

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 161 • WORDS PRONOUNCED ALIKE: NOT VS. KNOT

NÖT • KNÖT = /NDT/

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Orthographic & Moral Contrast • The Silent K in Knot

not: Word of negation or denial; expressing the negative of an action (Old English *nōht*).
knot: An interlacing or fastening of cords or ropes; a difficult tangle (Old English *cnotta*; silent initial **k**).

CONCEPT

Alice Cary (1820–1871): “I hold that Christian grace abounds / Where charity is seen; / And when I come to be forgiven, / It will **not** be for flowers I gave.”

1

Poetic Model Copywork • Alice Cary • 26px Track

Copy the moral stanza from Alice Cary neatly:

I hold that Christian grace abounds where charity is seen;

And when I come to be forgiven, it will not be for flowers I gave.

2

Homophone Cloze Studio • not vs. knot

Write **not** or **knot** in each blank:

1. The sailor tied a secure square _____ in the thick ship's rope.

2. The honest child would _____ tell an untruth for any reward.

3. Can you untie this tight _____ in my shoe lace?

4. It is _____ raining to-day, so we may play out-of-doors.

3

Silent Letter Observation • Silent Initial K

Write 4 words beginning with silent *k* before *n*:

knot • know • knee • knife

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • SILENT INITIAL K

1. 1. **Silent Initial K Before N:** In Old English, the *k* in *knot*, *knee*, *knife* was fully pronounced (/kn/). Over centuries, English speakers dropped the /k/ sound, leaving *k* silent.

2. 2. **Negation Word Not:** The particle **not** developed as an unstressed contraction of Old English *nawiht* (no-whit → naught → not).

3. 3. **Etymological Distinction:** Whenever referring to tying cords, thread, or wood grain, remember the silent **k** in **knot**.

LESSON 161 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

HOMOPHONES • SILENT K • LITERATURE

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WORD	IPA	GRAMMAR	ETYMOLOGY & TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
not	/nɒt/	Adverb (Negative)	Old English <i>nōht</i> . Particle of denial or refusal.
knot	/nɒt/	Noun / Verb	Old English <i>cnotta</i> . Silent <i>k</i> before <i>n</i> . Interlacing of cords.
knife	/naɪf/	Noun	Old Norse <i>knīfr</i> . Silent <i>k</i> ; companion orthographic pattern.
knee	/ni:/	Noun	Old English <i>cnēo</i> . Silent <i>k</i> before <i>n</i> .

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 2 Solutions:

- knot** (rope fastening).
- not** (negative particle).
- knot** (tangle/fastening).
- not** (denial of rain).

Historical Note:

Explain to children that their ancestors in England used to pronounce 'k-not' and 'k-nee'! Today the 'k' is a silent ghost letter that helps us see the difference between words.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Say 'not' and 'knot'. Can your ears hear any difference? Why do we need the 'k'?
- What other words start with 'kn' where the 'k' is completely silent?
- What does Alice Cary mean when she says charity is true Christian grace?

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

- The sturdy sailor tied a tight knot in the anchor rope.
- Do not wander far into the dark forest alone.
- He could not untie the tangled knot in his shoestring.
- Christian grace abounds wherever true charity is shown.