

CHRISTMAS EVE MEMORY LYRIC • CONSONANT DOUBLING LAW • UNMARKED
"CH" (/tʃ/)

Wheeler Page 72 • 26px Baseline Standard

1. Lesson 134: Memory Lesson • Copy Carefully & Recite from Memory

6 Lines of Poetry • Wheeler Standard

"Oh, it's Christmas Eve, and moonlight, and the Christmas air is chill,
And the frosty Christmas holly shines and sparkles on the hill,
And the Christmas sleigh-bells jingle, and the Christmas laughter rings,
As the last stray shoppers hurry, taking home the Christmas things;
And up yonder in the attic there's a little trundle bed
Where Christmas dreams are dancing through a sleepy, curly head."

Listen to Lyric

Copy the 6 poetic lines on the standard 26px lines below:

Standard 26px Baseline • 13px Dashed Midline

Wheeler's Orthographic Inquiry: "Why are there two p's in shoppers and only one in sleepy?"

shop + -er → shoppers

Double 'p'

Base *shop* ends in 1 short vowel + 1 consonant (/ɒp/). Double the *p* before vowel suffix *-er* to keep the vowel short.

sleep + -y → sleepy

Single 'p'

Base *sleep* has a long vowel digraph (*ee* = /i:/). Long vowels never double the following consonant before suffixes!

Compose the doubling rule in your own words:

2. Lesson 135: The Sound of Unmarked "ch" as in "chair" (/tʃ/)

12 Words • Spell Orally & Write from Dictation

Exceptions & -nch	Trigraph -tch & ch-	Initial ch- & Dual ch	R-Controlled & Long i
such	notch	chance	torch
much	blotch	church	scorch
lunch	check	chimney	chime

Write two dictated sentences using "church" and "torch":

1. Orthoepic & Morphological Matrix (Lessons 134 & 135)

PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

WORD	BASE IPA	WEBSTER MARK	PHONETIC CLASSIFICATION	ORTHOEPIC & ETYMOLOGICAL INSIGHT
shoppers	/ˈʃɒpərz/	shŎp'pers	1-1-1 Doubling Rule	Base <i>shop</i> (/ɒp/) doubles <i>p</i> before vowel suffix <i>-er</i> to shield the short vowel.
sleepy	/ˈsli:pi/	slēep'ŷ	Long Digraph Stability	Base <i>sleep</i> (/sli:p/) has digraph <i>ee</i> . Long vowels never double the following consonant!
such / much	/sʌtʃ/ /mʌtʃ/	sŭch / mŭch	Short Vowel Exception	High-frequency Old English survivors retaining <i>-ch</i> without <i>t</i> (with <i>which</i> , <i>rich</i>).
lunch	/lʌntʃ/	lŭnch	Consonant Blend + ch	Following consonant liquid/nasal <i>n</i> , /tʃ/ is spelled <i>-ch</i> (never <i>*-tch</i> after another consonant).
notch / blotch	/nɒtʃ/ /blɒtʃ/	nŏtch / blŏtch	Protective Trigraph -tch	Following accented short /ɒ/, /tʃ/ is spelled with trigraph <i>-tch</i> to prevent open-syllable lengthening.
church	/tʃɜ:rtʃ/	chŭrch	Dual ch • Circ. ũ	Old English <i>cirice</i> (from Greek <i>kyriakon</i>). Both initial and final affricate /tʃ/.
chance	/tʃæns/	chānce	Initial ch- • Soft ç	Old French <i>cheance</i> . Initial /tʃ/; final /s/ spelled with soft <i>c</i> before silent final <i>e</i> .
chimney	/ˈtʃɪmni/	chĭm'nĕy	Initial ch- • Suffix -ey	Old French <i>cheminee</i> . Short /ɪ/ in initial syllable; final vowel spelled with digraph <i>-ey</i> .
torch / scorch	/tɔ:rtʃ/ /sko:rtʃ/	tŏrch / scŏrch	R-Controlled + ch	Following r-controlled vowel /ɔ:r/, /tʃ/ is spelled <i>-ch</i> (the <i>r</i> serves as the protecting consonant).
chime	/tʃaɪm/	chĭme	Split Digraph (i_e)	Latin <i>cymbalum</i> . Silent final <i>e</i> signals preceding vowel is long /aɪ/.

§ 1. The 1-1-1 Consonant Doubling Law (shoppers vs. sleepy)

Why do we double the consonant in *shoppers*, but NOT in *sleepy*?

- **The 1-1-1 Rule:** Monosyllabic words with **1 short vowel** followed by **1 single consonant** (*shop*) double that consonant before a vowel suffix (*-er* → *shopper*). Without doubling, **shoper** would look like an open syllable with long /ou/!
- **The Digraph Immunity:** When the root vowel is already long or represented by a vowel digraph (*sleep* has *ee*), the vowel is protected and does not double the consonant (*sleepy*, not **sleepy**).

Ø 2. The Orthographic Distribution of /tʃ/ (ch vs. -tch)

When does English write *-tch*, and when does it write *-ch*?

- **Immediately After a Single Short Vowel:** English monosyllables require *-tch* (*notch*, *blotch*, *ditch*, *catch*, *match*). Exceptions: the 4 historical words *which*, *rich*, *much*, *such*.
- **After Another Consonant or Vowel Digraph:** Use *-ch* (*lunch*, *pinch*, *torch*, *reach*, *preach*). The preceding consonant already guards the syllable!

3. Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer in Class)

Decodable Application

1. The late shoppers hurry along the snowy street under the bright moonlight.
2. A sleepy child lay dreaming in the small trundle bed near the chimney.
3. We walked to the village church by the light of a burning torch.
4. Do not let the hot sparks scorch your coat or cut a deep notch in the table.
5. There is much joy when the bells begin to chime and the children eat their lunch.

⚠ Common Pupil Pitfalls & Remediation

- **Over-doubling Error:** Writing **sleeppy** or **cheeck**. Rule: "Two vowels together in the root already protect the sound; never double the consonant!"
- **Under-doubling Error:** Writing **shoper**. Rule: "Single short vowel needs a double bodyguard before vowel suffixes!"
- **Spelling **notch** as **noch**:** Remind pupils that short /ɒ/ requires the trigraph *-tch*.

✓ Socratic Discussion Prompts

- **Doubling Inquiry:** "Look at *hop* and *hope*. How do we add *-ing* to each? Why does *hopping* have two p's, but *hoping* only one? Now apply that to *shop* and *sleep*."
- **Affricate Hunting:** "How many times do you hear /tʃ/ in *church*? What other letters can spell /tʃ/? (*-tch*)."
- **Imagery Analysis:** "What makes the Christmas Eve poem so peaceful? What is a 'trundle bed'?"

📊 Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total)

1. Lyric Penmanship (5 pts)

Accurately transcribes all 6 poetic lines on 26px tracks; preserves capitalization, rhythm, and punctuation.

2. Doubling Law (5 pts)

Articulates the 1-1-1 short vowel doubling rule (*shoppers*) vs. vowel digraph stability (*sleepy*).

3. Affricate ch / -tch (5 pts)

Accurately spells and sorts all 12 target words containing /tʃ/; distinguishes *-ch* vs. *-tch*.

4. Penmanship Standard (5 pts)

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