

Lesson 5

The long **i** + semivowel as in: **child**, **mind**, **climb**, **choir**, **Christ**



The Semivowel Theory: The five consonants l, m, n, r, and s are semivowels and they can sometimes act like vowels. In this case, they can make the preceding “i” sound long like the “n” making the “i” long in “**find**.”

l, m, n, r, s

The semivowels can sometimes make the preceding “i” long. For instance, the “**l**” in “**child**” makes the “i” long, the “**n**” in “**find**” makes the “i” long, the “**m**” in “**climb**” makes the “i” long, the “**r**” in “**choir**” makes the “i” long, and the “**s**” in “**Christ**” makes the “i” long. What was referred to as “sight words” is now explained by this semivowel theory.

choir or quire

Moreover, this spelling pattern of long **i** may have been used to tell apart words or to spell more words like “**choir**” and “**quire**,” and once the pattern was accepted into English, more words ended up being spelled with it.



Compare short **i** with long **i** and then compare homonyms of long **i**:

milled, mild willed, wild chilled, child
 finned, find binned, bind choir, quire



The “**i** + **semivowel**” phonic occurs in approximately **52** words; read them aloud slowly:

mild mild·er mild·est
 wild wild·er wild·est
 child child·ish child·like



kind kind·er kind·est
 kind·ness kind·ly find
 find·ing mind mind·ed
 mind·ful mind·less like·minded
 re·mind re·mind·ed re·mind·ing

bind

bind·er

bind·ing

blind

blind·fold

blind·ness



blind·ers

grind

grind·er

grind·ing

rind

wind

wind·ing

re·wind

re·wind·ing

be·hind

pint

ninth



climb

climbed

climb·ing

climb·er

vir·us

choir

Christ

aisle

isle

The past tense of some of these **-ind** words look like this:

find, **found**

grind, **ground**

wind, **wound**

re·**wind**, re·**wound**

bind, **bound**, re·**bound**