

It is sometimes difficult to look up a word in a dictionary if it starts with a silent letter. Below are some words which have silent letters at the beginning.

silent 'k'	silent 'w'	silent 'g'	silent 'p'
knee	write	gnat	psalm
know	wrist	gnaw	psychic
knuckle	wrong	gnash	psychology
knock	wrap	gnarl	psychiatry

As you can see 'k' is often silent before 'n'
'w' is often silent before 'r'
'g' is often silent before 'n'
'p' is often silent before 's'

Using these examples try and complete the following exercise:

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.

Some words have silent letters in the middle or at the end.

'l' is often silent before 'k' **folk**

'b' is often silent after 'm' **plumber**

'n' is often silent after 'm' **column**

't' is often silent after 's' **listen**

1. The yo__k of an egg.
2. Autum__ leaves.
3. Brush and com__.
4. Ta__king in your sleep.
5. Fas__en your seatbelt.
6. Lis__en to me!
7. My hands are num__ with cold.
8. Add up this colum__ of figures.

Howtospell

silent n	silent d	silent g	silent u	silent h	silent t	silent k
autumn	edge	gnome	guest	what	witch	knife
damn	hedge	gnarl	guess	when	fasten	knee
hymn	Wednesday	sign	guitar	why	castle	knot
column	handsome	resign	guard	which	watch	knitting
	handkerchief	design	building	whether	butcher	
	badge	foreigner	guilty	ghost	scratch	
	wedge		rogue	honest	listen	
			vogue	hour	match	
			biscuit	while	Christmas	
			tongue	white	mortgage	
				where	soften	
			rhythm	often		

silent b	silent L	silent w
lamb	almond	wrote
thumb	palm	write writing written
numb	yolk	wrist
crumb	calm	wriggle
climbing	salmon	wrinkle
bomb	calf	whole
comb	half	whole
doubt	chalk	wreck
plumber	talk	two
limb	walk	wrap
debt	folk	wrong