

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 39 • WORDS PRONOUNCED ALIKE • TO, TOO, TWO

Triple Homophone Mastery • Literary Excerpts (Tennyson, Larcum, Riley) • Semantic Discrimination

PAGE 25

PHONICS & SPELLING RULES TO REMEMBER

RULE 1 • THREE MEANINGS, ONE SOUND (/tu:/)

- **to**: Preposition (go to school) or infinitive marker (to be, to do).
- **too**: Adverb meaning also (I am here, too) or excess (too hot).
- **two**: The number word for 2 (one and one make two).

RULE 2 • THE LONG OO VOWEL SOUND (ōō)

All three words share the identical sound of consonant **t** + Long **oo** /u:/ (marked **ōō**). The letter **w** in two is an unvoiced historical letter related to twin, twice, and twenty.

RULE 3 • SPELLING MEMORY HINTS

- **to**: Only 1 letter 'o' (short, nimble preposition).
- **too**: Has an extra 'o' (just like it means "extra" or "also")!
- **two**: Has a 'w' like **twin** and **twelve**.

to

PREPOSITION / PARTICLE

Shows direction or purpose (to school, to go, to me).
Webster: **tō**.

too

ADVERB

Means "also" or "more than enough" (me, too; too cold).
Webster: **tōō**.

two

NUMBER WORD (2)

The number word for 2 (two drops, two birds). Webster: **twō**.

1 Read the three classic quotes and locate the three words pronounced alike but spelled differently:

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

"The birds sing **to** the morning sky."

Target homophone: _____

LUCY LARCOM

"All the birds call for you out of the sky; May is here waiting, and here, **too**, am I."

Target homophone: _____

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

"The south wind's eyes were **two** little dancing drops of dew."

Target homophone: _____

2 Write answers to the textbook questions carefully on the handwriting lines:

1. One and one make how many?

2. Which one of the three words means "also"?

3. What little word do you often find before *be*, *go*, *do*, *me*, *you*, *school*?

4. What sound besides the sound of *t* do you find in *to*, *too*, and *two*?

3 Use each of the three words in sentences of your own • Write from dictation:

1. Sentence with **to** (direction / infinitive):

2. Sentence with **too** (meaning "also" or "excess"):

3. Sentence with **two** (number 2):

CLASSROOM DICTATION:

LESSON 39 • TEACHER ANSWER KEY & LINGUISTIC GUIDE

Orthoepy of To, Too, Two • Etymological Silent "w" • Grammatical Function Analysis

PAGE 25 KEY

Word	Type / Rime	Webster	Sound Value	IPA	Linguistic & Historical Phonology Rationale
to	open particle	tō	Long oo / Weak /tə/	/tu:/ ~ /tə/	OE tō; preposition and infinitive marker; undergoes vowel reduction in unstressed speech.
too	digraph	tōō	Long oo	/tu:/	OE tō; originally the stressed adverbial variant of to; orthographically fixed with -oo in 16th c.
two	silent w	twō	Long oo	/tu:/	OE twā; PIE *dwo-; labiovelar glide /w/ absorbed into rounded /u:/; silent w retained for etymology.
sky	-y (open)	skȳ	Long i	/skaɪ/	ON ský ('cloud'); borrowed into Middle English, supplanting OE heofon for the physical dome.
dew	-ew	dēw	Long u / Digraph	/dju:/ ~ /du:/	OE dēaw; consonant-vowel diphthong; represents moisture condensing at night.
dancing	-ancing	dān'cīng	Short a + short i	/'dæn.sɪŋ/	OF danser; rhythmic physical motion; suffix -ing creates vivid participial adjective.
morning	-orning	mōrn'īng	Circumflex o	/'mɔ:r.nɪŋ/	ME morwenynge; contracted derivative of OE morgen ('dawn, morrow').
waiting	-aiting	wāit'īng	Long a	/'weɪ.tɪŋ/	ONF waitier; Germanic *wahtwō ('watch'); vowel team ai represents tense long a /eɪ/.

HISTORICAL PHONOLOGY & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS:

- 1. Evolution of the Homophone Pair to and too:** In Old English, *to* functioned both as preposition and adverb. In Middle English, the adverbial form received heavier sentence stress and developed a specialized meaning of "also" or "excessively." In the 16th century, orthographers deliberately codified the double vowel spelling **too** to distinguish it from the unstressed preposition **to**.
- 2. Why two Retains a Silent "w":** Old English *twā* originally articulated the /w/ glide (/twa:/). In Middle English, the rounded back vowel /u:/ absorbed the lip-rounding of the glide /w/ (a phonological process called *labial assimilation*). Modern English retains the silent **w** to maintain visual etymological family links with *twin*, *twice*, *twelve*, *twenty*, *between*, and *twilight*.
- 3. The Shared Vowel Sound (Question 4):** All three words share the identical phonetic coda: **Long oo** (/u:/, marked in Webster as **ōō** or **oo**).

CLASSROOM DICTATION SCRIPT (10 CONTEXTUAL SENTENCES)

- to:** We walked to the meadow to gather fresh purple asters.
- too:** If you are going to the brook, I should like to go, too.
- two:** Mother placed two red apples upon the kitchen table.
- sky:** The morning sky was clear and bright after the evening rain.
- dew:** Sparkling drops of dew clung to the spider's web in the sun.
- morning:** A cheerful lark sang its morning song from the garden wall.
- waiting:** The faithful dog sat patiently waiting at the front gate.
- birds:** All the wild birds flew south before the chilly winter winds.
- school:** The boys took their books and slate pencils to school.
- dancing:** Two little white butterflies were dancing above the clover blossoms.

DIAGNOSTIC SCORING RUBRIC (50 POINTS)

Target Skill	Criteria for Mastery	Pts
Homophone ID	Accurately identifies to, too, and two in the literary quotes.	/9
Textbook Questions	100% correct answers on Questions 1–4 (two; too; to; long oo /u:/).	/12
Sentence Generation	3 original, grammatically sound sentences demonstrating distinct meanings.	/15
Dictation Sentence	Exact transcription of synthesis sentence from teacher dictation.	/10
Penmanship	Accurate letter formation, capitalization, and punctuation.	/4
TOTAL SCORE:		/50

EXERCISE 2 KEY: 1. two; 2. too; 3. to; 4. oo long (ōō /u:/).
COMMON ERRORS: Writing *to instead of *too for "also"; confusing *two with *to; omitting capitalization/period.