

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 166 • LONG A IN OPEN SYLLABLES (Ā AS IN HATE) **BĀ-KER • LĀ-DY = /EI/**

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Open Syllable Law • Long ā Ending an Accented Syllable
An **open syllable** ends in a vowel. In standard English, an accented vowel ending an open syllable is almost always **long (ā)**:
12 Target Dissyllables: *bā-ker, mā-ker, lā-dy, bā-by, crā-dle, tā-ble, stā-ble, grā-vy, pā-per, tā-per, vā-por, mā-ple.*

CONCEPT

1
Syllabication & Open Syllable Analysis • 26px Track
Copy the 12 dissyllables. Notice that the first syllable ends in the vowel *a*:
ba-ker • ma-ker • la-dy • ba-by • cra-dle • ta-ble
sta-ble • gra-vy • pa-per • ta-per • va-por • ma-ple

2
Contrast: Open Syllable (Long ā) vs. Closed Syllable (Short ă)
Observe how a single consonant leaves the vowel open and long:
ba-ker (open = long ā) vs. bat-ter (closed = short ă)
la-dy (open = long ā) vs. lad-der (closed = short ă)

3
Contextual Sentences • Application
Complete the sentences using *baker, baby, cradle, maple*:
1. The sleeping _____ lay rocking softly in her wooden _____.
2. Sweet golden syrup was made from the tall _____ trees.

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • THE OPEN SYLLABLE LAW
1. 1. The Open Syllable Law: When a syllable ends with a single vowel, the vowel is 'open' and says its long alphabet name (macron ā): *ba-ker, la-dy, pa-per.*
2. 2. Contrast with Closed Syllables: If a consonant closes the syllable, the vowel is 'shut in' and short: compare *la-dy* (long ā) with *lad-der* (short ă).
3. 3. The Syllabic -le in Cradle & Table: In *cra-dle, ta-ble, sta-ble, ma-ple*, the single consonant joins the final -le, leaving the first syllable open and long.

LESSON 166 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

ORTHOEPY • OPEN SYLLABLES • LONG Ä

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WORD	IPA	SYLLABICATION	TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
baker	/ˈbeɪkər/	ba-ker	Base <i>bake</i> + <i>-er</i> . Open first syllable: long <i>ä</i> .
lady	/ˈleɪdi/	la-dy	Old English <i>hlæfdige</i> (loaf-kneader). Open first syllable.
cradle	/ˈkreɪdəl/	cra-dle	Consonant <i>d</i> joins <i>-le</i> , leaving <i>cra-</i> open and long.
table	/ˈteɪbəl/	ta-ble	Consonant <i>b</i> joins <i>-le</i> , leaving <i>ta-</i> open and long.
paper	/ˈpeɪpər/	pa-per	Latin <i>papyrus</i> . Open syllable <i>pa-</i> = long <i>ä</i> .
maple	/ˈmeɪpəl/	ma-ple	Consonant <i>p</i> joins <i>-le</i> ; <i>ma-</i> is open.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 Syllabication:

- ba-ker, ma-ker, la-dy, ba-by.
- cra-dle, ta-ble, sta-ble, gra-vy.
- pa-per, ta-per, va-por, ma-ple.

All 12 feature open accented first syllables.

Exercise 3 Solutions:

- baby / cradle.**
- maple.**

Open Syllable Test: Have children contrast *ba-ker* (1 consonant, long) with *bat-ter* (2 consonants, short).

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Why is the 'a' in 'baker' long, but the 'a' in 'batter' short?
- Look at 'cradle'. Where do we divide the syllables? Does the first syllable end with a vowel or consonant?
- Can you think of another word that ends in '-ple' with a long vowel?

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

- The kind baker made fresh loaves of warm wheat bread.
- Mother placed the sleeping baby gently into her cradle.
- Sweet syrup dripped slowly from the tapped maple tree.
- He wrote his spelling lesson neatly upon clean white paper.