

STUDENT NAME: _____ DATE: _____ GRADE / CLASS: _____ SCORE: _____

LESSON 56 • VOWEL DIGRAPH **ĀY** (/EI/) • TERMINAL LONG A SPELLING

Original Page 33 • Wheeler's Speller

1 Say each word orally, then copy it carefully on the handwriting line:

 HEAR ALL 16 WORDS

lāy _____	rāy _____	bāy _____	grāy _____
dāy _____	trāy _____	wāy _____	plāy _____
gāy _____	strāy _____	sāy _____	prāy _____
māy _____	sprāy _____	swāy _____	stāy _____

2 Phonological Sorting: Sort words into Single Consonants and Consonant Blends:

SINGLE CONSONANT ONSET (E.G. LAY, DAY, BAY, WAY)

CONSONANT BLENDS & CLUSTERS (E.G. TRAY, STRAY, PLAY, GRAY)

3 Creative Sentences: Choose any three words from above and write complete sentences:

- _____
- _____
- _____

 RULES TO REMEMBER • LESSON 56**Rule 1 • Terminal āy**English words almost never end in letter i. When a word ends with the long ā sound (/ei/), we write **ay** (day, play).**Rule 2 • Rhyme Family**All 16 words belong to the **-ay** phonogram family. Changing the beginning sound creates a new word with the same rhyming ending.**Rule 3 • Consonant Blends**Notice how letters blend smoothly at the front: 2-letter blends (*tr-*, *pl-*, *gr-*, *st-*, *sw-*, *pr-*) and 3-letter clusters (*str-*, *spr-*).

LESSON 56 CURRICULUM BLUEPRINT • DIGRAPH **ĀY (/EI/)**

Terminal Long A Spelling • Single Consonant Onsets • 2-Letter Blends • 3-Letter Clusters

16 Target Words

COMPLETE ORTHOGRAPHIC & PHONETIC MATRIX			WHEELER'S SPELLER P. 33
CATEGORY	TARGET WORDS & IPA	PHONOLOGICAL & MORPHOLOGICAL RULE	
Single Consonant Onsets	lay /lei/	day /dei/	gay /gei/
	may /mei/	ray /rei/	bay /bei/
	way /wei/	say /sei/	
Consonant Blends (2-Letter)	tray /trei/	gray /grei/	play /plei/
	pray /prei/	stay /stei/	sway /swei/
Consonant Clusters (3-Letter)	stray /strei/	spray /sprei/	

SOCRATIC PHONICS DIALOGUE

Q: "Why do we spell **rain** with **a-i**, but **play** with **a-y**?"
Child: "Because **rain** has the sound in the middle, and **play** has it at the end!"
Teacher Principle: English words avoid ending in **i** (except foreign loan words). Therefore, **ai** is used in the middle of a syllable, and **ay** is used at the end!

HOMOPHONE ALERT

Be alert to high-frequency homophone pairs:

- **pray** (worship / petition) vs. **prey** (target animal hunted)
- **way** (path / direction) vs. **weigh** (measure heaviness)
- **ray** (beam of light) vs. **raze** (tear down)
- **stray** (wander off) vs. **strafe** (military fire)

Exercise Master Answer Keys

Exercise 1 (Word Copying):
All 16 words carefully transcribed with proper ascenders and descenders (p, y, g reach below base line).
Exercise 2 (Onset Sorting):
• Single Consonants: lay, day, gay, may, ray, bay, way, say.
• Blends & Clusters: tray, stray, spray, sway, gray, play, pray, stay.

Exercise 3 (Sentence Writing Samples):
1. The children run to play outside on a bright sunny day.
2. A warm ray of sunshine shone across the calm blue bay.
3. The tall trees sway gently when cool winds blow our way.

GRADED DICTATION SENTENCES (ORAL ADMINISTRATION)

1. The merry children play happily throughout the long summer day.
3. Gentle breezes cause the tall willow branches to sway softly.
2. A warm yellow ray of sunshine shone brightly across the bay.
4. We must not let the little sheep stray far away from the trail.