

Silent Letter Detectives

Listen for letters you do not hear.

2.2.B.ii "decoding words with silent letters such as knife and gnat;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

HAS A SILENT LETTER

A silent letter is written in the word, but you do not hear its sound when you say the word.

knock

NO SILENT LETTER

Each letter helps spell a sound you hear in the word.

cat

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each word, circle SILENT or SOUNDS, then pick two words and explain which letter is silent or how the letters make sounds.

1. gnat

SILENT

SOUNDS

2. sun

SILENT

SOUNDS

3. knee

SILENT

SOUNDS

4. lamb

SILENT

SOUNDS

5. flag

SILENT

SOUNDS

6. milk

SILENT

SOUNDS

7. wrist

SILENT

SOUNDS

8. fish

SILENT

SOUNDS

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word for SILENT and one new word for SOUNDS.

SILENT _____

SOUNDS _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with two silent-letter words. Underline each silent letter.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	gnat	SILENT	The g is silent.
2	sun	SOUNDS	Each letter helps spell a sound in sun.
3	knee	SILENT	The k is silent.
4	lamb	SILENT	The b is silent.
5	flag	SOUNDS	Each letter helps spell a sound in flag.
6	milk	SOUNDS	Each letter helps spell a sound in milk.
7	wrist	SILENT	The w is silent.
8	fish	SOUNDS	Each letter helps spell a sound in fish.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SILENT:** knit
- **SOUNDS:** map

Challenge: A gnome hurt his wrist.

For the challenge, the student should use two words with silent letters and mark the silent letter in each word.