



Rule 30: Silent letters



Teacher information

- This teaching resource is organised into four sections:
1) Explanation of the rule **2)** Examples of key words that fit the rule **3)** Opportunities to practise **4)** Further examples of commonly used words following the rule & some notable exceptions.
- These slides are intended as a starting point for teaching this rule. The lists of words given at the end might be used for card sorting exercises or a variety of spelling games.



1) Rule 30: Explanation

Some words have silent letters that are no longer pronounced.

thumb**b** **i**sland **k**nock g**h**ost

Say these words using a **spelling voice** to help you learn the silent letters.

thum-**b** **i**s-land **k**-nock g-**h**ost

2) Rule 30: Examples

Use your **spelling voice** to say these words.

doub**t**

honest

cast**le**

cup**p**board

gnome

write

ans**w**er

knew

autumn**n**

sub**b**tle

hym**n**

wriggle

rasp**p**berry

desig**n**

psalm

veh**h**icle

THINK: Which of these are homophones?
(Same sound, different spelling)

3) Rule 30: Practice

All these words are missing a silent letter.

Starter

g__ost

lam__

lis__en

__nock

__rite

Challenge 1

de__t

__night

colum__

__nash

ex__aust

Challenge 2

forei__n

__nowledge

ras__berry

autum__

plum__er

THINK: Which other words with silent letters
can you think of?

4) Rule 30: Further examples

Silent 'b'

doubt
thumb
crumb
debt
plumber
lamb
limb
subtle

Silent 'g'

design
gnash
gnome
gnaw
foreign
gnarl

Silent 'h'

honest
ghastly
ghost
rhyme
exhibit
rhythm
vehicle
rhubarb
gherkin
exhaust

Silent 'n'

solemn
autumn
hymn*
column

Silent 'p'

raspberry
receipt
cupboard
psalm

Silent 't'

fasten
castle
listen
pestle
hasten
thistle
whistle
nestle
wrestle

Silent 'k'

knight*
knew*
knot*
knuckle
knowledge
knee

Silent 'w'

wriggle
wrap*
write*
wrist
wrong
answer
sword
wrestle

*Homophones