Shh! Silent letters: answers

What your child practised: spelling words that start with kn and gn (say n) and wr (says r), as in the Year 2 spelling rules.

Page 1 · Warm up

The silent letters: **k**not · **g**nat · **w**rap · **k**nee

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check each word really starts with kn, gn or wr.

Page 2 · A. kn, gn or wr?

knock · **gn**ome · **wr**ap · **wr**ite
knee · **gn**at · **wr**ong · **kn**eel

Page 3 · B. Ring the right spelling

knee · **wrong** · **gnat**
write · **know** · **knock**

Page 3 · C. Fix the mistake

1. **knee** · 2. **write** · 3. **wrong**

Page 3 · D. Sort the words

kn: knit, knob
gn: gnaw, gnome
wr: wrist, wren

Challenge: No. It does sound the same, but knock is spelt with **kn**. Silent-letter words have to be remembered, so say it "the funny way": **k**-nock.

Watch out for

- **Leaving out the silent letter** (nee for knee, rite for write). Say the word "the funny way" with the silent letter sounded out.
- **The wrong silent letter** (gnock for knock). kn is the most common; gn is only in a few words, like gnome, gnat and gnaw.
- **write and right** sound the same but mean different things. Write is what you do with a pencil.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Funny voices:** take turns saying kn, gn and wr words with the silent letter sounded: "k-nee", "w-rite". Can the other person spell it?
- **Air writing:** your grown-up says a word; you write it in the air, making the silent letter extra big.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2 looks at word endings: -le and -el, like table and camel.