

Part 1: Lesson 158 • Short a as in hat, marked ä (12 Words)

SHORT Ä • 12 WORDS • 26PX TRACKS

habit /'hæbɪt/

Settled custom or practice

candy /'kændi/

Sweet sugar confection

matter /'mætər/

Subject or affair of note

wagon /'wæɡən/

Four-wheeled freight cart

happy /'hæpi/

Full of joy and cheer

handle /'hændəl/

Part held by hand

manly /'mænli/

Brave, noble, and strong

answer /'ænsər/

Reply to question (silent w)

fancy /'fænsi/

Pleasing whim or decorative

rabbit /'ræbɪt/

Small long-eared hare

rather /'ræðər/

More willingly; somewhat

chapter /'tʃæptər/

Main division of a book

Part 2: Lesson 159 • Short e as in met, marked ë (12 Words)

SHORT Ë • 12 WORDS • 26PX TRACKS

plenty /'plenti/

Full supply; abundance

fretful /'fretfʊl/

Easily irritated or peevish

tempest /'tɛmpɪst/

Violent wind and rainstorm

penny /'pɛni/

One-cent copper coin

velvet /'vɛlvɪt/

Soft fabric with short pile

empty /'ɛmpti/

Containing nothing within

ever /'ɛvər/

At any time; always

letter /'lɛtər/

Written message or symbol

better /'bɛtər/

Higher quality than good

tender /'tɛndər/

Gentle, soft, or delicate

slender /'slɛndər/

Gracefully slim or trim

member /'mɛmbər/

Part of a whole or society

Part 3: Socratic Plural Inquiry & Sentence Composition (Wheeler's Questions)

ACTIVE DERIVATION • 26PX TRACKS

1. Wheeler's Inquiry: Plural of penny & candy

Write the singular, state the consonant before y, and derive the plural form:

2. Orthographic Detective: Contrast with chimneys

Why does chimney add -s, but penny and candy change y to i and add -es?

Student Composition: Select four words from Lesson 158 or 159 to write an original sentence (mark ë over each e!):

Section 1: Closed Syllables, Geminate Consonants & Plural Laws

MORPHOLOGY • SYLLABICATION LAW

Medial Geminates & Short Vowel Protection:

In English dissyllables, a medial double consonant (*pp*, *bb*, *tt*, *nn*) signals that the preceding accented vowel is closed and short: • *happy* (/ˈhæpi/), *rabbit* (/ˈræbɪt/), *matter* (/ˈmætər/).
• *penny* (/ˈpeni/), *letter* (/ˈletər/), *better* (/ˈbetər/).
Contrast with open syllables where single consonants allow vowel lengthening (e.g., *later* vs. *latter*).

Master Morphology: Plural of y Nouns:

Wheeler pairs Lesson 153 with Lesson 159 to solidify the two branches of final -y inflections: • **Consonant + y:** *penny* → *pennies*, *candy* → *candies*, *fancy* → *fancies*.
• **Vowel + y:** *chimney* → *chimneys*, *monkey* → *monkeys*, *valley* → *valleys*.
Point out historical etymology: Anglo-Saxon *pennig* pluralized as *pennigas*, producing modern *pennies*.

Section 2: 24 Target Words Master Phonics, IPA & Etymology Key

24 DISSYLLABLES • IPA • ROOTS

Word	IPA	Lesson 158 (Short ä) Rules	Word	IPA	Lesson 159 (Short ě) Rules
habit	/ˈhæbɪt/	Short ä; Latin <i>habitus</i> (custom)	plenty	/ˈplenti/	Short ě; Latin <i>plenitas</i> (fullness)
happy	/ˈhæpi/	Doubled -pp-; ON <i>happ</i> (good luck)	fretful	/ˈfretful/	Short ě; base <i>fret</i> + suffix -ful
fancy	/ˈfænsi/	Soft c = /s/; contraction of <i>fantasy</i>	tempest	/ˈtempɪst/	Short ě; Latin <i>tempestas</i> (storm)
candy	/ˈkændi/	Consonant + y → plural <i>candies</i>	penny	/ˈpeni/	Consonant + y → plural <i>pennies</i>
handle	/ˈhændəl/	Base <i>hand</i> + frequentative -le	velvet	/ˈvelvɪt/	Short ě; Latin <i>villus</i> (tufted hair)
rabbit	/ˈræbɪt/	Doubled -bb- preserves short ä	empty	/ˈempti/	Short ě; OE <i>æmettig</i> (vacant)
matter	/ˈmætər/	Doubled -tt-; Latin <i>materia</i>	ever	/ˈevər/	Short ě; OE <i>æfre</i> (at all times)
manly	/ˈmænli/	Base <i>man</i> + adjective suffix -ly	letter	/ˈletər/	Doubled -tt-; Latin <i>littera</i>
rather	/ˈræðər/	Short ä + voiced th (/ð/); OE <i>hraðe</i>	better	/ˈbetər/	Doubled -tt-; comparative of <i>good</i>
wagon	/ˈwæɡən/	Short ä; Dutch <i>wagen</i> (cart)	tender	/ˈtendər/	Short ě; Latin <i>tener</i> (delicate)
answer	/ˈænsər/	Silent -w-; OE <i>andswaru</i> (reply)	slender	/ˈslendər/	Short ě; ME <i>slendre</i> (graceful)
chapter	/ˈtʃæptər/	Digraph ch- = /tʃ/; Latin <i>capitulum</i>	member	/ˈmembər/	Short ě; Latin <i>membrum</i> (part)

Section 3: Master Oral Dictation Script, Socratic Inquiry & Evaluative Rubric

DICTIONATION • SOCRATIC • 20-POINT RUBRIC

Master Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer at 12 wpm):

- "The happy pupil wrote a neat letter upon tender paper." (Tests: *happy*, *letter*, *tender*)
- "We loaded plenty of sweet candy and red apples into the farm wagon." (Tests: *plenty*, *candy*, *wagon*)
- "A fierce tempest arose, but the manly sailor held the rudder handle." (Tests: *tempest*, *manly*, *handle*)
- "The empty basket was lined with rich velvet for the pet rabbit." (Tests: *empty*, *velvet*, *rabbit*)
- "I would rather read another chapter before you answer the question." (Tests: *rather*, *chapter*, *answer*)

Socratic Inquiry Key:

Teacher: "Why do we double the consonant in 'happy' and 'better'?"
Pupil: "To keep the preceding vowel short! Without the double consonant, it might look like a long vowel!"

Plural Rule Derivation Key:

penny → *pennies*, *candy* → *candies*, *fancy* → *fancies*.
Rule: Change y to i and add -es when preceded by a consonant. Contrast with *chimneys* (vowel + y adds only -s).

1. Short Vowel Phonics (5 pts)

Accurate identification and pronunciation of short ä and short ě across 24 words.

2. Plural Morphology (5 pts)

Flawless derivation of consonant + y plurals (*pennies*, *candies*) vs. vowel + y.

3. Penmanship (5 pts)

Strict 26px line discipline; ascenders and descenders properly touching dashed midline.

4. Sentence Mechanics (5 pts)

Original sentence composition with correct diacritic marking and grammatical syntax.

Total: 20 Points • Mastery: 18–20 | Proficient: 15–17 | Developing: 12–14 | Emerging: <12