Silent Letters



The English language has a lot of words with **silent letters**.

A **silent letter** is a letter that you **don't hear or pronounce** when some words are spoken.

Examples:

- island
- answer
- would



Some words are tricky to pronounce because their **silent letters** make their **pronunciation** different from their spelling.

scene = /**sin**/

would = /**wʊd**/



Let's check some examples of silent letters.

Silent b:
- bomb
- climb
- thumb

As in:
- I hurt my thumb.

Silent c:

- descend
- scene
- scientist

As in:
- Scientists discovered a new chemical element.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Silent e:

- distance
- commerce
- love

As in:
- Kids love learning about ancient history.

Silent g:

- champagne
- resign
- design

As in:
- The seat belt is a device designed to keep passengers safe in a vehicle.



Silent gh:

- high
- throughout

As in:
- Throughout history, man has found inspiration in nature.

Silent k:

- knew
- knife

As in:
- Native Americans used stones or bones for the knife blade.



Silent l:

- calm
- could

As in:
- Before the wheel, traders couldn't transport goods easily.

Silent t:

- listen
- whistle

As in:
- Referees first used whistles in football matches in England in 1878.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Silent s:

- debris
- aisle
- island

As in:

- Greenland is the world's biggest island.

Silent u:

- guilt
- tongue
- guitar

As in:

- The electric guitar is one of the most popular inventions in the 20th century.



Silent w:

- write
- wrong
- answer
- sword
- wrist

As in:

- The first wristwatch was introduced in the 16th century.



Now, it is your turn.

What's the silent letter in each of the following words? Listen and check.

- through
- become
- comb
- doubt
- castle
- fridge
- knowledge
- build
- achieve
- talk
- though

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Silent Letters

Listen and check the silent letters of the words.

1. scenario

A. - s ☐ B. - c ☐

C. - a ☐ D. - e ☐

2. through

A. - t ☐ B. - h ☐

C. - r ☐ D. - gh ☐

3. design

A. - e ☐ B. - s ☐

C. - g ☐ D. - n ☐

4. should

A. - h ☐ B. - l ☐

C. - d ☐ D. - u ☐

5. building

A. - i ☐ B. - u ☐

C. - n ☐ D. - b ☐

6. scientist

A. - i ☐ B. - c ☐

C. - s ☐ D. - t ☐

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7. foreign

A. - r

B. - e

C. - i

D. - g

8. walk

A. - l

B. - w

C. - a

D. - k

9. wrong

A. - r

B. - w

C. - n

D. - g

10. guest

A. - u

B. - t

C. - s

D. - e

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Silent Letters

Listen and classify the words into the correct category depending on their silent letter.

Silent b or Silent e	Silent k or Silent l	Silent t or Silent s	Silent u or Silent w

wrote | island | often | castle

live | tomb | talk | bomb

circuit | knob

LIVEWORKSHEETS