



PROactive

PRONUNCIATION

Silent Letters

B

The B tends to delete in MB and BT combinations

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

C

The C tends to become silent after "S"

abscess	fascinate	scenario
acquiesce	fluorescent	scene
ascent	incandescent	scent
conscience	isosceles	science
conscious	luminescent	scissors
crescent	miscellaneous	yacht
descend	muscle	Connecticut
discipline	obscene	indict
disciple	resuscitate	

D

The /d/ is often deleted when it's in the middle of a 3 consonant blend

handsome	Handkerchief	Soldier* "Sol jer"
Wednesday	Sandwich	

E

If you see an E at the end of a word, keep it silent

gaze	Late	Rope
Sale	Mile	Rude
Taste	Pine	

G

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

align	cologne	gnash
assign	consign	gnat
benign	design	gnaw
campaign	feign	gnome
champagne	foreign	gnu



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high
light

malign
reign

resign
sign

H

H becomes silent after G R, and W

ghastly
gherkin
ghetto
ghost
heir
herb
homage
honest
honor

honorarium
hour
rhinoceros
rhubarb
rhyme
rhythm
vehement
vehicle
what

wheel
when
where
while
whisper
white
why
Pharaoh
zucchini

I

Business

Suit

Conscience

K

If you see KN, you can drop the K altogether.

knack
knave
knead
knee
kneel
knelt
knew

knickers
knick-knack
knife
knight
knit
knob
knock

knot
know
knowledge
knowledgeable
knuckle

L

LM, LK, are the more frequent situations you will see the L disappear.

talk
walk
would
could
should
alms
balk
balm
calf

calm
chalk
colonel
embalm
folk
half
Lincoln
Norfolk
palm

psalm
qualm
salmon
solder
stalk
Stockholm
yolk

M



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Mnemonics

N

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

Autumn

Condemn

Solemn

Column

Damn

Hymn

O

People

Chocolate

Leopard

jeopardy

Theory

Sophomore

P

When a word begins with P and another consonant, its typically silent. E.g. PS, PT, PN words

corps

psyche

psychosis

coup

psychedelic

psychotic

cupboard

psychiatrist

pterodactyl

pneumonia

psychiatry

ptosis

pneumonic

psychic

raspberry

psalm

psycho

receipt

pseudonym

psychologist

psoriasis

psychology

S

Often SL produces a silent S, but there are others!

island

Arkansas

corps

isle

Illinois

debris

aisle

Des Moines

viscount

T

Silent T Words Ending With -STLE

apostle

hustle

thistle

bustle

nestle

whistle

castle

pestle

wrestle

gristle

rustle

Silent T Words Ending With -STEN

christen

fasten

Silent T Words With -FT

glisten

hasten

(optional!)

listen

moisten

often

chasten

soften

French Words with a Silent T at the End

ballet

buffet

fillet



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depot
chalet

gourmet
rapport

ricochet

Other Words with Silent T:

Chestnut (only the first t)
mortgage

Christmas
asthma "az-ma"

U

The U is often silent after G and with a consonant with U such as CU and a vowel after it

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
queue "cue"

W

W is often silent when it comes before an R

answer
awry
law
paw
playwright
saw
raw
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