

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Lesson 160

(Pages 83–84)

Orthographic Rules: The Single "l" in Compounds • Homophones: weak vs. week

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

Part 1: The "One L Only" Rule (6 Target Words)

ORTHOGRAPHY • ONE L ONLY • 26PX TRACKS

Wheeler's Rule: In English, when **all** or **well** forms an established compound word, one **l** is dropped. Write each word neatly on its handwriting track.

also /ˈɔːlsou/

all + so → in addition; likewise

almost /ˈɔːlmoust/

all + most → very nearly; all but

always /ˈɔːlweɪz/

all + ways → at all times; forever

welcome /ˈwelkəm/

well + come → received with gladness

until /ənˈtɪl/

unto + til → up to the time that (single l!)

already /ɔːlˈrɛdi/

all + ready → prior to this moment

Part 2: Homophones • Words Pronounced Alike (/wi:k/)

HOMOPHONES • WEAK VS. WEEK

weak /wi:k/ (Adjective)

Lacking physical strength or energy; frail, feeble. (OE *wāc* = pliant).

week /wi:k/ (Noun)

A continuous cycle of seven successive days and nights. (OE *wice* = succession).

Wheeler's Dictation Exercises • Supply the correct homophone (weak / week):

1. "Attack the strong, defend the _____."

2. "Shall I stay away a whole _____, seven days and nights?"

Part 3: Original Sentence Composition • Apply the "One L" Words

SENTENCE SYNTAX • 26PX PENMANSHIP

Wheeler directs: "Use each word in sentences of your own." Compose an original sentence for each "one l" word:

1. **also:**

2. **almost:**

3. **always:**

4. **welcome:**

5. **until:**

6. **already:**

Section 1: The Orthographic Law of the Single “l” in Compounds

PHONOLOGY • COMPOUND LAWS

The Prefixal “all-” and “well-” Degemination Principle:

Wheeler stresses: “Spell the following words with one l only.” When the Old English quantifier **eall** (all) or adverb **wel** (well) fuses into an established compound, the geminate consonant collapses into a single l:

- **also** (*all + so* → OE *eallswā* → ME *also*)
- **almost** (*all + most* → OE *eallmæst*)
- **always** (*all + ways* → OE *ealle wæga*)
- **welcome** (*well + come* → OE *wilcuma* / ME *willecome*).

Crucial Modern Pitfalls & Homophone Distinction:

- **until**: Formed from Old Norse *und* + Old English *tīl*. Often mistakenly written as **untill* by analogy with *till*. Wheeler insists on single terminal l.
- **already** vs. **all ready**: *Already* is an adverb of time (“We have already begun”). *All ready* is a phrase meaning completely prepared (“We are all ready to march”).
- **weak** vs. **week**: Homophones sharing /wi:k/. *Weak* contains digraph *ea* (OE *wāc*); *week* contains digraph *ee* (OE *wice*).

Section 2: Complete Word Analysis & Orthographic Matrix (8 Words)

IPA • ETYMOLOGY • RULES

WORD	IPA	COMPOUND STRUCTURE	ETYMOLOGY & TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
also	/ˈɔːlsou/	all + so → also	OE <i>eallswā</i> (entirely so). Drops second l; open syllable -so (/soʊ/).
almost	/ˈɔːlmoust/	all + most → almost	OE <i>eallmæst</i> (mostly all). Single l; long o before terminal -st.
always	/ˈɔːlweɪz/	all + ways → always	OE <i>ealle wæga</i> (at all paths/times). Single l; vowel digraph <i>ay</i> = /eɪ/.
welcome	/ˈwelkəm/	well + come → welcome	OE <i>wilcuma</i> (one whose coming accords with another’s will). Single l; silent final -e.
until	/ənˈtɪl/	unto + til → until	ME compound of northern <i>und-</i> (up to) + <i>tīl</i> . Only one terminal l (contrast with <i>till</i>).
already	/ɔːlˈredi/	all + ready → already	ME <i>al redy</i> . Drops second l; short <i>ea</i> in base <i>ready</i> (/ˈredi/).
weak	/wi:k/	Base (Adj.)	OE <i>wāc</i> (pliant, yielding). Digraph <i>ea</i> = /iː/. Antonym of <i>strong</i> .
week	/wi:k/	Base (Noun)	OE <i>wice</i> (turn, change, cycle). Digraph <i>ee</i> = /iː/. 7 days and nights.

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

DICTIONATION • SOCRATIC • 20-PT RUBRIC

Master Dictation Sentences:

- “The traveler was *almost* ready to embark.”
- “She will *always* *welcome* her dear friends.”
- “Wait here *until* the bell rings.”
- “He had *already* finished his slate.”
- “Attack the strong, defend the *weak*.”
- “Seven days and nights make one *week*.”

Socratic Inquiry Prompts:

- **Teacher**: “When we combine *all* and *ways*, what happens to one of the letters?”
Pupil: “One of the l’s drops away, leaving only one l in *always*.”
- **Teacher**: “Why do we write *until* with one l, but *till* with two?”
Pupil: “The prefix in *until* causes the terminal consonant to stay single.”
- **Teacher**: “In ‘Attack the strong, defend the...’, which word fits and how do you spell it?”
Pupil: “*Weak*, spelled with *ea*, because it means lacking strength.”

Scoring Rubric (20 Pts):

- **1. One L Rule (5 pts)**: Correct spelling of all 6 single-l words without doubling *ll*.
- **2. Homophones (5 pts)**: Accurate discrimination between *weak* and *week* in dictation.
- **3. Penmanship (5 pts)**: Strict 26px line discipline; proper ascenders and descenders.
- **4. Sentence Syntax (5 pts)**: Original sentence composition with correct grammar and mechanics.

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