

★ LESSONS 98 & 99: BROAD O PHONICS & ROBIN REDBREAST POETRY 12 Target Words • Socratic Inquiry • Rhyme Studio

1

Broad o as in gône, marked ô: Pronounce carefully, write neatly, and mark the circumflex over each o.

12 Words • 26px Standard Penmanship

-ONG SOUND	-OFF / -OFT	-OST SOUND	-OSS / -OTH
▶ gône -ong Family	▶ ôff -off/-off	▶ lôst -ost Family	▶ môss -oss/-oth
▶ lông -ong Family	▶ ôft -off/-off	▶ côst -ost Family	▶ crôss -oss/-oth
▶ sông -ong Family	▶ sôft -off/-off	▶ frôst -ost Family	▶ clôth -oss/-oth

2

Wheeler's Socratic Orthoepy: Compare the sound of o with other vowels.

Acoustic Vowel Scale

🕒 Inquiry 1: Is this sound of o the same as o in on, top, or not ?

Answer: **No**. The vowel in not is the short Ȯ (/ɑ/). Broad ô in gone is more open, prolonged, and rounded in the throat.

🕒 Inquiry 2: Is it like the sound of o in or, nor, and for ?

Answer: **Yes!** It is almost identical to the deep circumflex ô (/ɔ:/), but pronounced clearly without the curling r sound.

Wheeler 1901 Acoustic Scale:

Short Ȯ (nōt, tōp)

<

Broad ô (gône, sôft, crôss)

≈

Circumflex ô / Broad ȡ (fōr, nōr, all)

3

Lesson 99: "How Do the Robins Build Their Nests?" • Phonics Hunt & Rhyme Studio

Poetry Phonics • Rhyme Synthesis

ROBIN REDBREAST

▶ Listen to Poem

How do the robins build their nests?
Robin Redbreast told me.
First, a wisp of yellow hay
In a pretty round they lay;
Then some threads of flax or **floss**,
Feathers, too, and bits of **moss**,
Woven with a sweet, sweet **song**,
This way, that way, and **across**:
That's what Robin told me.

Phonics Detective: Find 4 words in the poem with broad o as in gône:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Directive 2: Rhyme Studio — Write words that rhyme:

Rhyme with: hay Write 2 words	Rhyme with: flax Write 2 words
Rhyme with: told Write 2 words	Rhyme with: how Write 2 words
Rhyme with: song Write 2 words	Rhyme with: me Write 2 words

4

Sentence Synthesis: Write sentences using broad o words or copy a favorite couplet.

Applied Composition

Use words like song, frost, soft, lost, cloth or copy: "Woven with a sweet, sweet song, / This way, that way, and across."

Wheeler's Elementary Speller (1901) • Lessons 98 & 99 • Broad O Orthoepy & Nature Poetry Standard 26px Handwriting • Page 1 of 1 (Student Practice)



1. Complete 12-Word Broad O Orthoepy Matrix (Webster 1901 System)

Phonetics • Dialect Context • Teaching Tips

Word	Diacritics & IPA	Phonogram Pattern	1901 Orthoepic Value & Sound Height	Modern Dialect Note & Teaching Tip
gone	gône • /ɡɔːn/	Irregular past part.	Broad o (/ɔː/). Silent final e does NOT make o long.	Common pitfall: avoid pronouncing as short ô /ɡɒn/ or long /goʊn/.
off	ôff • /ɔːf/	Doubled ff	Voiceless labiodental fricative f lengthens preceding vowel.	Part of historical /ot-cloth/ split where vowels before /f, s, θ/ lengthened.
lost	lôst • /lɔːst/	Consonant blend -st	Broad o before sibilant blend /st/.	Contrast with <i>post</i> , <i>most</i> (which have long /oʊ/).
moss	môss • /mɔːs/	Doubled ss	Broad o before voiceless sibilant /s/.	Rhymes with <i>floss</i> , <i>cross</i> , <i>loss</i> , <i>toss</i> .
long	lông • /lɔːŋ/	Velar nasal -ng	Velar nasal /ŋ/ pulls vowel back and broadens it to /ɔː/.	Base word for <i>longer</i> , <i>longest</i> , <i>belong</i> .
oft	ôft • /ɔːft/	Poetic archaic	Shortened form of <i>often</i> . Broad o before /ft/.	Point out historical connection: <i>oft</i> → <i>often</i> → <i>oft-times</i> .
cost	côst • /kɔːst/	Hard c + -st	Broad o before /st/. Hard initial /k/.	Watch for students confusing with <i>coast</i> (long oa).
cross	crôss • /krɔːs/	Initial blend cr-	Broad o before doubled ss.	Appears in Lesson 99 poem ("This way, that way, and across").
song	sông • /sɔːŋ/	Velar nasal -ng	Broad o before /ŋ/. Musical vocal sound.	Key word in Lesson 99 poem ("Woven with a sweet, sweet song").
soft	sôft • /sɔːft/	Blend -ff	Broad o before /ft/. Yielding to touch.	Antonym of <i>hard</i> ; reinforces Lesson 101 opposites.
frost	frôst • /frɔːst/	Blend fr- + -st	Broad o before /st/. Frozen dew crystals.	Connects with Lesson 87 ("Little Jack Frost").
cloth	clôth • /kɒːθ/	Voiceless th	Broad o before dental fricative /θ/.	Contrast singular <i>cloth</i> (/kɒːθ/) with plural <i>clothes</i> (/kloʊðz/).

2. Socratic Orthoepy Guide: Acoustic Vowel Hierarchy (1901 Webster Foundation)

Phonological Discrimination

Question 1: Short ô vs. Broad ô

Wheeler asks: "Is this sound of o the same as o in on, top, or not?"

Master Key: No. In 1901 orthoepy, short ô (/a/) was a short, crisp, unrounded low-back vowel. Broad ô represents the intermediate vowel heard before voiceless fricatives (/f, s, θ/) and velar nasals (/ŋ/), pronounced with slight lip rounding and greater acoustic duration.

Question 2: Circumflex ô vs. R-colored Vowels

Wheeler asks: "Is it like the sound of o in or, nor, and for?"

Master Key: Yes. Wheeler demonstrates that the tongue position and vowel quality in *gône*, *sôft*, *lôst* are acoustically equivalent to the circumflex ô in *for*, *nor*, or (/ɔː/), but free from the rhotic coloring (retroflex/bunched tongue) imparted by *r*.

3. Lesson 99 Poetry Guide & Master Rhyme Family Bank

Solutions & Extensions

Poetry Phonics Detective Solutions (4 Broad O Words):

- floss** — /flɔːs/ (soft silk threads)
- moss** — /mɔːs/ (velvety green forest plant)
- song** — /sɔːŋ/ (musical notes of the robin)
- across** — /əˈkrɔːs/ (compound with prefix a- + root cross)

Rhyme Bank (Expected Student Pairs):

- hay:** day, lay, may, pay, say, way, play, stay, gray
- flax:** wax, tax, tracks, backs, sacks, packs
- told:** bold, cold, fold, gold, hold, sold, scolded
- how:** now, cow, bow, plow, brow
- song:** long, strong, wrong, gong, belong
- me:** be, he, she, we, see, tree, free, three

4. Decodable Teacher Dictation Sentences (Administer during Phonics Evaluation)

Clear Articulation • Punctuation Check

- "The little bird is **gone**, but we still hear its sweet, **soft song**."
- "Do not walk **off** into the **frost** without your warm coat and **cloth** cap."
- "The old green **moss** on the stone wall was **lost** in the deep winter snow."
- "How much did the fine linen **cloth** **cost** when you bought it **across** the river?"

5. Pedagogical Assessment Rubric (20 Points Total)

Orthoepy • Poetry Analysis • Handwriting

1. Broad O Marking (8 pts)

Accurate placement of circumflex ô over all 12 target words without vowel confusion.

2. Socratic Orthoepy (4 pts)

Clear verbal distinction between short ô (/a/) in *not* and broad ô (/ɔː/) in *gone*.

3. Poetry Detective (4 pts)

Correct identification of all 4 broad o words in Robin Redbreast (*floss*, *moss*, *song*, *across*).

4. Rhyme & Penmanship (4 pts)

Legible 26px midline handwriting for 6 rhyming word families with standard letter heights.