

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 79 • DIGRAPHS & AU & AW

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“The broad sound of a (/ɔ:/) is frequently spelled with the vowel digraphs **au** and **aw**. Notice: **aw** is used at the end of syllables (*saw, lawn*), while **au** is used medially (*haul, fault*).”

CONCEPT

1 Positional Classification — Group the 12 target words by their spelling pattern:

DIGRAPH <AW> (FINAL OR BEFORE N/L)
saw, thaw, draw, fawn, lawn, dawn

DIGRAPH <AU> (MEDIAL POSITION)
haul, vault, fault, cause, pause, fraud

2 Classical Quotations — Copy these memorable sentences containing broad au and aw:

“To find **fault** is easy.” — DEMOSTHENES (384–322 B.C.)

“The **dawn** grew red beyond the sea / And sent abroad the day.” — H. H. BOYESEN

3 Sentence Composition — Write an original sentence using *thaw* and *cause*:

DIGRAPHS AU & AW RULES TO REMEMBER:

1. English Words Never End in U: Native English words do not end in u; therefore, word-final broad /ɔ:/ is always spelled (*saw, raw, thaw, draw*).

2. Latin Roots with AU: Medial words like *cause, pause, applaud, fault* derive from Latin and Greek roots and keep the digraph .

3. Silent E after S in "Cause": In *cause* and *pause*, the letter s has a voiced /z/ sound, and silent final -e prevents confusion with plural words.

LESSON 79 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

DIGRAPHS AU & AW

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PATTERN	SAMPLE WORDS	PHONOLOGY & IPA	ORTHOGRAPHIC & POSITIONAL LAWS
Final <aw>	saw, thaw, draw	/ɔ:/	Final position — aw replaces au because native English words reject final u.
Medial <aw>	fawn, lawn, dawn	/ɔ:n/	Before n & k — aw frequently precedes n (lawn) and k (hawk).
Medial <au>	haul, vault, fault	/ɔ:l/	Before l & t — au precedes consonants in formal Latinate stems.
Soft /z/ in <ause>	cause, pause, clause	/ɔ:z/	Voiced s — s sounds as /z/; terminal e stabilizes spelling.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

EX. 1 CLASSIFICATION

- <aw> Words: **saw, thaw, draw, fawn, lawn, dawn.**
- <au> Words: **haul, vault, fault, cause, pause, fraud.**

EX. 2 & 3 SOLUTIONS

- Demosthenes Maxim:** "To find **fault** is easy."
- Sample Ex. 3:** "The warm spring sunshine will **cause** the heavy ice to **thaw** quickly."

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Why not 'sau'?** Ask: "Why can't we spell saw as s-a-u? What is the golden spelling rule?" (English words never end in u, v, j, or q!).
- Demosthenes' Wisdom:** Discuss: "Why is it easy to find fault? What is much harder and more noble?" (To do things well ourselves!).
- Thaw:** Have students define *thaw* (when frozen snow turns back to water).

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

- "We sat upon the green **lawn** at the break of **dawn**."
- "It is very easy to find **fault** with other people."
- "The strong horses will **haul** the heavy load of hay."
- "The sudden noise was the **cause** of a long **pause**."