

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> usband	____h____
2) <u>l</u> etter, <u>u</u> rtle, <u>u</u> ffer, <u>l</u> etter, <u>w</u> itch, <u>m</u> atch, <u>s</u> witch	_____
3) <u>u</u> nter, <u>w</u> rap, <u>h</u> erd, <u>u</u> nt, <u>w</u> reck, <u>w</u> rite	_____
4) <u>g</u> overnment, <u>e</u> nvironment, <u>v</u> isitor, <u>v</u> isitor	_____
5) <u>d</u> efeat, <u>d</u> esert, <u>p</u> lumber, <u>c</u> limber, <u>d</u> rink, <u>th</u> rough, <u>e</u> arth	_____
6) <u>w</u> hich, <u>w</u> here, <u>h</u> onest, <u>g</u> host, <u>r</u> hyme	_____
7) <u>k</u> now, <u>k</u> it, <u>k</u> iss, <u>k</u> nock, <u>k</u> not, <u>k</u> iss	_____
8) <u>g</u> uard, <u>g</u> uarantee, <u>g</u> ame, <u>g</u> uide, <u>g</u> uitar	_____
9) <u>e</u> xtent, <u>e</u> xtend, <u>e</u> xtend, <u>e</u> xtend, <u>e</u> xtend	_____
10) <u>h</u> andkerchief, <u>h</u> Wednesday, <u>h</u> andkerchief, <u>j</u> udge, <u>s</u> ubject	_____
11) <u>n</u> ephew, <u>r</u> ecipe, <u>p</u> erhaps	_____
12) <u>o</u> uld, <u>o</u> uld, <u>o</u> uld, <u>h</u> ill, <u>e</u> xtend	_____
13) <u>t</u> hought, <u>o</u> ught, <u>th</u> ought, <u>d</u> aughter, <u>l</u> ight, <u>s</u> traight	_____