

★ LESSONS 130 & 131 • LAWS OF FINAL "Y" • CONSONANT + Y VS. VOWEL + Y SUFFIXATION • 26PX STANDARD LINES

1. Consonant + y Verb Suffixation: "-ed" (y → i) vs. "-ing" (y Retained)

Lesson 130 • 5 Verb Triads

Wheeler's Law: "Final y after a consonant is changed to i before the suffix ed, but is not changed before the suffix ing (e.g. cry → cried, crying)."

BASE VERB	ADD -ED (CHANGE Y → I)	ADD -ING (RETAIN Y TO PREVENT I)
cry		
carry		
pity		
hurry		
deny		

2. Plural Noun Orthography: Consonant + y (y → i + es) vs. Vowel + y (+ s)

Lessons 130 & 131 Comparative Studio

A. Consonant + y → "-ies" Change y to i + es	B. Vowel + y → "-ys" Add simple -s only
Preceded by consonant: change y → i and add -es (fly → flies). lily → lilies berry → berries daisy → daisies city → cities baby → babies story → stories	Preceded by vowel (ay, ey, oy): y is NOT changed; simply add -s (valley → valleys). toy → toys key → keys valley → valleys alley → alleys pulley → pulleys joy → joys

3. Original Sentence Synthesis (Wheeler's Sentence Requirement)

Possessive • 26px Baseline • 13px Midline

1. Complete with the plural of baby and toy:

"The happy _____ played with their bright new _____."

2. Complete with the plural of valley and berry:

"Down in the green _____, we gathered sweet wild _____."

3. Possessive Rule Note: Y does not change before 's:

"The _____ (baby + 's) rattle fell upon the _____ (lady + 's) dress."

1. Orthoepic & Morphological Matrix of Final “y” (Representative Vocabulary)

Lessons 130 & 131 Linguistic Keys

WORD	BASE IPA	INFLECTED FORM	RULE CLASSIFICATION	MORPHO-PHONETIC & ETYMOLOGICAL INSIGHT
carry	/ˈkæri/	carried / carrying	Consonant + y (Verb)	Final y preceded by consonant r. Changes to i before -ed; retains y before -ing.
pity	/ˈpti/	pitied / pitying	Consonant + y (Verb)	Preceded by consonant t. Changes to i before -ed; retains y before -ing.
deny	/dɪˈnaɪ/	denied / denying	Consonant + y (Long i)	Base ends in /aɪ/. Changes to i before -ed (denied); retains y before -ing (denying).
lily	/ˈlɪli/	lilies	Consonant + y (Noun)	Preceded by liquid l. Plural suffix -es triggers y → i: lilies (/ˈlɪl.i.ɪz/).
berry	/ˈbɛri/	berries	Consonant + y (Noun)	Preceded by liquid r. Plural suffix -es triggers y → i: berries (/ˈbɛr.i.ɪz/).
city	/ˈsɪti/	cities	Consonant + y (Noun)	Preceded by consonant t. Soft c (/s/) + short i + y → i + es: cities.
valley	/ˈvæli/	valleys	Vowel + y (Noun)	Preceded by vowel e (digraph ey). Suffix -s attaches directly without changing y!
joy	/dʒɔɪ/	joys / joyful	Vowel + y (Diphthong)	Preceded by vowel o (diphthong oy). Retains y before all suffixes (joys, joyful).
baby's	/ˈbeɪbɪz/	baby's	Possessive Note	Possessive apostrophe-s never changes y to i (baby's rattle, lady's fan).

\$ 1. The Double "ii" Avoidance Principle

Why does English change y → i before -ed and -es, but keep y before -ing?

- Scribal Minim Confusion:** In Middle English, adjacent *ii* strokes looked identical to *u* or *n* in Gothic handwriting. Scribes strictly forbade spelling double *ii* in native vocabulary.
- Phonotactic Protection:** Writing ***criing** or ***hurriing** produces illegal geminate vowels. Therefore, the letter *y* acts as a consonant glide shield before *-ing*!

🕒 2. Vowel + y Digraph Stability

Why do *valleys*, *toys*, *keys* NOT change y → i?

- Digraph Preservation:** In *valley*, the ending *-ey* is an inseparable vowel digraph representing /i/. Changing y → i would produce an impossible trigraph ***valleies**.
- Diphthong Integrity:** In *toy* and *joy*, *-oy* is the diphthong /ɔɪ/. Changing y → i would write ***toies** or ***jois**, corrupting the morpheme boundary.

3. Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer in Class)

Contextual Application • Exact Decodability

- Mother **hurried** to comfort the little **baby** who was **crying** for her **toys**.
- The kind scholar **pitied** the poor dog and **carried** it across the muddy road.
- Sweet white **lilies** and ripe red **cherries** grew abundantly along the quiet **valleys**.
- Our teacher told us wonderful **stories** about large **cities** across the wide sea.
- The boy turned the small brass **keys** and found great **joys** in his new wooden chest.

⚠️ Diagnostic Pitfalls & Remediation

- Double "ii" Error:** Writing *carriing* or *pitiiing*. Rule: "Never write double 'ii' in English verbs! Keep the 'y' when adding -ing!"
- Over-generalizing to Vowel + y:** Writing *valleies*, *keies*, or *toies*. Mnemonic: "If a vowel hugs the 'y' (ay, ey, oy), let it stay!"
- Possessive Form Confusion:** Writing *babies toy* instead of *baby's toy*. The apostrophe protects the original y.

✅ Socratic Discussion Prompts

- Vowel vs. Consonant Test:** "Look at 'berry' and 'valley'. What letter comes right before the 'y' in each? Why do they make different plurals?"
- The '-ing' Guard:** "Why do we say 'cried' with an 'i', but 'crying' with a 'y'? What would happen if we wrote 'cri-ing'?"
- Possessive Meaning:** "What is the difference between 'The babies cried' and 'The baby's cry'?"

📄 Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total)

1. Verb Suffixation (5 pts)

Accurately applies y → i before -ed and retains y before -ing across all verb triads.

2. Consonant + y Plural (5 pts)

Correctly transforms 6 consonant + y nouns into -ies without leaving errant y letters.

3. Vowel + y Plural (6 pts)

Correctly applies simple -s to all 6 vowel + y nouns and handles possessive 's syntax.

4. 26px Penmanship (4 pts)

Strict alignment with 26px baseline; lowercase letters touch 13px dashed midline; clean letter spacing.