

LESSON 94: CARE-SOUND POETRY HUNT • PHOEBE CARY & LONGFELLOW

COPY CAREFULLY • UNDERScore WORDS WITH A IN CARE (â)

PHOEBE CARY (1824–1871)

MODEL 1 (TARGET: 3 WORDS)

Oft will a bird or butterfly dare
To venture in through the window, bare,
Which is opened wide for the summer air.

Copy carefully and underscore target words:

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW (1807–1882)

MODEL 2 (TARGET: 2 WORDS)

Her hair made a glory in the air.

Copy line carefully:

PHONICS DETECTIVE CHECK

darebareairhair

4 TARGET WORDS

☆ LESSON 95: VOWEL DIGRAPH EA = SHORT E ě

COPY CAREFULLY • WRITE FROM DICTATION

Rule of Orthoepry: The vowel digraph ea frequently has the short sound of e (ě), acoustic value /ɛ/ (as in bed, pef). Do not confuse with long ē in meat or tea.

Acoustic: /ɛ/

FAMILY 1: -EAD

headbread

FAMILY 2: -READ

dreadthread

FAMILY 3: -EALTH

wealthhealth

FAMILY 4: -EAF / -EATH

deafbreath

⚠ WORDS OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED • WHEELER 1901 ORTHOEPIc STANDARD

Pronounce with pure short ě (/ɛ/) • Copy Neatly

VOWEL: /E/

ġetġet

yġet

MONOSYLLABLES

yġes

ġlm

EA = /E/

dġaf

dġafen

COMPOUNDS

clġanly

instġead

Exercise 4 • Application Practice: Write 3 original sentences using words from Lessons 94 & 95:

Target: 3 Sentences

Line 1 (e.g., using bread, health, or wealth):

Line 2 (e.g., using thread, breath, or instead):

Line 3 (e.g., using elm, cleanly, or deafen):

PEDAGOGICAL STANDARD: SHORT E DIGRAPH ĕ & HISTORICAL ORTHOEPY

MASTER KEY

1. Complete Lexical Matrix • 8 Short ea Words & 8 Orthoepy Words				All 16 Target Words Decoded
Word	Phonetic	IPA	Orthographic Category	Orthoepic Analysis & Diagnostic Note
head	hĕad	/hɛd/	Digraph ea = short ĕ	Old English <i>heafod</i> ; vowel shortened before <i>d</i> .
bread	brĕad	/brɛd/	Initial blend br- + ea	Old English <i>bread</i> ; short e contrast with <i>bead</i> .
dread	drĕad	/drɛd/	Initial blend dr- + ea	Preserves short e acoustic in all inflections (<i>dreaded</i>).
thread	thrĕad	/θrɛd/	Digraph th- + r- blend + ea	Voiceless dental fricative /θ/ + short ĕ.
wealth	wĕalth	/wɛlθ/	Base <i>weal</i> + nominal suffix <i>-th</i>	Vowel laxing before liquid <i>l</i> + fricative <i>th</i> .
health	hĕalth	/hɛlθ/	Base <i>heal</i> + nominal suffix <i>-th</i>	Vowel laxing from long ē in <i>heal</i> to short ĕ in <i>health</i> .
deaf	dĕaf	/dɛf/	Digraph ea = short ĕ	Common historical error: archaic dialectal "deef" /di:f/.
breath	brĕath	/brɛθ/	Noun with voiceless /θ/	Contrast voiced verb <i>breathe</i> with long ē /bri:ð/.
get	gĕt	/gɛt/	Short vowel monosyllable	Frequent Error: vowel raising to "git" /git/.
yē	yĕt	/jɛt/	Short vowel monosyllable	Frequent Error: vowel raising to "yit" /jit/.
yes	yĕs	/jɛs/	Short vowel monosyllable	Frequent Error: lazy slurring to "yis" or "yeah".
elm	ĕlm	/ɛlm/	Liquid cluster coda <i>-lm</i>	Frequent Error: intrusive epenthetic vowel "el-lum".
deafen	dĕafen	/ˈdɛf.ən/	Derivation: <i>deaf</i> + <i>-en</i>	Maintains pure short ĕ root /dɛf/ in derivative verb.
cleanly	clĕanly	/ˈklɛn.li/	Adjective: <i>clean</i> + <i>-ly</i>	Adjective is /klɛnli/ (short ĕ); adverb is /kli:nli/ (long ē).
instead	instĕad	/ɪnˈstɛd/	Prefix <i>in-</i> + <i>stead</i>	Frequent Error: vowel raising to "instid" /ɪnˈstɪd/.

2. Wheeler's 1901 Orthoepic Guide on Words Often Mispronounced

Diagnostic Clinic

1. Vowel Raising Trap: gĕt, yĕt, yĕs, instĕad

In vernacular American speech of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the open-mid vowel /ɛ/ frequently raised to near-close /ɪ/, producing dialectal "git", "yit", "yis", and "instid". Wheeler trained teachers to have students drop the lower jaw consciously to articulate pure open short ĕ.

2. Intrusive Syllable (Epenthesis): ĕlm

Students commonly inserted a parasitic schwa between the liquid /l/ and bilabial nasal /m/, saying "el-lum" [ˈɛləm]. Wheeler stressed that *elm* is strictly a single monosyllabic impulse: tongue tip on the alveolar ridge for /l/, instantly followed by lips closing for /m/.

3. Derivational Vowel Alternation: clĕanly & dĕaf / dĕafen

English has an ancient rule of shortening vowels before consonant suffixes (Trisyllabic & Compound Laxing). While the root *clean* has long ē /kli:n/, the adjective *cleanly* has short ĕ /ˈklɛnli/. Similarly, *deaf* historically lost its long vowel, making "deef" /di:f/ an antiquated provincialism.

3. Wheeler-Aligned Decodable Dictation Sentences

Administer Orally

Sentence 1: "Good health is far greater to a man than silver or wealth."

[Focus: health, wealth, digraph ea = short ĕ]

Sentence 2: "The mother cut the fresh bread with a cleanly and gentle touch."

[Focus: bread, cleanly (/klɛnli/ short ĕ)]

Sentence 3: "A sudden gust through the tall elm tree took away her breath."

[Focus: elm (monosyllable), breath vs breathe]

Sentence 4: "The bird did not dare to venture in through the open window instead."

[Focus: dare (caret â), instead (pure short ĕ), venture]

4. Lesson 94 Underscoring Key & Literary Context

Author Study

Underscoring Answer Key (Lesson 94):

- Phoebe Cary Stanza: **dare** (line 1), **bare** (line 2), **air** (line 3) – 3 words.
- Longfellow Line: **hair**, **air** – 2 words. (Total: 4 unique words, 5 occurrences).

Author Context:

- Phoebe Cary (1824–1871): Cincinnati-born poet, sister of Alice Cary, celebrated for lyric nature observations and hymns.
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882): America's preeminent 19th-century Fireside Poet, renowned for melodious rhythm.