

Part 1: Lesson 149 • Homophones: steel vs. steal

SEMANTIC CONTRAST • LITERARY CLOZE

**steel**  
/sti:l/  
Noun: Hard refined iron alloy (pen points, tools).  
1. "Pens were not \_\_\_\_\_ in days gone by, / But quills were then in use."

**steal**  
/sti:l/  
Verb: To take dishonestly without right or permission.

JEAN INGELOW • "SEVEN TIMES ONE"

"Show me your nest with the young ones in it,  
I will not \_\_\_\_\_ them away;  
I am old! You may trust me, linnet, linnet,  
I am seven times one to-day." — Jean Ingelow

Transcription 1: "Pens were not steel in days gone by, but quills were then in use."

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Transcription 2: "I will not steal them away; you may trust me, linnet, linnet."

Part 2: Lesson 150 • Sound of ck = k (/k/)

16 WORDS • SHORT VOWEL CLOSED SYLLABLES

Orthographic Law: Digraph **ck** is written immediately after a single short vowel (/æ, ε, ι, ο, ʌ/) to close the syllable with the /k/ sound:

**tack** /tæk/  
Short small nail

**neck** /nek/  
Part below head

**sick** /sɪk/  
Unwell; ailing

**block** /blɒk/  
Solid square piece

**track** /træk/  
Path or rail course

**deck** /dek/  
Ship floor platform

**brick** /brɪk/  
Hard clay block

**clock** /klɒk/  
Timepiece dial

**crack** /kræk/  
Narrow break or gap

**check** /tʃek/  
Inspect or halt

**stick** /stɪk/  
Thin wood branch

**stuck** /stʌk/  
Trapped; adhered

**stack** /stæk/  
Neat pile of items

**speck** /spek/  
Tiny spot or fleck

**quick** /kwɪk/  
Fast; prompt; alert

**pluck** /plʌk/  
Pull; brave spirit

Part 3: Lesson 151 • The Clock Lyric • Onomatopoeia & Transcription

RHYTHM • CONTRACTIONS • PENMANSHIP

"The whole day long it sang **"tick, tock!"**  
Now it has changed its tune, **this clock,**  
**"You're good! you're good!"** it seems to say,  
When I have been quite good all day:"

Poetic & Language Discoveries:

• **Onomatopoeia:** tick, tock imitates the mechanical click of the clock escapement.  
• **Contraction:** You're = You are (apostrophe replaces vowel a).  
• **Rhyme Scheme:** AABB couplets (tock / clock, say / day).

Transcription: "The whole day long it sang 'tick, tock!' Now it has changed its tune, this clock,"

Standard 26px handwriting track • 13px dashed midline

Original Sentence: Compose a sentence with at least two -ck words (e.g., quick, clock, track, brick):

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 79 • Modules 149–151 Homophones (steel/steal) • Digraph ck = k (/k/) • Jean Ingelow & Clock Lyric Macmillan / Pearson Aligned • RF.2.3 • RF.3.3

Section 1: Lesson 149 • Homophone Resolution & Jean Ingelow's Literature

ETYMOLOGY • SEMANTIC CONTRAST

Homophone Divergence (steel vs. steal):

Both words share the identical modern realization /sti:l/ resulting from the Great Vowel Shift (ME /e:/ in *stēle* and ME /ɛ:/ in *stele(n)* merged into /i:/).

- **steel** (OE *stēle*): Metallurgical alloy of iron. In 19th-century American and British classrooms, mass-produced *steel pen nibs* replaced perishable goose quills.
- **steal** (OE *stelan*): Strong verb meaning to take dishonestly without right or permission (principal parts: *steal, stole, stolen*).

Jean Ingelow • "Seven Times One":

Taken from Ingelow's celebrated collection *Songs of Seven* (1863). The child speaker, upon reaching her seventh birthday ("seven times one"), rejoices in achieving moral accountability. She assures the nesting linnet: she is now old enough to be trusted never to steal the young fledglings from their home.

Section 2: Lesson 150 • The -ck Digraph Law & 16-Word Master Phonics Matrix

ORTHOGRAPHIC LAW • 16 WORDS MATRIX

**The Tri-Partite Final /k/ Spelling Rule:** (1) After a **single short vowel** in a base monosyllable, write **-ck** (*tack, neck, sick, clock, stuck*). (2) After a **consonant or long vowel/digraph**, write **-k** (*bark, milk, soak, peek*). (3) In **multisyllabic words** of Classical origin, final /k/ is usually written with **-c** (*music, traffic, optic*).

| Word  | IPA    | Phonic Pattern • Etymology                             | Word  | IPA    | Phonic Pattern • Etymology                            |
|-------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| tack  | /tæk/  | Short ă + -ck; ME <i>takke</i> (fastener)              | stick | /stɪk/ | Short ĭ + -ck; OE <i>sticca</i> (rod, twig)           |
| track | /træk/ | Onset cluster tr- + -ack; OF <i>trac</i> (course)      | quick | /kwɪk/ | Digraph qu- (/kw/) + short ĭ; OE <i>cwic</i> (living) |
| crack | /kræk/ | Onset cluster cr- + -ack; OE <i>cracian</i> (snap)     | block | /blɒk/ | Onset cluster bl- + short ɔ̄; OF <i>bloc</i>          |
| stack | /stæk/ | Onset cluster st- + -ack; ON <i>stakkr</i> (pile)      | clock | /klɒk/ | Onset cluster cl- + short ɔ̄; ME <i>clokke</i> (bell) |
| neck  | /nek/  | Short ě + -ck; OE <i>hnecca</i> (nape)                 | stuck | /stʌk/ | Onset cluster st- + short ŭ; past of <i>stick</i>     |
| deck  | /dek/  | Short ě + -ck; MDu <i>dec</i> (covering, ship floor)   | pluck | /plʌk/ | Onset cluster pl- + short ŭ; OE <i>pluccian</i>       |
| check | /tʃɛk/ | Digraph ch- + -eck; OF <i>eschec</i> (chess check)     | brick | /brɪk/ | Onset cluster br- + short ĭ; OF <i>brique</i>         |
| speck | /spek/ | Onset cluster sp- + -eck; OE <i>specca</i> (tiny mark) | sick  | /sɪk/  | Short ĭ + -ck; OE <i>sēoc</i> (unwell, ailing)        |

Section 3: Lesson 151 • Conscience Clock Lyric & Master Oral Dictation Script

DICTATION SCRIPT • RUBRIC

**Cloze Key:** Part 1: (1) *steel* | (2) *steal*

**Master Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer at 12 wpm):**

1. "In olden times schoolmasters wrote with goose quills instead of steel pens." (Tests: *steel*)
2. "A gentle child will never steal young birds from their woodland nest." (Tests: *steal*)
3. "Use a quick tack to fix the loose wooden board onto the ship's deck." (Tests: *quick, tack, deck*)
4. "The heavy stone clock on the brick mantel began to tick and chime." (Tests: *clock, brick*)
5. "He showed great pluck when the wagon wheel was stuck in the deep rut." (Tests: *pluck, stuck*)

Socratic Orthography Inquiry:

Teacher: "Listen to 'silk' and 'sick'. Why does 'sick' have -ck, but 'silk' only -k?"  
Pupil: "In 'sick', /k/ directly follows a single short vowel. In 'silk', consonant 'l' intervenes!"

Kinesthetic & Oral Drill:

Have students clap rhythmically to "tick, tock" at 60 bpm. Emphasize crisp velar stop /k/ release with tongue back against the soft palate.

Scoring Rubric (20 Pts):

- **8 Pts:** Correct spelling of all 16 -ck words.
- **6 Pts:** Homophone accuracy (*steel* vs. *steal*).
- **6 Pts:** 26px handwriting discipline on dashed midlines.