

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 71 • WORDS PRONOUNCED ALIKE (HOMOPHONES) I / EYE

Wheeler's Elementary Speller — Page 40

“Words that sound exactly alike to the ear but have different spellings and completely different meanings are called **homophones**. Study the pairs **I** and **eye** (/aɪ/), and **right** and **write** (/raɪ/). Notice the silent letters that tell their stories!”

CONCEPT

1 Homophone Pair Exploration & Tracing — Study the pronunciation and meaning, then write each word:

I

/aɪ/

Personal pronoun (always capital).

eye

/aɪ/

Organ of sight (plural: eyes).

right

/raɪ/

Correct, true, or opposite of left.

write

/raɪ/

To form letters with pen or pencil.

2 Contextual Discrimination (Wheeler's Dictation Exercises) — Write the correct homophone in each blank:

1. “_____ am old, so old _____ can _____ a letter.” (Choose **I** and **write**)

2. “Each day and every day, / Do what is _____.” (Choose **right** or **write**)

3. “The sun wakes up, and his round _____ / Stares and stares at the big round sky.” (Choose **I** or **eye**)

4. “Always write with your _____ hand, and choose the _____ path.” (Choose **right**)

3 Silent Letter Detective — Identify and explain the silent letters in each homophone:

SILENT INITIAL W- IN WRITE:

Why does *write* start with a silent w? Write your answer:

SILENT TRIGRAPH -GH- IN RIGHT:

What does silent -gh- tell us about the vowel sound? Write your answer:

ORTHOGRAPHY & ETYMOLOGY RULES TO REMEMBER:

1. Homophone Definition: Words that share the identical sound (/aɪ/, /raɪ/) but differ in spelling and meaning are homophones (*homo* = same, *phone* = voice/sound).

2. Silent Initial W in "Write": From Old English *writan* (to scratch or carve letters). The w went silent, but stays in spelling to distinguish writing from correctness!

3. Silent -GH- in "Right": From Old English *riht*. The historical throat sound vanished, leaving -gh- to signal that the preceding vowel *i* is long (/aɪ/).

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Lesson 71 • Homophones (I / eye • right / write)

Page 1 of 2 (Student Worksheet)

LESSON 71 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

HOMOPHONE PAIRS

Wheeler's Elementary Speller — Page 40

HOMOPHONE	IPA SOUND	PART OF SPEECH & ETYMOLOGY	ORTHOGRAPHIC LAW & PEDAGOGICAL RULE
I	/aɪ/	Pronoun (OE <i>ic</i> , ME <i>ich</i> / <i>I</i>)	Always capitalized — single vowel pronoun standardized in Middle English for manuscript visibility.
eye	/aɪ/	Noun (OE <i>ēage</i> , Proto-Germanic <i>*augō</i>)	Silent medial/final <ye> — historical velar spirant dropped, leaving digraph <i>ey</i> with terminal silent <i>-e</i> .
right	/raɪt/	Adj. / Noun / Adv. (OE <i>riht</i>)	Silent trigraph -gh- — marks Old English palatal fricative /ç/; preserves long vowel /aɪ/.
write	/raɪt/	Verb (OE <i>writan</i> , "to incise/carve")	Silent initial w- — labial onset /w/ vanished phonetically; retained to avoid homographic clash with <i>right</i> .

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S PAGE 40 EXERCISES

EX. 1 & 2: SOLUTIONS & CONTEXT FILL

1. "I am old, so old **I** can **write** a letter."

2. "Each day and every day, / Do what is **right**."

3. "The sun wakes up, and his round **eye** / Stares and stares at the big round sky."

4. "Always write with your **right** hand, and choose the **right** path."

EX. 3: SILENT LETTERS DETECTIVE SOLUTIONS

• **Silent initial w in write:** The *w* was once sounded (/w-r/) when scribes carved runes into wood. Today it is silent but immediately signals the action of writing.

• **Silent -gh- in right:** The *-gh-* represents an ancient throat sound (like in Scottish *loch*). It now serves as a marker showing that vowel *i* is long (/aɪ/).

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

• **Disambiguation through Orthography:** Ask: "When you close your eyes and I say /raɪt/, can your ears tell whether I mean correct or penning a letter? No! But when you open your eyes, the silent 'w' in 'write' and the silent '-gh-' in 'right' tell your brain instantly!"

• **Capitalization of the pronoun 'I':** Guide students: "A single lowercase letter 'i' could easily be lost or overlooked on a written page. Early English scribes capitalized 'I' so the reader could clearly see the pronoun."

• **The Physical Hand Test:** Have children raise their right hand while saying: "I use my right hand to write the right words!"

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

1. "I will open my **eye** when the morning sun shines."

2. "Always do what is **right** in word and deed."

3. "Please **write** your name neatly upon the paper."

4. "Turn to the **right** when you reach the garden gate."