

Lesson - 7

Compound Consonants and Medial Semi-Circle

7.1 INTRODUCTION

There are 24 consonants, each consonant representing one single sound. In English language there are so many words which have compound consonant sounds (having more than one consonantal sound). To write these compound consonants, additional consonant strokes have not been provided in Pitman's shorthand. Some of the existing consonants have been used to represent the compound sounds by adding hooks or by writing them as thick forms, yet ensuring formation of concise, brief and facile outlines. Even to represent medial 'W' additional use of semi circle has been made to keep the shorthand outlines as brief as possible.

7.2 OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- classify the compound consonants;
 - identify the shorthand signs for the various compound consonants;
 - apply initial 'W' before 'kay' and 'gay' to form 'kwa' and 'gwa';
 - explain the use of initial 'W' and 'WH' before 'L' to form 'WL' and 'WHL' compounds;
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- state the use of 'LER' and 'RER' compounds by thickening 'L' and 'R' downwards;
- explain where semi-circle is used medially.

7.3 COMPOUND CONSONANTS

As you know in the beginning that simple consonant is a sound which cannot be produced distinctly without the aid of a vowel. The compound consonants are the combination of two consonants.

There are eight compound consonants in shorthand with distinct sign. The same are shown in the given tables.

Sign	Name	Letters	Examples
.....	kwa	KW	quick, request
.....	gwa	GW	guava, lingual
.....(up)	wel	WL	wail, unwell
.....(up)	hwel	WHL	whale, meanwhile
.....(down)	ler	LR	feeler, scholarly
.....(down)	rer	RR	poorer, sharer
.....	emp	MP	camp, jumb
.....	emb	MB	Bombay, Embassy
.....	hwa	WH	where, everywhere

Thick Compound Consonants

Letter	Sign	Name	Example
GW	gwa	Gwallior
Lr	ler	feeler
Rr	rer	Bearer

Mp	emp	camp
Mb	emb	emblem

Rules for the use of the compound consonants:-

1. The compound consonants KW, GW, WH, MP or MB are used when two consonants immediately succeed one another without any vowel between them.
2. Similarly the other compound consonants are used when they immediately succeed one another.

(i) The compound consonants KW(kwa) & GW (gwa)

A large initial hook written with the left motion or anticlockwise motion to the stroke k prefixes w and thereby represents the compound consonant kw. For example:

quick request require inquiry
quote

Exceptions : The compound consonant kw is not employed in the following cases:

- (i) In order to avoid lengthy or awkward form, especially when the outline is quite legible without the 'w' being expressed. Thus..... quality
..... qualitative
 - (ii) In the derivatives from the logograms.....equal: Thus:-
.....equality..... equalise..... equalisation
..... equalizing.
 - (iii) In distinguishing outlines. Thus.....‘queer’ to keep distinct from‘clear’ notwithstanding the difference in the size of the initial hook.
-

The compound consonant.....gw (gwa)

A large initial hook written with the same motion like kw to the stroke g, prefixes w, and thereby represents gw. Thus

lingual..... linguist.....

The final attachments in the forms of circle, loops or hooks can be added to 'gw'.

example..... linguist..... penguin.....

Note: When 'gw' occurs medially before 'sh', the outline is contracted by omitting the 'g' and expressing the 'w' and following vowel by the diphthong.

Thus..... anguish.....languish

DRILL EXERCISE NO.1 (COMPOUND CONSONANT KW & GW)

Write the following words in shorthand:

- a) Queen, Quest, Quire, Quash, Quiver
- b) Requisition, Bequeath, Vanguish, Earthquake
- c) Quires, Squire, Requests, Squad
- d) Linguist, Lingual

The Compound Consonant.....WH (HWA)

When the sound of aspirate 'h' immediately precedes 'w', the compound consonant 'hw' is formed. It is represented by enlarging the initial hook of stroke 'w'. It is used initially and medially. For example

.....whip..... whig.....

where.....whirl.....whereby.....

anywhere.....nowhere.....everywhere.

Note: The sound of 'hwa' does not occur finally.

The final attachments as in case of 'kw', 'gw' can be added to 'wh'. For example

.....wheezewhisky.....
whistle.....whine.

The Compound Consonant.....WL (WEL)

A small initial hook written inside upward 'L' prefixes 'W' and thereby represents the compound consonant 'WL'. It is used initially, medially and finally.

For Example:

wail.....well.....wall.....wool.....
commonwealthunwillingunwellill-will.

The final attachments are affixed to 'wl' in the same manner as they are attached to all the other curved strokes.

For example:

.....wills.....wiliest.....wollens.

Note: 'wl' is not employed when an initial vowel precedes 'wl', the stroke 'w' and downward 'L' are used thus..... 'aweel'. It is also not used when the joining is inconvenient and compound words beginning with way. Thus
.....farewellwaylaywaylaid.

The Compound ConsonantWHL (HWEL)

When the sound of 'h' immediately precedes 'wl' the compound consonant 'hwl' is formed. It is represented by enlarging the small initial hook of the Compound consonant 'wl' and is used initially and finally:

For example:

.....wheel.....whiled.....whelm.....wheeler
.....crown-wheel.....mill wheel.....
meanwhile.

We can add final attachments to 'whl'. Thus.....
wheels.....whileswhilst.

We do not use 'whl' on the following conditions.

a) When an initial vowel precedes 'whl'. The compound consonant 'wh' and downward 'L' are used. Thusawheel
.....awhile.

b) Occurs medially and the use of which is inconvenient for joining or would result in a long outline, the dot 'h' the 'w' series of diphthongs and stroke 'L' are used for 'whl'.

Thusfour-wheeler.....overwhelm.

c) In certain words ending 'wheel', thus.....cog-wheel
.....fly-wheel.

The Compound Consonant.....LR (LER)

The downward 'L' thickened adds 'r' and thereby represents the compound consonant 'Lr'.

The compound consonant 'Lr' is never used initially. It is employed after the strokes to which final 'L' is written downward:

a) After the strokes f,v,sk,kw,skw and the straight upstrokes r,w,y, and h.

For example:

- a)feeler.....foiler.....secular
.....ruler
- b) After 'n' or 'ns'. Thus nailor
.....annular.....tonsillar.....chancellor.

Medially: It is used medially in a few derivative and compound words.

Thus.....scholarly.....secularly

You can add final attachments to 'Lr'. Thus.....feelers
.....scholars.

It is not employed as follows.

- a) When an accented vowel or a diphthong occurs between final 'L-r'.
Thus.....failure.
- b) When a vowel follows final 'L'. Thus folly.....
ancillary.....
- c) When upward 'L' begins with an attachment: Thus
.....sailor.....solar.
- d) After the straight downward strokes p,b,t,d,ch,j and k,g,m, or L (up).
Thuspailer.....boiler.....
toiler.....dealer.....collar.....miller
-

The Compound Consonant.....RR (Rer)

The downward 'R' thickened adds er and thereby represents the compound consonant 'rer'. It is only used finally. For example:.....repairer
.....bearer.....curer.....fairer.

Initial and final attachments are also added with 'rr'.

Thus.....swearers.....bearers.....admirers.

Exception:-

It is not employed to derivative from words written with final downward 'r'.

Thus.....terror.....career.....carrier.

After two descending strokes and after upward 'L' it is also not used.

Thus.....preparer.....deplorer.....allure.

For distinguishing outlines.....purer but.....poorer.

The Compound Consonant.....MP or MB (Emp or Emb)

The stroke 'm' when thickened adds 'p' or 'b' and thereby represents the compound consonant mp or mb. It must be used without a vowel between the two consonants. It is used initially, medially and finally:

For example:embody.....camplamp.

Initial and final attachments can be written with 'mp' and 'mb'

Thus.....swamp.....stamp.....impose.....
imposed.....ambitions.

Note: The Compound Consonant mp and mb is not employed when a vowel

occurs between m-p or m-b and mp or mb immediately followed by r or L, the stroke 'm' and the initially hooked letter are employed.

Thus.....map.....mob.....empress
.....embrace

SHORT FORMS/GRAMMALOGUES

Whether..... important or importanceimpossible
.....improve, improved or improvement

DRILL EXERCISE NO. 2

Read, copy and transcribe the following

- a)
- b)
- c)
.....

INTEXT QUESTIONS 7.1

- 1. Fill in the blanks:
 - a) A large initial hook addsto stroke 'k'.
 - b) When the aspirate 'h' immediately precedes 'w', the compound consonantis formed.
 - c) Compound consonant 'whl' is not used when anprecedes 'whl'.
 - d) The downward 'L' when thickened adds.....
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2. (a) How many compound consonants are in shorthand?
.....
- (b) How many compound consonants have initial hooks?
.....
- (c) Write the names of three compound consonants without initial hooks with example.
.....
- (d) How do you use compound consonant 'Rer' in shorthand?
.....
3. State true or false:
- (a) There are five thin and 3 thick compound consonants.
- (b) There are five initial hooks and three without initial hooks.
- (c) The final attachments can be added with compound consonants.
- (d) 'Lr' is not used when a vowel follows final 'Lr'.
- (e) The initial attachments can be prefixed to the compound consonant 'rr'.
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7.4 MEDIAL SEMI CIRCLE (MEDIAL W)

You have studied about the Semi Circle in the Chapter of Abbreviated 'W'. This right Semi Circle is used initially before strokes k,g,m (and mp) and two forms of r. For example.....weak.....women. The semi circle is also employed medially.

It represents initially the sound 'w' only.

Medial 'W' can be represented by small semi circle to give an easier and shorter

outline. A left semi circle represents 'W' followed by a dot vowel with which the 'W' is combined ex. twelve.....herewith.....
guesswork.....woodwork.....

Note: The semicircle for 'w' and vowel is not used finally. Thus
.....railway.

DRILL EXERCISE NO. 3

Practice the below words by writing them in shorthand.

- a) Twenty, Twig, Touchwood
- b) Abattoir, Misquote, Wormwood, Bewilder
- c) Measuage, Firework, Pickwick
- d) Railways, Dwell, Unworthy

INTEXT QUESTIONS 7.2

Complete the following sentences by writing one of the best suitable word.

- a)
 - i) A semicircle is used.....for the stroke. (initially/medially/finally)
 - (ii) A medial left semicircle represents.....vowels. (Long/short/both)
 - (iii) There are.....places for the semi circle. (Two/One Three)
 - (iv) When a vowel precedes initial 'w' the stroke used. (must not be/must be/occasionally).
 - (v) Sometimes we prefer stroke 'w' in the interest of(frequency/legibility/convenience)
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- b) (i) How many places are for the semicircles?

.....

- (ii) When do you use stroke 'w' instead of semicircle?

.....

7.5 WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

A large initial hook written with the left hand motion to the stroke 'k' and 'g' prefixes 'w' and thus represents the compound consonants 'kw' and 'gw'. These are employed initially, medially and finally. When the sound aspirate 'h' immediately proceeds consonant 'w', the compound consonant 'wh' is represented by enlarging the initial hook of stroke 'w'. A small and large initial hook attached to upward 'L' prefix 'w' and 'wh' respectively and represent the Compound Consonant 'wl' and consonant 'whl'. The downward 'L' thickened adds 'Lr' and 'rer' respectively. The 'M' stroke thickened adds 'p' or 'b' and thereby the compound 'mp' or 'mb'. The 'mp/mb' may be halved for 't' or 'd' and doubled for 'er/dr'. The final attachments are affixed to all compound consonants except 'lr' & 'rer' (circle 's' the only final attachment affixed to 'lr' & 'rer')

Medial Semi-Circle

When 'w' is followed by a long or short vowel and the two vowels are sounded in one syllable, a series of diphthongs is formed. Medial 'w' followed by a vowel is represented by a semicircle. A medial left semicircle represents 'wah, wa, wa' or the corresponding short sounds. A medial right semi circle represents waw, we, woo or the corresponding short sounds. When a vowel precedes initial 'w' the stroke 'w' must be used.

DRILL EXERCISE NO. 4

- (i) Write the following letter in shorthand:

Dear Sirs,

We thank you for your letter of last week and we are asking Messers Cornwell and Warback to look into the matter immediately. We hope that the flow of water into the workings may dwindle away with the advent of the dry weather,

and that the trouble may cease of itself.

In any case, you may rely upon us to do all that we can to stop the nuisance in question. We have already told our engineer Mr. Walther Welson to make close enquiry into the matter and we thank you again for the kindly way in which you have warned us of the possible loss both to ourselves and to you.

Thanks

Yours truly,

7.6 ANSWERS TO DRILL EXERCISE

1.

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

2.

Write the following in Shorthand:

- a) Whittle Whinny Wherever Wherewith Wherein
- b) Wile Wool Walton Weldon Welcomer
- c) Wheeled Whaleman Whelm Wheeler Spinning-wheel

3.

- a)
- b)

c)

d)

7.7 ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

7.1

i) a) W

b) hwa

c) initial vowel

d) 'R'

ii) a) Eight

b) Five

c) lr, rer, mp/mb Example.....ruler..... bearer
.....camp.

d) The downward 'r' thickened adds er and thereby forms compound consonant 'rer'.

iii) (a) False

(b) True

(c) True

(d) True

(e) True

7.2

a) i) medially ii) short iii) three iv) must be v) legibility

b) i) there are three places for semicircle

ii) where initial 'w' is immediately followed by h, g, m, mp, r or rr.

7.7 MATERIAL FOR ENRICHMENT/EXTENDED LEARNING

Practice the following words:

- (i) quarry, quarrel, signification, lingual.
- (ii) whip, whippers, whirl, wool, welcomer
- (iii) wheel, crown-wheel, ruler, roller
- (v) burglar, rifler, tramp, jump
- (vi) importer, impositions, bumper, temper.

Suggested reference Books:

- (i) A Commentary on Pitman New Era Shorthand by James W.Taylor.
 - (ii) Shorthand Made Easy (Revised by O.P. Kuthiala).
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