Name _____ Date _____

Shh! Silent letters

In kn, gn and wr, you can't hear the first letter.

1 Learn



Some words start with a letter you **can't hear**! In **kn**ock and **gn**ome, you hear **n**. In **wr**ite, you hear **r**. Shh!



knock

kn says **n**



gnome

gn says **n**



write

wr says **r**

Worked example: spell knee

1. Say it slowly: **n – ee**.
2. It starts with an **n** sound. Is it one of the silent-letter words? Yes: **knee** starts with a silent **k**.
3. Write the silent letter first, then the rest: **k n ee** → **knee**.

Flip's tip: the silent letter always comes **first**. Say the word in a funny voice with the silent letter in it, "**k**-nee", to help you remember!

Warm up: draw a ring round the silent letter.

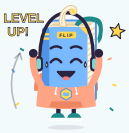
knot **gnat** **wrap** **knee**

Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud. There's no sound rule for these: children learn which words have the silent letter, so saying them "the funny way" really helps.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Silent-letter hunt

You need: a storybook and a pencil.

1. Look through the book for words that start with **kn**, **gn** or **wr**.
2. When you find one, point to the silent letter and whisper **"shh!"**
3. Write the word in the right column.

Words to look out for: know, knew, knock, knight, knee, write, wrote, wrong, wrap, gnome, gnat.

kn	gn	wr

Grown-ups: gn words are rare, so it's fine if that column stays empty. Most books have lots of know, knew, write and wrote.

3 Practise

A. Look at the picture. Write **kn**, **gn** or **wr**.



___ock



___ome



___ap



___ite

Now try these without pictures.

___ee **___at** **___ong** **___eel**

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B. Draw a ring round the right spelling.

nee / knee	**wrong / rong**	**nat / gnat**
rite / write	**know / gnow**	**nock / knock**

C. Each sentence has a spelling mistake. Write the word correctly.

1. I hurt my **nee**. _____
2. Mia can **rite** her name. _____
3. Sam got the answer **rong**. _____

D. Sort the words. Write each one in the right box.

knit · wrist · gnaw · knob · wren · gnome

kn	gn	wr
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Challenge

Ava wrote **gnock** for **knock**. "The g is silent, so it sounds right!" she says. Is she right?

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ spell words that start with kn, like knock
- ☐ spell words that start with wr, like write
- ☐ remember gn words, like gnome