

Talk a Lot

Clear Alphabet Dictionary

Silent Letters

Here are some good examples of items in the dictionary which have silent letters. The Clear Alphabet ignores letters which are not pronounced. Silent letters often occur because the vowel letters in unstressed syllables are converted into schwa sounds when we pronounce them; or when double letters represent one consonant sound, e.g. "ff" for f, and so on. Note: reading this list out loud is a good way of testing students' understanding of the use of the schwa sound in English pronunciation:

Normal Spelling:	CA Spelling:	Silent Letter(s) (in spelling but not pronounced):
autumn	Or tm	_____
build	Bild	_____
butter	Bu t	_____
candidate	Kan d dt	_____
cinema	Si n m	_____
criminal	Kri m nl	_____
customer	Ku st m	_____
debt	Det	_____
differ	Di f	_____
elephant	E l fnt	_____
escalator	E sk lei t	_____
giraffe	j Rarf	_____
gorilla	g Ri l	_____
guess	Ges	_____
illness	Il ns	_____
indicator	In d kei t	_____
knee	Nee	_____
manager	Ma n j	_____
mechanic	m Ka nik	_____
menopause	Me n porz	_____
minute	Mi nit	_____
muscle	Mu sl	_____
negative	Ne g tiv	_____
Norwich	No rich	_____
often	O fn	_____
orchestra	Or k str	_____
possible	Po s bl	_____
sausage	So sij	_____
school	Skool	_____
separation	se p Rei shn	_____
skeleton	Ske l tn	_____
sledge	Slej	_____
solicitor	s Li s t	_____
suggest	s Jest	_____
supporter	s Por t	_____
syllable	Si l bl	_____
terminal	Ter m nl	_____
thermometer	tt Mo m t	_____
together	t Ge th	_____
weather	We th	_____
what	Wot	_____
whatever	wo Te v	_____
whenever	we Ne v	_____
wrist	Rist	_____
wrong	Rong	_____
young	Yung	_____

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Answers:

<i>Normal Spelling:</i>	<i>CA Spelling:</i>	<i>Silent Letter(s) (in spelling but not pronounced):</i>
autumn	Or tm	n
build	Bild	u
butter	Bu t	t, er
candidate	Kan d dt	i, a, e
cinema	Si n m	e, a
criminal	Kri m nl	i, a
customer	Ku st m	o, er
debt	Det	b
differ	Di f	f, er
elephant	E l fnt	e, a
escalator	E sk lei t	a, or
giraffe	j Ra rf	i, f, e
gorilla	g Ri l	o, l, a
guess	Ges	u, s
illness	Il ns	l, e, s
indicator	In d kei t	i, or
knee	Nee	k
manager	Ma n j	a, er
mechanic	m Ka nik	e, h
menopause	Me n porz	o, e
minute	Mi nit	u, e
muscle	Mu sl	c, e
negative	Ne g tiv	a, e
Norwich	No rich	w
often	O fn	t, e
orchestra	Or k str	h, e, a
possible	Po s bl	s, i, e
sausage	So sij	a, e
school	Skool	h
separation	se p Rei shn	a, io
skeleton	Ske l tn	e, o
sledge	Slej	d, e
solicitor	s Li s t	o, i, or
suggest	s Jest	u, g
supporter	s Por t	u, p, er
syllable	Si l bl	l, a, e
terminal	Ter m nl	i, a
thermometer	tt Mo m t	er, e, er
together	t Ge th	o, er
weather	We th	a, er
what	Wot	h
whatever	wo Te v	h, er
whenever	we Ne v	h, er
wrist	Rist	w
wrong	Rong	w
young	Yung	o