

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 80 • THE ITALIAN SOUND OF ÄITALIAN Ä

Wheeler's Elementary Speller — Page 45

“Give the sound which *a* has in *far*, *arm*, and *star*. This clear, open throat vowel is called the **Italian sound of a**, and is marked with two dots above: **ä** (/a:/).”

CONCEPT

1 Italian Ä Families — Copy and classify the 16 words under their phonetic ending:

FAMILY -AR / -ARK

far, star, dark, lark, park, spark

FAMILY -ARM / -ALM

barn, farm, harm, charm, calm, balm

FAMILY -ART

dart, cart

FAMILY -ARCH

arch, march

2 Silent Letter Detective — Cross out the silent *l* in *calm* and *balm*:

calm

Pronunciation: /ka:m/ (peaceful, still). Write:

balm

Pronunciation: /ba:m/ (healing ointment). Write:

3 Sentence Composition — Write complete sentences using words with Italian ä:

Sentence 1 (Use *star* and *dark*):

Sentence 2 (Use *farm* and *barn*):

ITALIAN Ä ORTHOGRAPHY RULES TO REMEMBER:

1. The Umlaut Diacritic (Ä): The two dots placed above the vowel (ä) signify the deep, open throat sound /a:/ heard in *father* and *far*.

2. The R-Controlled Phonogram -AR: When *a* is followed by *r* in monosyllables (*star*, *farm*, *dart*, *park*), it reliably produces Italian ä.

3. Silent L before M in -ALM: In *calm*, *balm*, and *palm*, the consonant *l* is silent, serving only to lengthen the preceding vowel to /a:/.

LESSON 80 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

ITALIAN Ä ORTHOEPY

Wheeler's Elementary Speller — Page 45

PHONOGRAM	WORD LIST	IPA TRANSCRIPTION	ORTHOEPIC INSIGHTS
-ar base	far, star, dark, lark, park	/a:r/	R-resonance — open back vowel /a:/ supported by rhotic glide.
-arm / -arn	barn, farm, harm, charm	/a:rm/, /a:rn/	Nasal coda — vowel remains broad and open before sonorant consonants.
-alm (silent l)	calm, balm, palm	/ka:m/, /ba:m/	Silent l — vowel is pure Italian ä with no lateral contact.
-art / -arch	dart, cart, arch, march	/a:rt/, /a:rtʃ/	Affricate /tʃ/ — voiceless stops preserve crisp vowel onset.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

EX. 1 & 2 SOLUTIONS

- Family Sorting:** All words correctly transcribed under their heading.
- Silent l Detection:** Cross out **l** in *calm* and *balm*.

EX. 3 EXEMPLARY SENTENCES

- Sentence 1:* "A bright silver **star** shone through the **dark** evening sky."
- Sentence 2:* "The gentle horses were led into the red wooden **barn** on our grandfather's **farm**."

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Doctor's Vowel:** Have children open their mouth wide as when a doctor inspects the throat: 'Say Ahh! That open Ahh is the Italian Ä!'
- Contrast with Short A:** Contrast *cat* (/æ/) with *cart* (/a:rt/), and *ham* (/æ/) with *harm* (/a:rm/).
- Silent l:** Ensure children do not pronounce *calm* as 'cal-m' with an audible l.

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

- "The red **barn** on the **farm** stood beside the green **park**."
- "A single bright **star** gleamed in the **dark** night."
- "The evening air was peaceful, cool, and **calm**."
- "The soldier began his long **march** through the stone **arch**."