

Silent letters in some common words, surnames, names and places:

A -artistically, dramatically, logically, musically...

B -climb**b**, comb**b**, crumb**b**, thumb**b**, numb**b**, subtle, debt, doubt

C -acquire, acquit, czar, muscle, scissors, Connecticut, Tucson

D -grand**d**son, Wed**d**nesday hand**d**some, hand**d**kerchief, land**d**scape, sand**d**wich (some people pronounce the 'd')

E -We have the silent 'e' in final position in many words: kite**e**, name... We also have silent 'e' in: Wednesday, vegetable...

G -align, champagne, diaphragm, high, reign, foreign...

-**igh**- right, light, eight, weight

-**ugh**-though, through, thought, drought

H -hour, honour/honor, honest, heir, choir, exhaust, herb (American), exhibition, ghost, rhyme, rhythm, Thames, Gandhi, Birmingham

I -business

K - knickers, knife, knight, knock, knot, know, Knox, Knowles...

L -calf, calm, chalk, folk, half, psalm, salmon, talk, yolk, Norfolk, should, could, would...

M -mnemonic

N -autumn, column, condemn, damn, hymn, solemn

O -colonel, people, leopard

P -coup, pneumonia, pseudo, psychology, receipt, Thompson

R -butter, finger, garden, here (in British English all r's are 'silent' before consonants)

S -aisle, bourgeois, debris, island, isle, Illinois...

T -asthma, ballet, castle, gourmet, listen, soften, thistle, Christmas, tsunami...

U -catalogue, colleague, dialogue, guess, guest, guide, guilt, guitar, tongue

W -answer, sword, two, whole, wrist, writ, write, Norwich, Greenwich

Exercise. Write the silent letters

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.
11. The yo__ k of an egg.
12. Autum__ leaves.
13. Brush and com__.
14. Ta__ king in your sleep.
15. Fas__ en your seatbelt.
16. Lis__ en to me!
17. My hands are num__ with cold.
18. Add up this colum__ of figures