

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 138 • WORDS PRONOUNCED ALIKE: WEEK VS. WEAK

WĒĒK • WĒAK = /WI:K/

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Orthographic & Semantic Discrimination • The Sound /wi:k/

*"In every month, and **week**, and day, / Let loving words mark out the way."*
*"Her voice was low and **weak**."*

week: A period of seven successive days; Old English *wice* (vowel team **ee**).
weak: Lacking strength, power, or vigor; feeble; Old Norse *veikr* (vowel team **ea**).

CONCEPT

1

Poetic Model Copywork • 26px Penmanship Track

Copy the poetic model and descriptive sentence neatly on the handwriting lines:

In every month, and week, and day, let loving words mark out the way.

After the illness, the little boy felt very weak and weary.

2

Homophone Cloze Studio • week vs. weak

Write **week** or **weak** in each blank:

1. Seven days make up one complete _____.

2. The fallen branch was dry, rotten, and _____.

3. We shall visit grandmother's farm next _____.

4. The sick bird was too _____ to fly to its nest.

3

Original Composition & Rule Statement

Write an original sentence containing both homophones:

Model: For one whole week, the patient child felt weak and tired.

Sentence: _____

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIK RULES • DIGRAPHS EE VS. EA

1. 1. Double EE in Time Units: The noun **week** uses double ee, deriving from Germanic roots for turning or succession. Compare with *month*, *year*, *fortnight*.

2. 2. Digraph EA in Physical States: The adjective **weak** uses ea, related to *weaken* and *weakness*. English often uses ea for bodily conditions (*weary*, *deaf*, *heal*).

3. 3. Contextual Verification: If referring to days, calendar, or time, write **week**. If referring to lack of physical energy or strength, write **weak**.

LESSON 138 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

HOMOPHONES • POETIC MODEL • ETYMOLOGY

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WORD	IPA	GRAMMAR	ETYMOLOGY & TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
week	/wi:k/	Noun	Old English wice, Germanic *wikō (a turning). Double ee designates seven days.
weak	/wi:k/	Adjective	Old Norse veikr (pliant, feeble). Digraph ea designates physical fragility.
weary	/ˈwɛəri/	Adjective	Old English wērig. Semantically related to weak.
month	/mʌnθ/	Noun	Old English mōnath (moon cycle). Calendar companion to week.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 2 Solutions:
1. **week** (seven days).
2. **weak** (fragile/not strong).
3. **week** (calendar time).
4. **weak** (lacking physical strength).

Exercise 3 Exemplar Sentence:
• The sick child spent a full **week** in bed until he was no longer **weak**.
Memory Device: In a **week** there are **seven** days (two e's).

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Listen: 'week' and 'weak'. What is the difference in their spelling? Which one means seven days?
- Can you think of a word that means to make weak? How is it spelled?
- Why is it important to know whether someone means a 'weak horse' or a 'week of school'?

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

- In every month, and week, and day, let loving words mark out the way.
- Her voice was low and weak after the long journey.
- Next week the school will hold its annual spelling contest.
- The old wooden fence was too weak to hold the heavy bull.