

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 86 • SILENT CONSONANTS: & **SILENT &**

Wheeler's Elementary Speller — Page 47

“Study words containing silent initial k (*knife, knee*) and silent final b (*lamb, thumb*). ‘Some say that little children should be like these silent letters — *seen but not heard!*’”

CONCEPT

1 Silent Letter Detective — Cross out the silent letter in each word, then copy neatly:

SILENT AFTER <M>

dumb, crumb, thumb, numb, lamb, climb, doubt, debt

SILENT <K> BEFORE <N>

knot, knob, knock, knit, knife, knee, kneel, knew

2 Morphology & Suffix Doubling — Add -ed or -ing to root words with silent k:

knot + ed →
(Double the t)

knob + ed →
(Double the b)

knit + ing →
(Double the t)

3 Sentence Composition — Write sentences using silent letter words:

Sentence 1 (Use *lamb* and *climb*):

Sentence 2 (Use *knock* and *knife*):

SILENT CONSONANT RULES TO REMEMBER:

1. Silent K before N (KN-): When *k* precedes *n* at the start of a syllable (*knee, knife, knot, know*), the *k* is completely silent (/n/).

2. Silent B after M (-MB): When *b* follows *m* at the end of a word (*lamb, thumb, crumb, climb*), the *b* is completely silent (/m/).

3. Silent B in Doubt & Debt: In *doubt* and *debt*, the letter *b* is silent, inserted during the Renaissance to honor Latin roots *dubitare* and *debitum*.

LESSON 86 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

SILENT CONSONANTS: K & B

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PATTERN	SAMPLE WORDS	HISTORICAL ORIGIN	PEDAGOGICAL & ORTHOGRAPHIC NOTES
Silent initial <k>	knot, knife, knee, knock	Old English /kn-/	Loss of onset — /k/ was sounded in Anglo-Saxon; now silent /n/.
Silent final 	dumb, crumb, thumb, lamb	Old English -mb	Loss of stop — bilabial stop /b/ assimilated into preceding nasal /m/.
Etymological <bt>	doubt, debt	Latin <i>dubium</i> , <i>debitum</i>	Silent b — Renaissance scribes inserted silent b to mark Latin origin.
1-1-1 Doubling	knotted, knobbed, knitting	Root monosyllables	Doubling law — silent k does not affect CVC consonant doubling.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

EX. 1 & 2 SOLUTIONS

- Silent B Cancelled: dumb, crumb, thumb, numb, lamb, climb, doubt, debt.
- Silent K Cancelled: knot, knob, knock, knit, knife, knee.
- Doubled Participles: knotted, knobbed, knitting.

EX. 3 EXEMPLARY SENTENCES

- Sentence 1: "The gentle white lamb began to climb the grassy hillside."
- Sentence 2: "He heard a loud knock upon the door while carving bread with a dull knife."

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Seen but not heard: Ask: "Why do we keep silent letters if we do not pronounce them?" (They show family history and prevent confusion, like knot vs not!).
- Renaissance Debt: Point out that debt came from French dette, but English added silent b to remember Latin debitum.
- 1-1-1 Doubling: Verify that students remember to double the final consonant in knotted and knitting.

DICTATION & ORAL APPLICATION SENTENCES (READ SLOWLY AT NORMAL SPEAKING PACE):

- "The little lamb ate a soft bread crumb from my thumb."
- "Tie a tight knot around the wooden door knob."
- "She will kneel down to knit a warm woolen pair of mittens."
- "There is no doubt that he knew the correct spelling word."