

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class / Grade: _____ Score: _____

LESSON 20. SHORT & LONG I • SILENT LETTERS

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Phonological Study: Contrast Short *ī* in wish, spring with Long *ī* in wild, sight, climb. Discover silent letters gh and b.

SHORT *ī*, LONG *ī* & SILENT LETTERS

1. Copy these words carefully. • 2. Spell them orally.

Read each word aloud, articulate the vowel sound clearly, and copy neatly on the guideline below:

COL 1 • SHORT *ī* CLOSED

wish _____
miss _____
cling _____
spring _____

COL 2 • LONG *ī* (-LD & -IGH)

wild _____
child _____
high _____
sight _____

COL 3 • LONG *ī* (-IGHT & CLIMB)

night _____
right _____
might _____
climb _____

2. Write them neatly from dictation and put the proper mark over each i.

Listen as your teacher dictates the 12 words. Write each word, then place a breve (*ī*) or macron (*ī*) over each letter i:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

3. Phonological Discovery Questions (Silent Letters)

Analyze the spelling of the 12 words above and write your answers accurately:

1. What sound has gh in any of the above words?

Ans. The letters gh have _____ (they are _____).

2. Find another silent letter:

Ans. In the word _____, the letter _____ is silent.

PHONICS & SPELLING RULES TO REMEMBER

★ 1. Short *ī* in Closed Syllables

In closed syllables ending in **-sh**, **-ss**, **-ng**, vowel *i* makes the short lax sound /ɪ/ (wish, miss, cling, spring). Marked with a breve: *ī*.

★ 2. Long *ī* in -ld & -igh Words

Vowel *i* represents long /aɪ/ before -ld (**wild, child**) and in trigraph -igh/-ight (**high, sight, night, right, might**). Marked: *ī*.

★ 3. Silent Letters 'gh' & 'b'

Silent gh: gh makes no sound in -igh words. **Silent b:** In climb, the final b is silent; climb rhymes with lime and time!

LESSON 20: SHORT & LONG I • SILENT LETTERS — MASTER KEY

Phonetic Matrix, Silent Letter Analysis (gh, b) & Science of Reading Guide

Official Solution

1. COMPLETE 12-WORD PHONETIC & ORTHOGRAPHIC MATRIX

COL 1 • SHORT Ī (/ɪ/)

wish /wɪʃ/

wish

miss /mɪs/

miss

cling /klɪŋ/

cling

spring /sprɪŋ/

spring

COL 2 • LONG Ī (/aɪ/)

wild /waɪld/

wild

child /tʃaɪld/

child

high /haɪ/

high

sight /saɪt/

sight

COL 3 • LONG Ī (/aɪ/)

night /naɪt/

night

right /raɪt/

right

might /maɪt/

might

climb /klaɪm/

climb

2. MASTER DIACRITICAL CLASSIFICATION & DISCOVERY ANSWERS

Short Ī Words (Breve ĩ, /ɪ/) [4 words]: wish, miss, cling, spring.
All are standard closed syllables where the short vowel is closed in by final consonant codas (-sh, -ss, -ng).

Long ĩ Words (Macron ī, /aɪ/) [8 words]: wild, child, high, sight, night, right, might, climb.
Features two phonological mechanisms: lengthening before sonorant clusters (-ld, -mb) and silent trigraph spelling (-igh/-ight).

Question 1: What sound has gh in any of the above words?
→ Official Answer: It has no sound (the letters gh are silent). Found in: high, sight, night, right, might.

Question 2: Find another silent letter.
→ Official Answer: In the word climb, the letter b is silent (pronounced /klaɪm/, rhyming with time).

3. SCIENCE OF READING: THE HISTORY OF SILENT LETTERS 'GH' & 'B'

THE EVOLUTION OF SILENT 'GH'

In Old English, words like niht and riht contained a velar fricative [x]. As speech shifted, the fricative became silent, and compensatory lengthening preserved the long vowel /aɪ/ in English spelling.

CLUSTER SIMPLIFICATION IN 'CLIMB'

In Old English climban, the b was voiced. During the 16th century, final /mb/ clusters simplified to single nasal /m/ (as in lamb, thumb, climb). The silent b remains as an etymological relic.

4. ASSESSMENT RUBRIC (25 POINTS TOTAL)

TASK FOCUS	INSTRUCTIONAL STANDARD & CRITERIA	SCORING
1. Copying Accuracy	Neat, baseline-aligned transcription of all 12 target words without letter reversals.	6 pts (0.5 pt / word)
2. Oral Spelling Fluency	Accurate letter-by-letter oral spelling and clear distinction between short ĩ and long ī.	3 pts (1 pt / column)
3. Dictation Precision	Flawless spelling under teacher dictation, writing all 12 words accurately from listening.	6 pts (0.5 pt / word)
4. Diacritical Marking	Correctly marking breve (ĭ) on 4 words and macron (ī) on 8 words across the dictation.	6 pts (0.5 pt / word)
5. Discovery Questions	Accurately identifying silent gh (2 pts) and silent b in climb (2 pts).	4 pts (2 pts each)