

SILENT CONSONANTS:

There are a number of silent consonants which do not represent any sound at all:

****: in -mb and -bt, e.g. bomb(er) /'bɒm(ə)/, comb /'kəʊm/, plumb(er) /'plʌm(ə)/, thumb /'θʌm/, tomb /'tu:m/, womb /'wu:m/, climb(er) /'klaɪm(ə)/; debt(or) /'det(ə)/, doubt /'daʊt/, subtle /'sʌtl̩/.

<c>: in corpuscle /'kɔ:pʌs̩l̩/, muscle /'mʌs̩l̩/; Connecticlut /kə'netɪkət/, indictl /ɪn'daɪt/, vlctual(s) /'vɪt̩ʌl̩z/. Note <ch> in schlism /'sɪzəm/, yachlt /'jɒt/.

<g>: in -gm, -gn and gn-, e.g. diaphraggm /'daɪəfræm/, pleggm /'flem/; assign /ə'saɪn/, campaign /kæm'peɪn/, cologgne /kə'ləʊn/, foreign /'fɔrən/, reign /rein/, sovereign /'sɒvrɪn/; gnash /næʃ/, gnat /næt/, gnaw /nɔ:/.

<h> in hheir /eə/, hhonest /'ɒnɪst/, hhonour /'ɒnə/, hhour /'aʊə/; in <rh>, e.g. rhhetic /'retərɪk/, rhheumatism /'ru:mətɪzəm/, rhhubarb /'ru:bɑ:'b/, rhhythm /'rɪðəm/, diarrhhoea /daɪə'ri:ə/; also in annihhilate /ə'naɪlɪt/, bonhhomie /'bɒnəmi/, vehhement /'vi:əmənt/, vehhicle /'vi:k̩l̩/; in proper names in -ham, e.g. Durhham /'dʌrəm/, Fulhham /'fʊləm/, Grahham /'greɪəm/.

<k> in kn-, e.g. klee /'ni:/, klow /'nəʊ/, klot /'nɒt/, klit /'nɪt/. Note <ck> in blackgluard /'blæɡɔ:d/.

<l> in -lk and -lm, e.g. chalk /'tʃɔ:k/, folk /'fəʊk/, stalk /'stɔ:k/, talk /'tɔ:k/, yolk /'jəʊk/; almond /'ɑ:mənd/, calm /'kɑ:m/, Holmes /həʊmz/, Malcolm /'mælkəm/, palm /'pɑ:m/, salmon /'sæmən/; also in call /'kɑ:f/, half /'hɑ:f/; and in coulld /'kʊd/, shoulld /'ʃʊd/, woulld /'wʊd/.

<n> in -mn, e.g. autumn /'ɔ:təm/, column /'kɒləm/, condemn /kən'dem/, damn /'dæm/, hymn /'hɪm/, solemn /'sɒləm/.

<p> in coup /'ku:/, cupboard /'kʌbəd/, raspberry /'rɑ:zbəri/, receipt /rɪ'si:t/. Note <ps> in corps /'kɔ:/.

<s> in aisle /'aɪl/, apropos /æprə'pəʊ/, chassis /'ʃæsi/, debris /deɪbri:/, demesne /di'mein/, Illinois /'ɪli'nɔɪ/, island /'aɪlənd/, isle /'aɪl/, Louis /'lu:/, viscount /'vaɪkəʊnt/, Arkansas /ər'kænsɔ:/.

<t> in stle, -sten, e.g. apostle /ə'pɒs̩l̩/, castle /'kɑ:s̩l̩/, hustle /'hʌs̩l̩/, mistletoe /'mɪs̩lt̩əʊ/, nestle /'nes̩l̩/, thistle /'θɪs̩l̩/; chasten /'tʃeɪs̩n/, christen /'krɪs̩n/, fasten /'fɑ:s̩n/, glisten /'glɪs̩n/, hasten /'heɪs̩n/, listen /'lɪs̩n/, moisten /'mɔɪs̩n/; also in French loanwords e.g. baccarat /'bækə'rɑ:/, beret /'bereɪ/, ballet /'bæleɪ/, cabaret /'kæbəreɪ/, debut /'deɪbjʊ:/, rapport /ræ'pɔ:/; note also mortgage /'mɔ:ɡɪdʒ/, often /'ɒf̩n/, and <th> in asthlma /'æsmə/.

<w> in wr-, wh-, e.g. wrap /'ræp/, wreck /'rek/, wring /'rɪŋ/, wrist /'rɪst/, wrong /'rɒŋ/; who /'hu:/, whole /'həʊl/, whom /'hu:m/, whore /'hɔ:/, whose /'hu:z/; in proper names in -wick, -wich, e.g. Berwick /'berɪk/, Keswick /'keɪk/, Warwick /'wɔrɪk/; Greenwich /'ɡri:nɪdʒ/, Norwich /'nɒrɪdʒ/ (except Ipswich /'ɪpswɪtʃ/); also in answler /'ɑ:nsə/, sword /'sɔ:'d/.