



The complete guide to the English silent letters – Consonants

Letter	Rule	Examples
B	Letter B is silent in MB combination	bomb, climb, comb, dumbfounded, lamb, limb, numb, plumb, thumb, tomb, womb
B	Letter B is silent in BT combination	debt, doubt, doubtful, indebted, subtle
C	Letter C is silent in some words such as:	acquit, acquaintance, indict, indictment
D	Letter D is silent in words starting with ADJ	adjective, adjoin, adjourn, adjudge, adjunct, adjure, adjust
D	Letter D is silent in ND combination	grandma, grandpa grandson, groundsel, handkerchief, handsome, sandwich, Wednesday
G	Letter G is silent in GM combination	paradigm, phlegm
G	Letter G is silent in GN combination	align, assign, cognac, design, foreign, gnat, gnome, reign, resign, sign
G	Other cases	strength
H	Letter H is silent in words starting with EX	exhaust, exhaustion, exhibit, exhibition, exhilarate, exhort
H	Letter H can be silent at the beginning of the word in words such as:	heirloom, honest, honesty, honorarium, honorary, honorific, honour, honourable, hour, hourly
H	other cases	cheetah, dahlia, dishonest, Fahrenheit, kohlrabi, pooh, shepherd, silhouette, vehicle
K	Letter K is silent in KN combination	knee, kneel, knife, knight, knit, knob, knock, knot, know

L	The letter L is silent when the word ends with ALM combination	alms, balm, calm, palm
L	The letter L is silent when the word ends with ALK combination	balk, catwalk, chalk, stalk, talk, walk
L	The letter L is silent when the word ends with ALF combination	behalf, calf, half
L	The letter L is silent when the word ends with OULD	could, should, would
L	other cases	folk, yolk, almond, halve
M		mnemonic
N	Letter N is silent in MN combination	autumn, damn, hymn, solemn
P	Letter P is silent in PS combination	pseudo, psych, psyche, psychiatry, psychology, psychopath
P	Other cases	pneumonia, receipt, raspberry
R	Letter R is silent in non-rhotic accents when the letter R is not followed by a vowel sound and in many derived words from roots where R is silent	advertisement, afternoon, apartments, argument, carpet, dirty, emergency, forbid, personnel, etc. <i>The list of these words could be very long.</i>
S	Letter S is silent in ISL combination	aisle, island, isle
T	Letter T is silent in STLE combination	apostle, bristle, bustle, castle, hustle, nestle, thistle, whistle, wrestle
T	Other cases	ballet, bouquet, buffet, cabaret, camembert, debut, fasten, glisten, hasten, kitchen, listen, mistletoe, mortgage, often, sorbet, waltz
W	in words such as: Note: W forms many digraphs in English such as ow, aw, ew, wh, wr.	answer, awkward, Greenwich, review, two
X		faux pas
Z		rendezvous