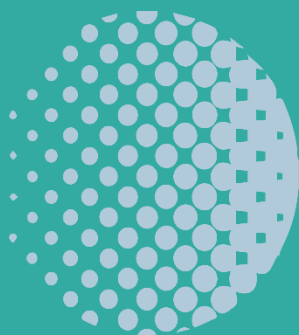


SILENT LETTERS

E-BOOK

PROactive PRONUNCIATION

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PROactive
PRONUNCIATION

SILENT LETTERS

Mispronouncing words with silent letters won't just lead to embarrassing moments, but not knowing these words can undermine your proficiency and confidence in English. So, Let's fix that!

"Would, talk, saw, and know" all have silent letters! How do you know which letters NOT to pronounce? In this video we'll go through the biggest list of silent letter words in English ever and discuss the rules to know for silent letters in English. Improve your English pronunciation and English spelling with me!

AND at the very end I'll share **MY** client's **MOST** frequently mispronounced silent letter words!

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<https://proactivepronunciation.com>

A

Words spelled with "EA" have a few options of pronunciation, BUT THESE particular words are the words that completely disregard the "a" letter.

Bread "EH" /ɛ/ as in the vowel heard in "RED"

Head "EH" /ɛ/

Learn "ER" /ɜ:/

Heard "ER" /ɜ:/

Beard "EE" /i/ as in the vowel heard in "me"

meat "EE" /i/

bear "EH EE" /eɪ/ This is a diphthong vowel. With two vowel sounds. as in the vowel heard in the word "day"

The "a" letter is also silent, so to speak, due to reductions in words that end in "ally"
You can replace "ally" with "LEE"

ALLY words:

accidentally

actually

basically

generally

practically

Alphabetically

Pronounced "axe uh dent lee"

Pronounced "ak shuh lee"

Pronounced "bay sick lee"

Pronounced "Jjen ruh lee"

Pronounced "prac tick lee"

Pronounced "alfuh bed ick lee"

*I recommend writing down the words that you didn't know and compile a list for yourself to practice.

B

The B is silent in a long list of words. The B tends to delete in MB and BT combinations.

bomb
climb
comb
crumb
debt
doubt
dumb
jamb
lamb
limb
numb
plumb
plumber
subtle
succumb
thumb
tomb
womb

C

The C tends to become silent after “S” – so when you see “SC” say “SSSSS”. There are a few others to be aware of as well though!

abscess
acquiesce
ascent
Connecticut
conscience
conscious
crescent
descend
discipline
disciple
fascinate
fluorescent
incandescent
indict
isosceles
luminescent
miscellaneous
muscle
obscene
resuscitate

scenario
scene
scent
science
scissors
yacht

D

The /d/ can often delete when it's in the middle of a 3 consonant blend involving ND and another consonant. Here are some examples:

handdsome
Weddnesday
Handdkerchief
Sanddwich
Solddier* "Sol jer"

E

The "e" in English is not pronounced in the word:
Heart "AR" /ar/

Also, when you see E at the ends of words, those E's are like magic wands....they give all the power to the vowel before it. So, if you see an E at the end of a word, keep it silent, and instead, make the vowel before it sound like the letter it is.

gazee
Salee
Tastee
Latee
Milee
Pinee
Ropee
Rudee

G

When you see a GN and GH combination in a word, you can assume the 'g' is silent.

align
assign
benign
campaign
champagne
cologne

consign
design
feign
foreign
gnash
gnat
gnaw
gnome
gnu
high
light
malign
reign
resign
sign

H

H becomes silent after G R, and W- so if you see GH, RH, WH you can drop the “H” sound

ghastly
gherkin
ghetto
ghost
heir
herb
homage
honest
honor
honorarium
hour
rhinoceros
rhubarb
rhyme
rhythm
vehement
vehicle
what
wheel
when
where
while
whiisper
white
why
Pharoahh
zucchini

pronounced “zoo-key-knee”

I

I is typically pronounced in English, except in these words.

Business
Suit
Conscience

K

If you see KN, you can drop the K altogether. Here are the English words with KN:

knock
knave
knead
knee
kneel
knelt
knew
knickers
knick-knock
knife
knight
knit
knob
knock
knot
know
knowledge
knowledgeable
knuckle

L

L is a bit trickier, as there are a few situations it can become silent and it's not completely consistent. LM, LK, are the more frequent situations you will see the L disappear.

allms
balk
balm
calf
calm
chalk
colonel
could

embalm
folk
half
Lincoln
Norfolk
palm
psalm
qualm
salmon
should
Sollder
stalk
Stockholm
talk
walk
would
yolk

M

Typically, M is pronounced, except in this word!

Mnemonics

N

When you see MN consonants together, you can drop the N altogether

Autumn
Column
Condemn
Damn
Solemn
Hymn

O

O is a tricky vowel, In these words, the O is not pronounced

Peoople
jeoopardy
Chocoolate
Theoory
Leoopard

the “eo” is pronounced as “e” “je-per-dy”

P

When a word begins with P and another consonant, its typically silent. You can see this is PS, PT, PN words – but there are others!

corps
coup
cupboard
pneumonia
pneumonic
psalm
pseudonym
psoriasis
psyche
psychedelic
psychiatrist
psychiatry
psychic
psycho
psychologist
psychology
psychosis
psychotic
pterodactyl
ptosis
raspberry
receipt

S

S is another tricky sound that is not as consistent in its silence: often SL produces a silent S, but there are others!

island
isle
Aisle
Arkansas
Illinois
Dess Moines
Corpss
Debriss
Visscount

T

T is a very commonly a silent letter. There are a few situations where it's definitely silent.

Silent T Words Ending With -STLE

aposttle
busttle
casttle
gristtle
husttle
nesttle
pesttle
rusttle
thisttle
whisttle
wresttle

Silent T Words Ending With -STEN

christten
glisten
listen
chasten
fasten
hasten
moisten

Silent T Words With -FT (optional!)

oftten
softten

French Words with a Silent T at the End

ballett
buffett
fillett
depott
chalett
gourmett
rapportt
ricochett

Other Words with Silent T: No rules for these crazy rogues!

Chesttnut (only the first t is silent)
mortgage
Christmas

U

The U is often silent after G and typically, when you see a consonant with a U such as CU and a vowel after it, the U is not pronounced. Let's take a look.

baguette
biscuit
build
built
catalogue
circuit
colleague
disguise
fatigue
guard
guess
guest
guide
guild
guile
guillotine
guilt
guilty
guise
guitar
intrigue
league
prologue
rogue
silhouette

W

W is silent when it comes before an R, but there are other situations you will see a silent /w/. let's look at some examples.

answer
awry
law
paw
playwright
saw

sword
two
who
whose
wrangle
wrap
wrapper
wrath
wreak
wreath
wreck
wren
wrench
wrestle
wretch
wriggle
wring
wrinkle
wrist
write
writhe
wrong
wrote
wrought
wrung
wry

OTHER SILENT LETTERS!

It's good to know that there are a few other strange words with silent sounds such as :

asthma
liaison
queue

the "th" is silent; pronounced "az-ma"
pronounced "lee-ay-zon"
pronounced "cue"

THE MOST MISPRONOUNCED WORDS!

When working with my clients, the most frequently mispronounced words that pop up nearly daily are these very common words. So, if you're going to pay attention to **ANYTHING** in this whole book, be sure you're aware of these commonly mispronounced words:

L: walk, talk

L: would, could, should

H: **h**our, **h**onest,

B: climb, debt, doubt, dumb, subtle, thumb

W: saw, law, paw, raw

I: business

If you're already loving these word lists, and you want EVEN MORE English pronunciation "GOLD" you can find everything you have ever wanted to know compiled for you in my book- "English Pronunciation Secrets" which you can find on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com> and Audible, or you can WATCH via my MASTERCLASS PRONUNCIATION course which you can find on my website: <https://proactivepronunciation.com/video-course>

Can't wait to see you there!