

VOWEL REVIEW (SHORT Ī & LONG Ī), IRREGULAR /I/ SPELLINGS & HOMOPHONES

Wheeler Page 71 • 26px Baseline Standard

1. Orthographic Review: Short ĭ (/ɪ/) vs. Long ī (/aɪ/)

Lesson 132 • 16 Core Review Words

| SHORT ĭ /ɪ/ • BLENDS               | SHORT /ɪ/ • -TCH / -DGE           | LONG ī /aɪ/ • -IGH- & ī_E               | LONG /aɪ/ • SILENT K / ī_E           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| bring                              | ditch                             | night                                   | knife                                |
| string                             | stitch                            | fright                                  | white                                |
| print                              | ridge                             | while                                   | pride                                |
| which                              | bridge                            | strike                                  | prize                                |
| Consonant Blends • which exception | Protective Trigraphs (-tch, -dge) | Silent gh (-igh-) • Split Digraph (i_e) | Silent k (kn-) • Split Digraph (i_e) |

2. Words Often Mispronounced: Irregular Vowel Graphemes Sounding as Short ĭ (/ɪ/)

e, ee, or u disguised as ĭ

pretty  
(prĭt'ty)  
e = /ɪ/

been  
(bĭn)  
ee = /ɪ/

busy  
(biz'zy)  
u = /ɪ/ • s = /z/

minute  
(mĭn'it)  
u = /ɪ/ • time unit

a. The \_\_\_\_\_ bee flew to every sweet flower in the field.

b. She wore a very \_\_\_\_\_ blue ribbon in her hair.

c. The boy has \_\_\_\_\_ absent from school for only one day.

d. Wait just one \_\_\_\_\_ before opening the garden gate.

3. Homophones Discrimination & Copywork: "steal" vs. "steel"

Lesson 133 • Words Pronounced Alike (/sti:l/)

steal  
/sti:l/ • verb  
To slyly take that which belongs to somebody else without permission or right (Old English *stelan*).

steel  
/sti:l/ • noun / adjective  
A hard, strong alloy of iron and carbon, forged for sharp knife blades, sturdy tools, and swords (Old English *stēl*).

"Thou shalt not steal."

— Bible (Exodus 20:15)

"The sword was made of steel."

— Wheeler Model Sentence

Sentence Synthesis: Write an original sentence using both "steal" and "steel":

4. Wheeler Socratic Inquiry • Write Complete Answers on Standard 26px Lines

Question 1: When any one slyly takes that which belongs to somebody else, what do you call it?

Question 2: What is the blade of a good knife made of?

1. Orthoepic & Morphological Matrix (Lessons 132 & 133)

PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

| WORD            | BASE IPA       | WEBSTER MARK    | PHONETIC CLASSIFICATION | ORTHOEPIC & ETYMOLOGICAL INSIGHT                                                                                                |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ditch / stitch  | /dɪtʃ/ /stɪtʃ/ | dīтч / stīтч    | Short ī + -тч           | Short /ɪ/ requires protective trigraph -тч in native monosyllables (contrast exception: <i>which</i> ).                         |
| ridge / bridge  | /rɪdʒ/ /brɪdʒ/ | rīdge / brīdge  | Short ī + -dge          | Short /ɪ/ protects voiced affricate /dʒ/ with trigraph -dge (never final -ge after short vowel).                                |
| which           | /wɪtʃ/         | wīчh            | Short ī Exception       | One of 4 high-frequency Anglo-Saxon exceptions retaining -ч without <i>t</i> ( <i>which, rich, much, such</i> ).                |
| night / fright  | /naɪt/ /fraɪt/ | nīght / frīght  | Long ī + -igh-          | Old English velar fricative [ç] vocalized into long /aɪ/; <i>gh</i> is silent ( <b>gh</b> t).                                   |
| knife           | /naɪf/         | knīfe           | Long ī • Silent k       | Historical /kn/ cluster simplified to /n/; silent final <i>e</i> marks preceding <i>i</i> long. Plural: <i>knives</i> .         |
| pretty          | /ˈprɪti/       | prīt'ty         | Odd Grapheme: e = /ɪ/   | Old English <i>prættig</i> (crafty/cunning). Vowel raised to /ɪ/ in 15th-century southern English dialect.                      |
| been            | /biːn/         | bīn             | Odd Grapheme: ee = /ɪ/  | Past participle of <i>be</i> . In American standard English, shortened to /bɪn/ (RP British retains /biːn/).                    |
| busy            | /ˈbɪzi/        | bīz'y           | Odd Grapheme: u = /ɪ/   | Old English <i>bysig</i> . West Midland spelling retained <i>u</i> , but East Midland pronunciation /ɪ/ prevailed.              |
| minute          | /ˈmɪnɪt/       | mīn'it          | Odd Grapheme: u = /ɪ/   | Noun (60 seconds). Latin <i>minutus</i> . Unstressed second syllable reduces to /ɪ/. (Contrast adj. <i>minute</i> /maɪˈnjuːt/). |
| steal vs. steel | /sti:l/        | stēal vs. stēel | Homophones Pair         | <i>steal</i> (verb: unlawful taking) with digraph <i>ea</i> vs. <i>steel</i> (noun: forged iron alloy) with digraph <i>ee</i> . |

§ 1. The Short Vowel Protective Trigraph Rule (-тч / -dge)

Why do we write *ditch*, *stitch*, *ridge*, *bridge* instead of \*dich or \*rige?

- **Single Short Vowel Rule:** In English monosyllables, the sound /tʃ/ following an accented short vowel is spelled -тч, and /dʒ/ is spelled -dge. The *t* and *d* prevent the vowel from looking like an open syllable!
- **The Four Historic Exceptions:** The common words *which*, *rich*, *much*, *such* were so universally memorized in early print that scribes never added the *t*.

Ø 2. The "Spelling vs. Sound" Dialectal Legacy of /ɪ/

Why are *pretty*, *been*, *busy*, *minute* spelled with letters other than "i"?

- **Dialect Clash in London:** In Middle English, London printers blended Northern, Southern, and Midland texts. For *busy*, they kept the West Midland spelling *u*, but pronounced it with the East Midland vowel /ɪ/.
- **High-Frequency Reduction:** High-frequency function words like *been* experienced vowel shortening from long /i:/ to lax /ɪ/.

3. Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer in Class)

Exact Decodable Context

1. Thou shalt not steal the golden knife from the ancient church.
2. The sharp sword was made of hardened steel that could cut a thick rope.
3. A pretty bird sat upon the wooden bridge above the deep ditch.
4. The busy tailor had to stitch the white coat in just one minute.
5. They have been waiting on the high mountain ridge all through the cold night.

⚠ Common Pupil Pitfalls & Remediation

- **Homophone Confusion:** Writing \*Thou shalt not steel\* or \*a steal sword\*. *Mnemonic:* "steal = cheat / tear; steel = hard feel / wheel."
- **Phonetic Misspelling of Irregulars:** Writing \*pritty\*, \*bin\*, \*bizey\*, or \*minit\*. Emphasize morphological history and flashcard reinforcement.
- **Missing "t" or "d":** Writing \*dich\* or \*brige\*. Remind pupils of the protective consonant rule.

✓ Socratic Discussion Prompts

- **Inquiry on Exceptions:** "Look at *stitch* and *which*. Why does *stitch* have a *t*, but *which* does not?" (Lead to discussion of the 4 special words).
- **Homophone Meaning:** "If a burglar enters a house, does he want to *steal* or to *steel*? What does a blacksmith work with?"
- **Phonemic Awareness:** "Pronounce *knife* and *white*. What vowel sound do you hear? Why is the *k* quiet?"

📊 Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total)

1. Vowel Grid (5 pts)

Accurately identifies and pronounces all short ī and long ī words; recognizes -тч, -dge, and silent k.

2. Irregulars (5 pts)

Correctly spells *pretty*, *been*, *busy*, *minute* in cloze context sentences without phonetic lapses.

3. Homophones (5 pts)

Flawless discrimination between *steal* (verb) and *steel* (metal); accurate response to both Socratic riddles.

4. Penmanship (5 pts)

Strict adherence to 26px baseline; lowercase letters properly touch the 13px dashed midline with uniform slant.