

Pronunciation Spelling and Sounds

Silent Letters – Exercises

1. i) Circle the silent letter(s) in each word:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| a) climb | d) should | g) mortgage |
| b) cupboard | e) government | h) talk |
| c) handsome | f) two | i) page |

ii) Add a silent letter to complete the spelling of each word:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| a) lis _ en | d) l a m _ | g) a u t u m _ |
| b) _ o n e s t | e) b e _ | h) i _ l a n d |
| c) r a s _ b e r r y | f) a _ m o n d | i) a b o v _ |

2. Underline the letter(s) in each word which are pronounced as schwa sounds:

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| a) teacher | e) popular | i) particular |
| b) amazing | f) cinema | j) current |
| c) another | g) problem | k) nature |
| d) computer | h) internet | l) physical |

3. Put the following words into categories and circle the silent letter(s) in each word:

**cheese rain bottle file guild redder know doubt question grandma
fought psychic honest apple weight hotter seat why comb add**

<i>Silent letter is part of a consonant digraph:</i>	<i>Silent letter is part of a vowel digraph:</i>
<i>Silent letter is part of a pair of double letters:</i>	<i>True silent letter not connected to the word:</i>

4. Discuss the following questions with a partner:

- How phonetic is your first language? Are there silent letters? How did you learn to spell it?
- How difficult is English spelling? Do you feel confident with it? How can you improve?
- Why doesn't anybody reform English spelling so that it makes sense? What would you do first? What would happen if English were written phonetically – as we speak it?

5. Read the story and cross out the incorrect homophone in each pair:

Yesterday I a) ~~red/read~~ a b) ~~finish/Finnish~~ book for an c) ~~our/hour~~. It was about an d) ~~in/inn~~ which nobody e) ~~nose/knows~~ about. There were f) ~~to/too~~ many boring characters for it to g) ~~be/bee~~ fun, so there was h) ~~no/know~~ i) ~~way/weigh~~ that j) ~~I/eye~~ could finish it. I k) ~~new/knew~~ l) ~~wood/would~~ m) ~~find/fined~~ it boring, and it was n) ~~so/sew~~ heavy that it was uncomfortable to o) ~~hold/holed~~. I p) ~~told/tolled~~ my friend q) ~~not/knot~~ to bother with it, but to r) ~~by/buy~~ something different instead. He is not s) ~~one/won~~ for t) ~~hi/high~~ culture!