

SILENT LETTERS WITHIN WORDS

Silent letters are letters that cannot be heard when the word is spoken.

Reason: Over hundreds of years we have changed how we pronounce these words but we have kept the old spelling.

The spelling of these words sometimes tells us how words used to be pronounced. For example the letter K in the word knock was pronounced K/nock.

Silent K

Knock

Know

Knee

Other examples:

Silent N

Autumn

Damn

Column

Silent U

Guess

Guard

Tongue

Silent G

Sign

Resign

Foreign

Silent W

Wrist

Write

Wrong

Silent H

Hour

Ghost

Honest

Silent T

Listen

Mortgage

Watch

Silent B

Thumb

Doubt

Plumber

Sometimes, even if a letter is silent, it can affect the way a word is pronounced. For example:

Silent L

Half

Calm

Talk

Can you think of some others?