

★ LESSON 97: ON THE TABLE

16 Dining Words • Penmanship & Story Synthesizer

1 The Table Setting: Read aloud, note spelling patterns, and write each word neatly on the line.

16 Words • 26px Standard Penmanship

FLATWARE & PLATES

 forks Flatware

▶ **plātes** Flatware

knives
Flatware

spoons Flatware

TEA & SERVING

trāy Tea Service

 bottle Tea Service

 **sau·cers** Tea Service

 **tea·cups** Tea Service

HOLLOWARE & DRINKWARE

[göb·let](https://goblet.be)
Drinkware

▶ plät·ter Drinkware

 

 **tumblr** Drinkware

LINENS & PORCELAIN

 **bowl** Linens & Fine

 cloth Linens & Fine

chī·nǎ Linens & Fine

 

2 Orthographic & Etymological Detective: Analyze spelling rules and Victorian dining terms.

Rules • Morphology

 Silent k & Plural -ves

Singular: **knife** → Plural: **knives**.
The initial k is silent (/naɪvz/). The singular ending -fe softens to -ves. (Compare: *forks*, *plates*, *spoons* simply add -s).

Glassware: Goblet vs. Tumbler

Goblet: A drinking vessel with a stem & base foot.
Tumbler: A flat-bottomed beverage glass without a stem (named because original ancient cups had pointed bases and "tumbled").

🕒 Origin of china

Why do we call fine plates **china**?
Fine glazed porcelain was first brought to the West from China in the 16th century. Soon, all fine tableware was affectionately called "china."

3 **Wheeler's Composition Challenge:** Write a little story containing as many of these words as possible.

Creative Synthesis • Goal: 10+ Words

Story Prompt: Imagine setting the grand table for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or a joyful family feast. Describe the actions in sequence!

Check off each word you include:

☐ forks ☐ plates ☐ knives ☐ spoons ☐ tray ☐ bottle ☐ saucers ☐ teacups ☐ goblet ☐ platter ☐ pitcher ☐ tumbler ☐ bowl
☐ cloth ☐ china ☐ napkins

1. Complete 16-Word Table Lexicon & Orthographic Matrix

Phonetics • Morphology • Pitfalls

Word	Phonetics / IPA	Morphology & Category	Historical Definition (1901)	Spelling Pitfall & Teacher Tip
forks	/fɔːrks/ • fôrks	Plural noun • Flatware	Utensils with two or more prongs used for lifting food to the mouth.	Phonogram or with caret circumflex (/ɔː/). Voiceless plural -s (/s/).
plates	/pleɪts/ • plātes	Plural noun • Tableware	Shallow, circular dishes from which food is eaten.	Split vowel digraph a_e (long a); silent final e.
knives	/naɪvz/ • knīves	Irreg. plural • Cutlery	Bladed instruments for cutting at the dining table.	Key rule: Silent k before n; singular knife changes f → v + es. Voiced /z/.
spoons	/spuːnz/ • spōōns	Plural noun • Flatware	Utensils with an oval shallow bowl and handle for liquids.	Vowel digraph oo (/uː/). Plural -s sounds as voiced /z/.
tray	/treɪ/ • trāy	Singular noun • Service	A flat, shallow receptacle with raised edges for carrying dishes.	Vowel team ay at the end of root words representing long /eɪ/.
bottle	/ˈbɒtəl/ • bŏt tle	Singular noun • Vessel	A glass or earthenware vessel with a narrow neck for liquids.	Short o protected by double consonant tt; syllabic -le.
saucers	/ˈsɔːsərz/ • sau cers	Plural noun • Service	Small, shallow curved dishes designed to hold a teacup.	Digraph au (/ɔː/); soft c before e (/s/); -er suffix.
teacups	/ˈtiːkaps/ • tēa cŭps	Compound noun • Service	Small ceramic cups with a handle used for drinking hot tea.	Compound word: tea (vowel team ea = /iː/) + cup + s.
goblet	/ˈɡɒblɪt/ • gŏb tlet	Singular noun • Glassware	A drinking glass with a foot and stem, without handles.	Short o, two syllables (gob tlet). Contrast with flat tumbler.
platter	/ˈplætər/ • plăt ter	Singular noun • Service	A large, shallow oval plate for serving meat, fowl, or fish.	Short a followed by doubled consonant tt to keep vowel short.
pitcher	/ˈpɪtʃər/ • pītch er	Singular noun • Holloware	A vessel with a spout and handle for holding and pouring liquids.	Trigraph tch follows short vowel i (/ɪ/). Avoid confusing with *picher*.
tumbler	/ˈtʌmblər/ • tŭm bler	Singular noun • Glassware	A drinking glass with straight or slightly flaring sides and flat base.	Short u (/ʌ/); two syllables. Etymology: originally had rounded bottom.
bowl	/boʊl/ • bōwl	Singular noun • Holloware	A round, deep vessel for soups, salads, fruits, or porridge.	Digraph ow makes long /oʊ/ (as in blow, grow, not how).
cloth	/klɒθ/ • clŏth	Singular noun • Linens	Woven fabric spread over the dining table to protect and adorn it.	Voiceless dental fricative th (/θ/); broad or short o.
china	/ˈtʃaɪnə/ • chī nă	Uncountable • Porcelain	Fine, vitrified, translucent porcelain tableware.	Capitalized when the country; lowercase when referring to porcelain tableware.
napkins	/ˈnæpˌkɪnz/ • năp kins	Plural noun • Linens	Pieces of linen cloth or paper used at meals to wipe lips and fingers.	Compound origin (Old French nappe = tablecloth + diminutive -kin).

2. Wheeler's Model Narrative Story: "Setting Grandfather's Birthday Table"

Exemplar incorporates ALL 16 words (100% Mastery)

"Before Sunday dinner, Mother spread a snow-white linen **cloth** across the oak table and folded neat **napkins** beside each place. Next, she brought out the treasured family **china**, setting wide dinner **plates** and deep soup **bowls** with loving care. Brother laid polished silver **forks** on the left, while placing bright steel **knives** and soup **spoons** on the right. Father carried a heavy roast on a magnificent silver **platter**, alongside an olive oil **bottle**. Into each crystal **goblet** and tall water **tumbler**, we poured cold spring water from a heavy glass **pitcher**. Finally, sister brought a lacquered tea **tray** laden with delicate **teacups** and matching **saucers**, ready for dessert."

Word Count: 112 words • Lexicon Integration: 16/16 Wheeler Target Words highlighted.

Grammar Focus: Sequential time transitions (Before, Next, While, Into, Finally).

3. Decodable Teacher Dictation Sentences (Administer during Orthoepy Review)

Clear Enunciation • Punctuation & Capitalization Check

1. "Spread the clean linen **cloth** and fold the white **napkins** neatly beside each **plate**."

2. "Lay the polished silver **spoons** and sharp steel **knives** on the right, and the **forks** on the left."

3. "Fill the heavy crystal **pitcher** and pour fresh spring water into each **tumbler** and stem **goblet**."

4. "Mother carried the hot roast upon a wide **platter**, while sister held the tea **tray** of fine **china** **teacups** and **saucers**."

4. Wheeler Story Composition Rubric (20 Points Total)

Holistic Writing Assessment

1. Word Integration (10 pts)

10+ target words used naturally in narrative context (1 pt per word up to 10).

2. Orthography (4 pts)

Accurate spelling of tricky words: knives (silent k), saucers, china, pitcher.

3. Penmanship (3 pts)

Strict adherence to 26px line height, ascender/descender reach, dashed midline.

4. Coherence (3 pts)

Logical narrative progression (setting table → serving meal → tea & cleanup).

Wheeler's Elementary Speller (1901) • Lesson 97 • Teacher Master Key & Historical Guide

Page 2 of 2 (Teacher Master Key) • Professional Instructional Companion