

Silent  
I



yolk



talk



calf



walk



chalk

Silent  
g



sign



gnat



light



weight



gnome

Silent  
k



knife



knee



knight



knock



know



Silent  
b



crumb



climb



comb



lamb



thumb

Silent  
t



castle



fasten



listen



whistle



ballet



talk

Silent l



gnat

Silent g



knife

Silent k



crumb

Silent b



castle

Silent t



walk



weight

knight



comb



listen



yolk



sign



know



thumb



ballet



calf



light



knee



climb



fasten



chalk



gnome



knock



lamb



whistle

To make this item: Print on 8 1/2 x 11 cardstock, laminate, and cut cards apart. Leave the picture and word together. The aim of this work is not for the child to figure out the name of each picture (as in nomenclature cards), but to figure out the silent letter in each picture name.

Have the child put all of the “Silent \_\_\_” cards out across the top of a rug or table. Then have them put each picture/name card under the correct category. You can code the back of the cards with numbers or stickers so the child can check their work when finished.

This work is for children who are studying the Green Series words, as many silent letter combinations are Green Series words.

Some children may wonder why the English language has so many “silent letter” words. In many cases the words were borrowed from another language; the pronunciation changed, but the spelling stayed the same.

While silent letters can make it challenging to learn how to read and spell in English, sometimes they do have a purpose. There are homophones (words pronounced the same but spelled differently) that can be distinguished by the addition of a silent letter which is not heard in spoken English but seen in written English. For example, “to” becomes “too” with the addition of a silent “o” on the end.

There are other silent letters that you may want to introduce to the child—you can cut it out and put it with this work. This list is not exhaustive, just meant to be a starting point:

### Silent Letters: c, d, e, g, gh, and h

**Silent c**—c is not pronounced in the ending "scl":

muscle

**Silent d**—d is not pronounced in the following common words:

handkerchief      Wednesday

**Silent e**—silent e is at the end of many words (hope, cake) and it can be there for a variety of reasons: to make the vowel long, because English words do not end in “i, v, u, or j”, because each syllable needs a written vowel, to soften the “g” or “c” sound, and several other reasons.

**Silent g**—g is not often not pronounced when followed by an n:

foreign              feign  
sign                  reign  
reign

**Silent gh**—gh is not pronounced before t and at the end of many words:

thought              right  
through              fight  
daughter              weigh  
light                  might

**Silent h**—h is not pronounced when following w:

what                  why  
when                  whether  
where

**Silent h**—h is not pronounced at the beginning of some words. Use the article "an" with a silent h word:

hour                  herb  
honest                  heir  
honor                  heiress