

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 149 • WORDS PRONOUNCED ALIKE: STEEL VS. STEAL

STĒĒL • STĒAL = /STI:L/

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Historical Context & Orthographic Discrimination • The Sound /sti:l/

steel: A hard, refined metal made of iron and carbon. In olden days, scholars wrote with goose-quill pens; modern pens are crafted with sharp nibs of flexible **steel** (digraph **ee**).

steal: To take that which belongs to another unlawfully (digraph **ea**; strong verb: *steal, stole, stolen*).

CONCEPT

1

Historical Penmanship Copywork • 26px Standard Track

Copy the historical penmanship observation neatly:

Quill pens were once made from goose feathers, but we write with steel pens.

A noble heart will never steal, nor envy another's good fortune.

2

Homophone Cloze Studio • steel vs. steal

Write **steel** or **steal** in each blank:

1. The clerk dipped his sharp _____ pen into the black inkstand.

2. Rust and moths cannot _____ true heavenly treasures.

3. Heavy girders of solid _____ support the great suspension bridge.

4. The sly fox tried to _____ into the hen-house at midnight.

3

Original Composition • Historical Contrast

Compose a sentence contrasting quill pens with modern steel pens:

Sentence: _____

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • DIGRAPHS EE VS. EA

1. 1. Double EE in Tools and Metals: The metal **steel** uses double ee (Old English *stēl*). Notice other durable implements and parts spelled with ee: *wheel, needle, keel*.

2. 2. Digraph EA in Moral Actions: The action verb **steal** uses ea (Old English *stelan*). Compare with other Anglo-Saxon verbs: *speak, teach, reach, leap*.

3. 3. The Evolution of Pens: The word *pen* originally meant 'feather' (Latin *penna*). When steel nibs were invented, the name was retained for the metallic instrument.

LESSON 149 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

HOMOPHONES • PEN HISTORY • ETYMOLOGY

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WORD	IPA	GRAMMAR	HISTORICAL ETYMOLOGY & PRESCRIPTION
steel	/sti:l/	Noun / Adjective	Old English <i>stēli</i> . Double ee. Flexible nib metal for school writing pens.
steal	/sti:l/	Verb (Strong)	Old English <i>stelan</i> . Digraph ea. Moral prohibition against theft.
quill	/kwɪl/	Noun	Hollow spine of a feather used for writing before the invention of steel nibs.
nib	/nɪb/	Noun	Old English <i>nebb</i> (beak, tip). The writing point of a steel pen.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 2 Solutions:

- steel** (writing pen instrument).
- steal** (take unlawfully).
- steel** (metal alloy girders).
- steal** (creep secretly/unlawfully).

Historical Note:

Explain to children that until the 1830s, teachers spent hours cutting goose feathers with a 'penknife'. The invention of cheap steel pens revolutionized schooling!

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Why is the writing tool called a pen if it is made of steel, not a goose feather?
- How do we know whether to write 'steel' or 'steal' in a sentence?
- What vowel digraph makes the long /i:/ sound in 'steel'?

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

- Quill pens were made from goose feathers, but steel pens are stronger.
- A thief tried to steal the farmer's horse from the stable.
- The scholar wrote neatly with a fine steel pen.
- Thou shalt not steal.