

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 168 • LONG A DIGRAPHS (AI OR AY = /eɪ/)

DĀI-LY • PLĀY-FUL = /eɪ/

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Vowel Digraph Architecture • Long ā Spelled ai vs. ay

The long /eɪ/ sound is spelled **ai** in the interior of syllables and **ay** at the end of syllables or words:

Interior ai (6 Words): dai-ly, dai-sy, dain-ty, praise, a-fraid, re-main

Final ay (6 Words): com-plain, pay-ment, play-ful, dis-may, be-tray, de-cay

CONCEPT

1

Interior ai vs. Terminal ay Sorting • 26px Standard Track

Classify the words by digraph position (interior ai vs. syllable-end ay):

Interior ai: dai-ly • dai-sy • dain-ty • praise • a-fraid • re-main

Terminal ay: pay-ment • play-ful • dis-may • be-tray • de-cay • com-plain

2

Penmanship Track • Diacritical Digraph Observation

Copy the pairs neatly on the 26px lines, placing macrons over long ā:

dāi-ly prāise dāin-ty dāi-sy plāy-ful bā-by rē-māin af-rāid

3

Contextual Sentences • Application

Fill each blank with an appropriate target word:

1. The blooming white _____ opened its _____ petals to the morning sun.

2. We should give _____ for our _____ bread each day.

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIIC RULES • LONG A DIGRAPHS

1. 1. Interior AI Position: The digraph ai appears inside base syllables (dain-ty, praise, a-fraid). Native English words never end in ai.

2. 2. Syllable-Final AY Position: When the long /eɪ/ sound concludes a syllable or root word, the letter y replaces i: play → play-ful, pay → pay-ment.

3. 3. Soft S in Praise: In praise, the s is voiced (/z/) between the vowel digraph ai and silent final e.

LESSON 168 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

ORTHOEPY • VOWEL DIGRAPHS • AI / AY

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WORD	IPA	DIGRAPH TYPE	TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
daily	/ˈdeɪli/	ai (base day)	Consonant+y changed to i before suffix -ly.
daisy	/ˈdeɪzi/	ai	Old English <i>dæges ēage</i> (day's eye). Voiced s = /z/.
dainty	/ˈdeɪnti/	ai	Old French <i>deintié</i> (pleasant). Diphthong ai before n.
praise	/preɪz/	ai + silent e	Old French <i>preisier</i> . Voiced s = /z/.
payment	/ˈpeɪmənt/	ay + -ment	Base <i>pay</i> retains y before consonant suffix -ment.
playful	/ˈpleɪfʊl/	ay + -ful	Base <i>play</i> retains y before consonant suffix -ful.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 Sorting Key:

- *Interior ai:* daily, daisy, dainty, praise, afraid, remain.
- *Terminal ay:* payment, playful, dismay, betray, decay.
- *Note:* complain has interior ai in second syllable.

Exercise 3 Solutions:

1. **daisy / dainty.**
2. **praise / daily.**

Position Rule: ai inside, ay at the end!

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Why do we write 'play' with 'ay', but 'rain' with 'ai'?
- What word came from 'day's eye'? How is it spelled today?
- What sound does the 's' make in 'praise'?

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

1. A dainty white daisy bloomed in the green grass.
2. The playful kitten remained asleep by the fireplace.
3. Sing cheerful songs of praise for our daily blessings.
4. Do not complain when you have honest work to do.