

Grammar and Spelling: Silent Letters

Name _____

Unfortunately, the sound of a word in English does not necessarily show us how that word will be spelled. This is really true of words with **silent letters**, which are letters that are not pronounced. To help with your spelling, it is very important to be aware of the very common words in English with silent letters.

Task 1: Look carefully at the sets of words below. Pronounce each set of words and decide which letter in each word is silent. Underline the letter and then write the letter in the space provided. The first group has been done as an example. Note: In the final set of words there are two silent letters.

	Silent Letter
1) <u>g</u> land, <u>g</u> o, <u>h</u> erbage	____ <u>h</u> ____
2) <u>l</u> etter, <u>u</u> rtle, <u>s</u> uffer, <u>l</u> etter, <u>w</u> atch, <u>m</u> atch, <u>s</u> witch	_____
3) <u>u</u> nwear, <u>w</u> rap, <u>h</u> oard, <u>u</u> rtal, <u>w</u> reck, <u>w</u> rite	_____
4) <u>g</u> overnment, <u>e</u> nvironment, <u>v</u> isitors, <u>v</u> isitors	_____
5) <u>d</u> efat, <u>d</u> acht, <u>p</u> lumber, <u>c</u> limber, <u>d</u> rank, <u>th</u> rank, <u>e</u> arth	_____
6) <u>w</u> hich, <u>w</u> here, <u>h</u> onest, <u>g</u> host, <u>r</u> hinger	_____
7) <u>k</u> new, <u>k</u> it, <u>k</u> iss, <u>k</u> nock, <u>k</u> not, <u>k</u> ode	_____
8) <u>g</u> uard, <u>g</u> uardian, <u>g</u> uess, <u>g</u> uide, <u>g</u> uitar	_____
9) <u>e</u> xtensive, <u>e</u> xtive, <u>e</u> xt, <u>m</u> uscle, <u>e</u> xtreme	_____
10) <u>h</u> andkerchief, <u>h</u> Wednesday, <u>n</u> onsense, <u>j</u> udge, <u>s</u> uffice	_____
11) <u>n</u> uptend, <u>r</u> ecipe, <u>p</u> erhaps	_____
12) <u>o</u> uld, <u>w</u> ould, <u>s</u> hould, <u>h</u> ill, <u>e</u> volve	_____
13) <u>t</u> ought, <u>e</u> ought, <u>th</u> ought, <u>d</u> aughter, <u>l</u> ight, <u>s</u> traight	_____