

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Lessons 161 & 162 (Page 85)

Homophones not vs. knot • Alice Cary Literature • Short ĭ in Dissyllables (12 Words)

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

Part 1: Lesson 161 • Words Pronounced Alike: not vs. knot (/nɑ:t/)

HOMOPHONES • ALICE CARY POETRY

not /nɑ:t/ (Adverb)

Expresses negation, refusal, or denial (OE *nāwiht* = nought).

knot /nɑ:t/ (Noun / Verb)

An interlacing or tying of cord or rope; silent **k** (OE *cnotta*).

“It was **not** day, and it was **not** night; The eve had just begun.” — ALICE CARY

“It is too hard a **knot** for me to untie.”

1. Word used in saying a thing isn't so? (Found in *isn't*):

2. What do sailors tie in ropes? (Spell with silent *k*):

Part 2: Lesson 162 • Short ĭ as in pin, marked ĭ (12 Words)

SHORT Ĭ DISSYLLABLES • 26PX TRACKS

Master the short ĭ sound (/ɪ/) in two-syllable words. Write each target word with careful penmanship:

into /'ɪntu:/

prep. to the interior of

riches /'rɪtʃɪz/

n. abundant wealth

river /'rɪvər/

n. natural stream of water

visit /'vɪzɪt/

v. go to see or stay with

infant /'ɪnfənt/

n. very young baby

sister /'sɪstər/

n. female sibling

given /'gɪvən/

pp. bestowed; granted

timid /'tɪmɪd/

adj. easily frightened; shy

dimple /'dɪmpəl/

n. small cheek indent

quickly /'kwɪkli/

adv. with rapid speed

mistake /mɪ'sterk/

n./v. error in judgement

Milton /'mɪltən/

prop n. John Milton, poet

Part 3: Original Sentence Composition • Apply Any Four Words

SYNTAX • 26PX PENMANSHIP

Wheeler directs: “Use any four of them in sentences of your own.” Compose complete, expressive sentences:

1. Sentence with **timid** or **infant**:

2. Sentence with **river** or **dimple**:

3. Sentence with **quickly** or **mistake**:

4. Sentence with **sister**, **riches**, or **Milton**:

Section 1: Silent Consonants, Enclitic Negation & Classical Stems

ORTHOEPY • MORPHOLOGY

Homophones “not” vs. “knot” & Cary’s Verse:

- **not** (OE *nāwiht* = nought): Universal English negative adverb. In speech and informal prose, it cliticizes as *-n't* (e.g. *isn't*, *haven't*, *wasn't*). Wheeler highlights this contracted morphology in Socratic inquiry 1.
- **knot** (OE *cnotta*): Retains historical Germanic initial cluster /kn-/. In Early Modern English, /k/ became silent before /n/, creating the homophone pair /na:t/.
- **Alice Cary** (1820–1871): Beloved Ohio poet known for pastoral simplicity and rhythmic balance.

Short i Dissyllabic Patterns & Etymological Gems:

- **infant**: Latin *in-* (not) + *fans* (speaking) → literally “incapable of speech.”
- **visit**: Latin *visitare*, frequentative of *videre* (to see).
- **timid**: Latin *timidus* → *timere* (to fear).
- **dimple**: Germanic diminutive referring to a small crater or facial impression.
- **mistake**: Old Norse prefix *mis-* (wrongly) + *taka* (to take).
- **Milton**: John Milton (1608–1674), author of *Paradise Lost*, exemplifying capitalized proper names.

Section 2: Complete Word Analysis & Phonetic Key (14 Words)

IPA • SYLLABICATION • ETYMOLOGY

WORD	IPA	SYLLABLES	PHONOLOGICAL STRUCTURE & ETYMOLOGICAL RULE
not	/na:t/	1 syll. [CVC]	Negative adverb; short <i>ö</i> /a:/; reduces to enclitic <i>-n't</i> in contractions.
knot	/na:t/	1 syll. [CCVC]	Silent initial <i>k-</i> ; OE <i>cnotta</i> . Nautical speed measure (1 nautical mph).
into	/ˈɪntu:/	in-to	Compound preposition (short <i>ī</i> in closed first syllable + long <i>ōō</i>).
riches	/ˈrɪtʃɪz/	rich-es	OF <i>richece</i> . Plural noun formed with <i>-es</i> after affricate <i>ch</i> (/tʃ/).
river	/ˈrɪvər/	riv-er	ME <i>rivere</i> (Latin <i>riparius</i> = of a riverbank). Short <i>ī</i> in open-looking accent.
visit	/ˈvɪzɪt/	vis-it	Latin <i>visitare</i> . Voiced medial <i>s</i> (/z/); two short <i>ī</i> vowels.
infant	/ˈɪnfənt/	in-fant	Latin <i>infans</i> (<i>in-</i> not + <i>fari</i> to speak). Unaccented schwa /ə/ in final syllable.
sister	/ˈsɪstər/	sis-ter	OE <i>sweostor</i> / ON <i>systir</i> . Short <i>ī</i> before consonant cluster <i>st</i> .
given	/ˈɡɪvən/	giv-en	Strong verb past participle (OE <i>gífen</i>). Short <i>ī</i> preserved despite single <i>v</i> .
timid	/ˈtɪmɪd/	tim-id	Latin <i>timidus</i> . Medial short <i>ī</i> followed by suffix <i>-id</i> .
dimple	/ˈdɪmpəl/	dim-ple	Consonant + <i>le</i> syllable (/pəl/). Short <i>ī</i> closed by nasal <i>m</i> .
quickly	/ˈkwɪkli/	quick-ly	Digraph <i>qu</i> = /kw/; base <i>quick</i> + adverbial suffix <i>-ly</i> .
mistake	/mɪˈsteɪk/	mis-take	Prefix <i>mis-</i> (wrongly) + base <i>take</i> . Unaccented short <i>ī</i> prefix.
Milton	/ˈmɪltən/	Mil-ton	Proper noun; requires capitalization. English poet John Milton (1608–1674).

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

DICTIONATION • SOCRATIC • 20-PT RUBRIC

Oral Dictation Sentences:

1. “The *infant* smiled and showed a tiny *dimple*.”
2. “Her *sister* walked *quickly* toward the deep *river*.”
3. “Do *not* tie that rope in a crooked *knot*.”
4. “True *riches* are *given* to a generous heart.”
5. “The *timid* pupil made not a single *mistake* on his slate.”
6. “We read the noble poems of *Milton* during our *visit*.”

Socratic Inquiry Key:

- **Q:** “What word says a thing isn’t so, and how is it used in ‘isn’t’?”
A: “The word is *not*; in *isn’t*, the *o* is omitted and replaced with an apostrophe (*is not* → *isn’t*).”
- **Q:** “Why does *knot* have a *k* if we don’t pronounce it?”
A: “In Old English, the *k* was sounded (/kn/). Over centuries the *k* became silent, but the spelling preserved the word’s history.”
- **Q:** “Why must *Milton* always begin with a capital letter?”
A: “Because it is a proper noun naming a specific person and poet.”

Scoring Rubric (20 Pts):

- **1. Homophones (5 pts):** Flawless discrimination of *not* vs. *knot* in verse.
 - **2. Short i Words (5 pts):** Accurate spelling of all 12 two-syllable vocabulary words.
 - **3. Penmanship (5 pts):** Strict 26px line discipline on dashed midlines.
 - **4. Sentence Mechanics (5 pts):** Expressive original sentences; proper capitalization of *Milton*.
- Mastery: 18–20 | Proficient: 15–17 | Developing: 12–14 | Emerging: <12