

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 135 • THE SOUND OF UNMARKED CH AS IN CHAIR

CH (UNMARKED) = /tʃ/

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 72

Consonant Digraph Clinic • The Voiceless Affricate /tʃ/

In Wheeler's orthoepic system, the consonant digraph **ch** when **unmarked** represents its primary English sound: the voiceless affricate /tʃ/ heard in *chair, chest, church, rich*.

CONCEPT

12 Target Words: *chair, chest, child, chin, chop, church, cheek, march, birch, porch, rich, such*. Contrast with marked *ch* = /k/ (*chorus*) and *ch* = /ʃ/ (*chaise*).

1

Positional Phonics Sorting • Initial vs. Terminal CH (/tʃ/)

Classify the 12 target words by the position of the *ch* digraph:

Initial [ch-]: *chair, chest, child, chin, chop, cheek*

Terminal [-ch]: *march, birch, porch, rich, such*

Both Initial & Terminal [ch...ch]: *church*

2

Penmanship & Diacritical Observation • 26px Track

Write each word neatly. Notice that *ch* receives no diacritical mark:

chair chest child church birch rich

3

Contextual Sentences • Application

Fill each blank with the appropriate *ch* vocabulary word:

1. The kind old grandmother sat in her rocking _____ on the _____.

2. The white _____ tree grew beside the ancient stone _____.

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • THE DIGRAPH CH

1. 1. **Unmarked English CH (/tʃ/):** The native English sound of *ch* is an affricate formed by combining /t/ and /ʃ/. It is left unmarked in Wheeler because it is the primary sound of the digraph.

2. 2. **Terminal -ch vs. -tch:** After a single short vowel, the sound /tʃ/ is spelled **-tch** (*catch, pitch, notch*). After a consonant, long vowel, or vowel digraph, write **-ch** (*birch, porch, beech*).

3. 3. **Irregular Vowel in Child:** In **child**, the vowel *i* is long (/aɪ/) before the consonant cluster -ld, whereas in the plural *children*, it shortens to /ɪ/.

LESSON 135 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

ORTHOEPY • DIGRAPHS • PHONIC RULES

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WORD	IPA	POSITION OF CH	TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
chair	/tʃeər/	Initial	Vowel digraph ai before r. Unmarked ch.
church	/tʃɜːrtʃ/	Both (Initial & Final)	Features ch at beginning and end. Vowel marked with circumflex (cūrch).
child	/tʃaɪld/	Initial	Long i before -ld. Contrast with short vowel in children.
birch	/bɜːrtʃ/	Terminal	Vowel tilde over i (/ɜːr/). Preceded by consonant r → spelled -ch, not -tch.
porch	/pɔːrtʃ/	Terminal	Preceded by consonant r → spelled -ch.
rich	/rɪtʃ/	Terminal	Short vowel exception to -tch rule (along with much, such, which).

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 Sorting:

- Initial: chair, chest, child, chin, chop, cheek.
- Terminal: march, birch, porch, rich, such.
- Both: church.

Exercise 3 Solutions:

- chair / porch.
- birch / church.

Orthographic Note: Emphasize the four short-vowel words that end in -ch rather than -tch: rich, such, much, which.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Touch your chin. What two letters spell that first sound? Is the sound voiced or unvoiced?
- Look at 'church'. How many times does the /tʃ/ sound appear?
- Why is 'rich' spelled with '-ch' instead of '-tch'? What other words share this special spelling?

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

- The little child sat on the wooden chair by the porch.
- Tall white birch trees stand near the village church.
- March wind blew cold against the boy's rosy cheek.
- Such a rich treasure was locked inside the iron chest.