

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

LESSON 175 • WORDS PRONOUNCED ALIKE: SEEM VS. SEAM

SĒĒM • SĒAM = /Sɪ:m/

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Orthographic & Dramatic Discrimination • The Sound /sɪ:m/

**seem:** To appear to the mind or eye; to look like (Old Norse *sæma*; double **ee**).  
**seam:** A line formed by sewing together two pieces of cloth; a suture or mineral vein (Old English *sēam*; digraph **ea**).

CONCEPT

**Shakespeare (*Hamlet*):** “‘Seems,’ madam! Nay, it is; I know not ‘seems.’ / ‘Tis not alone my inky cloak, good mother, / Nor customary suits of solemn black.”

1

Shakespearean Dramatic Copywork • 26px Track

Copy Shakespeare's famous lines distinguishing reality from outward appearance:

“Seems, madam! Nay, it is; I know not seems,” answered Hamlet.

The tailor stitched every seam of the woolen coat with black thread.

2

Homophone Cloze Studio • seem vs. seam

Write **seem** or **seam** in each blank:

1. The little girl ripped the sleeve \_\_\_\_\_ of her new dress.

2. Things are not always as bright as they \_\_\_\_\_ to be.

3. Miners discovered a rich \_\_\_\_\_ of coal deep underground.

4. Does the story \_\_\_\_\_ true and sensible to your mind?

3

Original Composition • Philosophical Contrast

Compose a sentence containing both *seem* and *seam*:

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIC RULES • DIGRAPHS EE VS. EA

1. 1. Double EE in Mental Perception: The verb **seem** uses double ee (cognate with *seemly*). It denotes outward perception and appearance.

2. 2. Digraph EA in Needlework: The noun **seam** uses ea (cognate with *sew*, *seamstress*). It refers to joined edges in tailoring.

3. 3. Geological Metaphor: By extension, a narrow layer or vein of mineral in bedrock is called a **seam** (a *seam of coal*, a *seam of gold*).

LESSON 175 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

HOMOPHONES • SHAKESPEARE • ETYMOLOGY

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| WORD       | IPA          | GRAMMAR     | ETYMOLOGY & TEACHING PRESCRIPTION                                     |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| seem       | /si:m/       | Verb        | Old Norse <i>saema</i> (to conform to). Double ee. Mental appearance. |
| seam       | /si:m/       | Noun / Verb | Old English <i>sēam</i> , from <i>siwian</i> (to sew). Digraph ea.    |
| seamstress | /ˈsi:mstrɪs/ | Noun        | Feminine noun for one who sews. Retains ea spelling.                  |
| seemly     | /ˈsi:mli/    | Adjective   | Fitting or appropriate in conduct. Retains ee spelling.               |

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

**Exercise 2 Solutions:**

- seam** (tailoring edge).
- seem** (appear).
- seam** (geological coal vein).
- seem** (appear sensible).

**Shakespearean Insight:**

Hamlet contrasts grief that is merely 'put on' like clothes (*seems*) with grief that is deep in the heart (*is*).

Help children distinguish *seamstress* from *seemly*.

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- If a tailor fixes your coat, does he stitch a 'seem' or a 'seam'?
- What word describes a woman who sews clothes for a living? How is it spelled?
- What did Hamlet mean when he said 'I know not seems'?

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

- Things are not always as good as they seem.
- Mother sewed a neat seam along the hem of the dress.
- "Seems, madam! Nay, it is; I know not seems."
- A rich seam of coal was found deep beneath the mountain.