



Silent letter	Examples
A	<i>artistically, dramatically, logically</i>
B	<i>climb, comb, crumb, debt, doubt, numb, plumb, thumb, tomb, subtle</i>
C	<i>acquit, victuals, acquire, czar, indict, Connecticut, muscle, scissors</i>
D	<i>grandson, handkerchief, sandwich, handsome, landscape, Windsor, Wednesday</i>
E	<i>rite, fame, serve, enclose, bridge, more, careful, clue, lonely, vogue, hope, <b>corpse</b>, fate</i>
F	<i>halfpenny</i>
G	<i>though, light, align, gnash, reign, champagne, diaphragm, high, gnaw, syntagm</i>
H	<i>hour, hurrah, Pooh, khaki, heir, Birmingham, exhaust, Thames, exhibition, ghost</i>
I	<i>business</i>
K	<i>know, knead, knot, knife, knickers, knell, knight, blackguard, knock</i>
L	<i>Lincoln, salmon, psalm, almond, calf, half, folk, yolk, Norfolk, chalk, calm, talk</i>
M	<i>mnemonic</i>
N	<i>autumn, solemn, condemn, damn, hymn, column</i>
P	<i><b>corps</b>, pneumonia, pseudo, psychology, coup, receipt, cupboard, psalm</i>
R	<i>myrrh, (in British English all r's are 'silent' before consonants as in <i>card</i> or before silence as in <i>car</i>)</i>
S	<i>island, isle, viscount, apropos, aisle, debris, bourgeois, Illinois</i>
T	<i>ballet, ricochet, Christmas, hasten, thistle, listen, castle, soften, mortgage</i>
U	<i>guest, questionnaire, guitar, catalogue, guilt, tongue, colleague, guide, dialogue</i>
W	<i>sword, answer, Greenwich, Norwich, write, two, wrist, writ, whore, whole, wretched</i>
X	<i>faux pas, Sioux</i>
Z	<i>rendezvous, chez</i>
<b>Why?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>historical change</i>: the sound has dropped out of the word over time but the spelling has not changed: <i>light, hope, knot</i></li> <li><i>addition of letters</i>: the letter was added to make the spelling more 'French' or 'Latin': <i>debt, victual, island</i></li> <li><i>difficult sound combinations</i>: The sound combination difficult to say: <i>handkerchief, sandwich</i></li> <li><i>borrowings</i>: the word was originally borrowed from another language, complete with spelling: <i>champagne, khaki, myrrh</i></li> </ul>