x, z, ch, sh) must form their plural by adding **-es** instead of simple -s.

2. **2. Epenthetic Extra Syllable:** The vowel e creates an extra syllable (/ɪz/), allowing the human vocal tract to pronounce the plural cleanly (box [1] → box•es [2]).

3. **3. Singular Base Preservation:** When stripping -es, the complete root word is revealed intact: church + es → church.

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Lesson 127 • Plurals in -es • Wheeler Lesson 127

Page 1 of 2 (Student Worksheet)

LESSON 127 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LESSON 127 • TEACHER MASTER KEY

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| PLURAL FORM | SINGULAR BASE | ENDING SIBILANT     | SYLLABLE EXPANSION           |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| fishes      | fish          | Digraph -sh (/ʃ/)   | 1 → 2 syllables (/fɪʃ-ɪz/)   |
| boxes       | box           | Consonant -x (/ks/) | 1 → 2 syllables (/bɒks-ɪz/)  |
| peaches     | peach         | Digraph -ch (/tʃ/)  | 1 → 2 syllables (/pi:tʃ-ɪz/) |
| glasses     | glass         | Double -ss (/s/)    | 1 → 2 syllables (/glæs-ɪz/)  |

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

**Exercise 1 (12 Singulars):**  
fish, box, blush, wish, peach, glass, church, bush, watch, class, witch, match.

**Exercise 2 (Wheeler's Inquiry):**  
1. We omitted the letters 'e' and 's' (-es).  
2. Because without 'e', we could not pronounce two hissing sounds together (\*boxs, \*glasss).

**Exercise 3 (Sibilant Classification):**

- sh: fish, blush, wish, bush.
- ch: peach, church, watch, witch, match.
- ss: glass, class.
- x: box.

Teaching Tip: Have pupils clap the syllables to hear the added -es beat!

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Try to say 'box' with just 's' at the end: 'boxs'. Can you say it? Why is the 'e' needed?
- What letters did you drop to turn 'peaches' back into one peach?
- How many syllables are in 'church'? How many in 'churches'?

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

- Mother packed ripe sweet peaches and sandwiches into two wooden boxes.
- The tall village churches rang their bronze bells across the green hills.
- All the classes gathered by the brook to watch the little silver fishes swim.
- Strike no matches near dry bushes or straw barns in the autumn heat.