

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 171 • THE SOUND OF /F/ SPELLED GH OR PH

GH • PH = /F/

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 89

Historical Orthoepic Clinic • The Labiodental Fricative /f/

The sound /f/ is represented by two irregular digraphs in English:

Germanic gh = /f/ (7 Words): laugh, tough, rough, cough, e-nough, trough, draught

Greek ph = /f/ (8 Words): Phil-ip, Ralph, phan-tom, phrase, pho-to, phone, or-phan, tri-umph

CONCEPT

1

Historical Sorting: Germanic gh vs. Greek ph • 26px Track

Sort the 15 words by their etymological digraph (gh vs. ph):

Germanic gh: laugh • tough • rough • cough • e-nough • trough • draught

Greek ph: Phil-ip • Ralph • phan-tom • phrase • pho-to • phone • or-phan • tri-umph

2

Penmanship Track • Diacritical Markings for /f/ Digraphs

Copy the pairs neatly, underlining the digraph that makes the /f/ sound:

hăp-py laugh rŏugh seă shôrt phrăse nŏ-ble tri-umph

3

Contextual Sentences • Application

Fill each blank using words from the list:

1. The kind teacher could not help but _____ at the child's cheerful joke.

2. Clear water filled the stone cattle _____ in the barn yard.

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • THE SOUND /F/ IN GH AND PH

1. 1. Germanic Sound Shift of GH: In Old English, gh was a guttural sound (/x/). By the 16th century, in certain words it shifted to a labiodental /f/ (laugh, tough, rough, cough, enough).

2. 2. Greek Digamma & PH: Words from Greek containing the letter phi (Φ) were transcribed by the Romans as ph, representing /f/: phantom, phrase, photograph, telephone, orphan.

3. 3. Draught vs. Draft: draught is the historical British/classical spelling for a drink or current of air, pronounced identically to modern draft (/dra:ft/ or /dræft/).

LESSON 171 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

ORTHOEPY • ETYMOLOGY • /F/ = GH / PH

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 89

WORD	IPA	DIGRAPH & ORIGIN	TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
laugh	/la:f/	gh (Old English <i>hliehhan</i>)	Guttural /x/ shifted historically to /f/.
enough	/i'naɪf/	gh (Old English <i>genōg</i>)	Short ū sound before terminal /f/.
phrase	/freɪz/	ph (Greek <i>phrasis</i>)	Digraph ph = /f/; voiced s = /z/.
phantom	/'tæntəm/	ph (Greek <i>phantasma</i>)	Apparition or ghost. ph = /f/.
orphan	/'ɔ:rfən/	ph (Greek <i>orphanos</i>)	Circumflex over o before r; ph = /f/.
triumph	/'traɪʌmf/	ph (Latin <i>triumphus</i>)	Terminal ph = /f/; long i in open first syllable.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 Sorting Key:

- Germanic *gh*: laugh, tough, rough, cough, enough, trough, draught.
- Greek *ph*: Philip, Ralph, phantom, phrase, photo, phone, orphan, triumph.

All 15 produce the voiceless labiodental fricative /f/.

Exercise 3 Solutions:

- laugh.
- trough.

Etymology Clinic: Teach children that if a word looks scientific or scholarly with /f/, it is almost certainly spelled with *ph*!

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Why is 'laugh' spelled with 'gh' instead of an 'f'?
- What language do words like 'phone', 'photo', and 'phrase' come from?
- Can you think of any other words that use 'ph' to make the /f/ sound?

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

- A merry laugh rang out from the cheerful children.
- Horses drank cool fresh water from the deep stone trough.
- The brave soldiers celebrated a great and noble triumph.
- He spoke a kind phrase to comfort the lonely orphan.