

Silent Letters

It is sometimes difficult to look up a word in a dictionary if it starts with a silent letter. ***Below are some words which have silent letters at the beginning.***

Silent 'k'	Silent 'w'	Silent 'g'	Silent 'p'
knee	write	gnat	psalm
know	wrist	gnaw	psychology
knuckle	wrong	gnash	psychic
knock	wrap	gnarl	psychiatry

As you can see 'k' is often silent before 'n'

'w' is often silent before 'r'

'g' is often silent before 'n'

'p' is often silent before 's'

Using these examples try and complete the following exercise:

1. Britain is __ nown for its music.
2. Reading and __ riting.
3. We read __ salms and sing hymns in church.
4. Stop _ nashing your teeth!
5. __ rap up warm in winter.
6. In summer there are lots of __ nats in the countryside.
7. General __ nowledge.
8. __ nives and forks.
9. I'd like to __ rite better.
10. I don't _ now how to do it.

Some words have silent letters in the middle or at the end.

‘l’ is often silent before ‘k’ folk

‘b’ is often silent after ‘m’ plumber

‘n’ is often silent after ‘m’ column

‘t’ is often silent after ‘s’ listen

1. The yo__k of an egg.
2. Autum__ leaves.
3. Brush and com__.
4. Ta__king in your sleep.
5. Fas__en your seatbelt.
6. Lis__en to me!
7. My hands are num__ with cold.
8. Add up this colum__ of figures.

Silent Letters Rules and Exercises

silent n	silent d	silent g	silent u	silent h	silent t	silent k	silent b	silent l	silent w
autumn <u>n</u>	ed <u>g</u> e	<u>g</u> nome	gu <u>st</u>	wh <u>h</u> at	wi <u>t</u> ch	<u>k</u> nife	lam <u>b</u>	al <u>l</u> mond	w <u>r</u> ote
dam <u>n</u>	hed <u>g</u> e	<u>g</u> nar <u>l</u>	gu <u>ss</u>	wh <u>h</u> en	fast <u>t</u> en	<u>k</u> nee	thum <u>b</u>	pal <u>l</u> m	w <u>r</u> ite
hym <u>n</u>	Wed <u>nes</u> day	si <u>gn</u>	gui <u>t</u> ar	wh <u>h</u> y	cast <u>l</u> e	<u>k</u> not	num <u>b</u>	yol <u>l</u> k	w <u>r</u> ist
column <u>n</u>	hand <u>s</u> ome	resi <u>gn</u>	guar <u>d</u>	wh <u>h</u> ich	watch	<u>k</u> nit <u>ti</u> ng	crum <u>b</u>	cal <u>l</u> m	w <u>r</u> iggle
	handkerchief	desi <u>gn</u>	buil <u>d</u> ing	wh <u>h</u> ether	but <u>ch</u> er		climb <u>g</u>	sal <u>l</u> mon	w <u>r</u> inkle
	bad <u>g</u> e	forei <u>gn</u> er	guil <u>t</u> y	gh <u>h</u> ost	scrat <u>ch</u>		bom <u>b</u>	cal <u>l</u> f	w <u>h</u> ole
	wed <u>g</u> e		rog <u>u</u> e	h <u>h</u> onest	list <u>en</u>		com <u>b</u>	hal <u>l</u> f	w <u>r</u> eck
			vog <u>u</u> e	h <u>h</u> our	mat <u>ch</u>		doub <u>t</u>	chalk	tw <u>o</u>
			biscu <u>i</u> t	wh <u>h</u> ile	Christ <u>mas</u>		plum <u>ber</u>	talk	w <u>r</u> ap
			tong <u>u</u> e	wh <u>h</u> ite	mortgag <u>e</u>		lim <u>b</u>	walk	w <u>r</u> ong
				wh <u>h</u> ere	soft <u>en</u>		debt	fol <u>l</u> k	w <u>r</u> iting
				rh <u>h</u> ythm	oft <u>en</u>		tomb		w <u>r</u> itten