

SS3.

Topic : SILENT LETTERS.

In English pronunciation, a silent letter -a term used informally -is a letter or combination of the alphabet that is usually not pronounced in the words. Examples include the /b/ in subtle, the /c/ in scissors, the /g/in design, the /t/in listen, and the /gh/ in thought.

Types of Silent Letter.

1. Auxiliary Letters : They are part of a group of letters that spell a sound that does not a usual single letter to represent it. Examples include:

*/th/thing,there.

*/sh/ share.

*/zh/ treasure .

*/ng / song.

2. Dummy Letters : They have two subgroups :

(a) Inert Letters (b) Empty Letters.

(a) Inert Letters :they are letters in a given word .Segments are sometimes heard and sometimes not heard. For example :

*resign (g is not heard)

*resignation (g is heard)

*malign (g is heard)

Empty Letters : do not have a function like auxiliary letters or Inert letters. For example, the letter /u/ in the word gauge is empty. Here are some examples of Silent Consonants :

*/b/ dumb, thumb, bomb.

*/c/ indict

*/ch/ yacht /

*/d/ bridge, ledge, edge.

/g/ foreign, sign, design, assign.

*/h/ rhinoceros, spaghetti

/k/ knee, knit, knob, know, knuckle, knowledge, knife, knock.

*/l/ calf, talk, could, should, would.

*/m/ mnemonic

*/n/autumn,column

*/P/raspberry, receipt

*/t/ castle, listen, whistle

*/w/ answer, wrap, wreath, wreck, wring, wrong, write.

*/d/ adjective, adjunct, adjacent

*/g/ is silent in the spelling sequence, gm or gn : phlegm, gnarl, champagne, sign, gnat, gnaw.

*/h/ is silent in the spelling sequence gh and in the word-final position : ghost, ghetto, aghast, ghastly.