

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 169 • LONG E DIGRAPHS (EE OR EA = /i:/) **BRĒĒZE • BĒA-VER = /I:/**

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 88

Vowel Digraph Architecture • Long ē Spelled ee vs. ea

Both digraphs **ee** and **ea** represent the long /i:/ sound in dissyllables:

Double ee (6 Words): *breeze, freeze, sneeze, needle, beetle, steeple*

Digraph ea (6 Words): *squeeze, beaver, season, treason, squeal, a-sleep*

CONCEPT

1

Digraph Sorting: Double ee vs. Digraph ea • 26px Track
Group the 12 words under their vowel digraph heading:

Double ee: breeze • freeze • sneeze • needle • beetle • steeple

Digraph ea: squeeze (ee) • beaver • season • treason • squeal • a-sleep (ee)

2

Syllabic -le with Double ee • Penmanship Track
Copy the syllabic -le words, observing how the double consonant or blend attaches:

nee-dle • bee-tle • stee-ple • a-sleep • bea-ver • sea-son

3

Contextual Sentences • Application
Fill each blank with an appropriate target word:

1. The industrious _____ built a strong dam across the river in spring _____.

2. Mother threaded the fine steel _____ with white silk thread.

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • LONG E DIGRAPHS

1. 1. **Double EE Stability:** The double vowel **ee** is the most stable and reliable spelling for long /i:/ in English, almost never taking any other sound.

2. 2. **Digraph EA Flexibility:** While **ea** predominantly spells long /i:/ (*beaver, season*), remember its occasional short sound in *bread, head*.

3. 3. **The Sibilant Blend -ze:** In *breeze, freeze, sneeze, squeeze*, the voiced sibilant /z/ is spelled with **-ze** following the long vowel digraph.

LESSON 169 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

ORTHOEPY • VOWEL DIGRAPHS • EE / EA

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WORD	IPA	DIGRAPH TYPE	TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
beaver	/ˈbiːvər/	ea	Old English <i>beofor</i> . First syllable ends in vowel ea = long /iː/.
season	/ˈsiːzən/	ea	Latin <i>satio</i> (sowing time). Voiced s = /z/; unaccented -on.
needle	/ˈniːdəl/	ee	Old English <i>nædl</i> . Double ee + syllabic -le.
steeple	/ˈstiːpəl/	ee	Old English <i>stēpel</i> (high tower). Double ee + syllabic -le.
breeze	/briːz/	ee	Spanish <i>briza</i> . Voiced /z/ spelled -ze.
squeal	/skwiːl/	ea	Blend squ- + digraph ea + liquid l.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 Sorting Key:

- Double ee: breeze, freeze, sneeze, squeeze, needle, beetle, steeple, asleep.
- Digraph ea: beaver, season, treason, squeal.

Both groups represent long /iː/.

Exercise 3 Solutions:

- beaver / season.
- needle.

Spelling Clinic: Enforce the difference between *steeple* (tower) and *people* (persons).

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Which spelling of long 'e' is more common in words ending in '-ze': 'ee' or 'ea'?
- Look at 'needle' and 'beetle'. What two letters make the last syllable?
- How does a beaver prepare for the winter season?

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

- A cool evening breeze blew through the tall church steeple.
- The wise beaver built a sturdy lodge before the freeze of winter.
- Mother threaded her sharp steel needle with black thread.
- Spring is the joyful season when flowers awake from sleep.