

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 26 • VOWEL O CONTRAST & SILENT LETTERS

Short ɒ vs. Long ō (Magic E) • Silent Letters (wr- & final -e)

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PHONICS & SPELLING RULES TO REMEMBER

RULE 1 • MAGIC E (VCE)

When a word ends with **vowel + consonant + silent e** (o_e), the vowel **o** is **long** (ō) as in *nōte*, *hōme*, *yōke*. The final **e** is silent.

RULE 2 • SHORT O (Ō)

When a single vowel **o** is closed in by a consonant with **no ending e**, it has the **short o** sound (ō) as in *cōt*, *plōt*, *spōt*.

RULE 3 • SILENT W & E

In *wrote*, the initial **w** before **r** is silent (**rr**), and final **e** is silent (**wrrōte**). In *mōre* and *shōre*, final **e** is silent.

1 Copy these words carefully. Study each spelling pattern and write each word neatly on the handwriting line:

COLUMN 1

more _____

shore _____

note _____

wrote _____

COLUMN 2

cot _____

plot _____

spot _____

grove _____

COLUMN 3

home _____

dome _____

stone _____

tone _____

COLUMN 4

yoke _____

broke _____

stroke _____

shone _____

2 Spell them orally. Practice oral spelling with a partner. Identify the sound of o and check off each word:

Group A: Short ɒ Sound (Closed CVC) 3 Words

☐ cot ☐ plot ☐ spot

Group B: Long ō & Silent Letters (VCe / wr-) 13 Words

☐ more ☐ shore ☐ note ☐ wrote ☐ grove ☐ home ☐ dome
☐ stone ☐ tone ☐ yoke ☐ broke ☐ stroke ☐ shone

3 Write them neatly from dictation, putting the proper mark over each o, and drawing a line through each silent letter:

WORDS 1 – 4

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

WORDS 5 – 8

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

WORDS 9 – 12

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

WORDS 13 – 16

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

LESSON 26 • TEACHER ANSWER KEY & LINGUISTIC GUIDE

Master Diacritical Key • Orthographic Etymology • Dictation Script

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KEY Master Diacritical & Silent Letter Answer Key (16 Words): Breve (̆) over short o, Macron (̄) over long o, Strikethrough (̸) through silent letters.

#	WORD	MARKED OUTPUT	PHONETIC VALUE	SILENT LETTER(S)	PEDAGOGICAL & ORTHOGRAPHIC NOTE
1.	more	mōre	Long ȯ (/ɔ:r/)	final e	r-controlled vowel with silent marker e
2.	shore	shōre	Long ȯ (/ɔ:r/)	final e	Digraph sh- with silent marker e
3.	note	nōte	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	Classic split digraph VCe pattern
4.	wrote	wrōte	Long ȯ (/ou/)	initial w & final e	TWO silent letters: silent w before r and silent e
5.	cot	cōt	Short ȯ (/ɒ/)	none	Closed syllable CVC; hard c before o
6.	plot	plōt	Short ȯ (/ɒ/)	none	Closed syllable CCVC; pl- blend
7.	spot	spōt	Short ȯ (/ɒ/)	none	Closed syllable CCVC; sp- blend
8.	grove	grōve	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	English words never end in v; e prevents final v
9.	home	hōme	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	VCe split digraph with initial aspiration /h/
10.	dome	dōme	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	Rhymes with home; VCe pattern
11.	stone	stōne	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	Initial st- blend; VCe split digraph
12.	tone	tōne	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	Rhymes with stone, shone, bone
13.	yoke	yōke	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	Initial palatal /j/; k chosen before e
14.	broke	brōke	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	Initial br- blend; k chosen before e
15.	stroke	strōke	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	3-letter blend str-; k chosen before e
16.	shone	shōne	Long ȯ (/ou/)	final e	US standard pronunciation rhymes with stone/tone

LINGUISTIC & HISTORICAL PHONICS ANALYSIS (EDUCATOR REFERENCE)

- 1. The Dual Silent Letters in wrote (wrōte):** A critical diagnostic word in Lesson 26. The initial w was pronounced as a voiced bilabial stop /w/ in Old English (wrāft). When phonological reduction silenced the /w/ before /r/ in the 17th century, orthography preserved the letter to distinguish wrote from its homophone rote. Combined with the VCe Magic E, wrote contains two separate silent letters.
- 2. The Dialectal Rhyme of shone (/ʃoun/):** In British English (RP), shone is typically pronounced with short /ɒ/. However, in 19th-century American English (Wheeler / Webster), shone followed the standard long ȯ VCe split digraph (/ʃoun/), perfectly rhyming with stone, tone, and bone.
- 3. Consonant Ending Rule in grove:** English words never end in the letter v. The final silent e serves a dual orthographic duty; it signals the long vowel ȯ and prevents the word from ending in an illegal bare v.

CLASSROOM DICTATION SCRIPT (CONTEXT SENTENCES)

- more:** We need more sunshine today.
- shore:** Waves crashed upon the sandy shore.
- note:** She wrote a friendly note to her mother.
- wrote:** The poet wrote beautiful verses.
- cot:** The baby slept peacefully in the cot.
- plot:** They planted seeds in a garden plot.
- spot:** A tiny ladybug landed on that spot.
- grove:** Birds sang inside the shady pine grove.
- home:** There is no place sweeter than home.
- dome:** The capitol building has a golden dome.
- stone:** He skipped a smooth stone across the pond.
- tone:** Speak in a gentle and polite tone.
- yoke:** The oxen pulled the plow under the wooden yoke.
- broke:** The dry branch suddenly broke.
- stroke:** The clock chimed at the stroke of midnight.
- shone:** The morning sun brightly shone.

DIAGNOSTIC SCORING RUBRIC (16 WORDS TOTAL)

Target Skill	Criteria for Mastery	Pts
Spelling Accuracy	All 16 words spelled without phonological errors.	/16
Vowel Marking	Breve (̆) on cot, plot, spot; Macron (̄) on 13 long words.	/16
Silent Letters	Strikethrough on all final e's and initial w in wrote.	/14
Penmanship	Proper letter formation, baseline alignment, and neatness.	/4
TOTAL SCORE:		/50

COMMON STUDENT PITFALLS TO ADDRESS:

- Omitting silent 'w' in 'wrote':** Students often write *rote. Remind them of the past tense of write.
- Marking 'o' in 'cot/plot/spot' as long:** Emphasize the absence of final e keeping the vowel closed.
- Forgetting silent 'e' on 'more' & 'shore':** Stress that r-controlled vowels still employ silent final e in this list.