

Business English silent letters and syllables pronunciation practice

What do the words in each of the columns below have in common?

Category 1	Category 2
1. <u>w</u> rite	1. secondary
2. <u>k</u> now	2. monet <u>a</u> ry union
3. an <u>s</u> wer	3. trav <u>e</u> ller
4. recei <u>p</u> t	4. trav <u>e</u> lling
5. list <u>e</u> n	5. brand prefer <u>e</u> nce
6. sign	6. interest rates
7. <u>w</u> hole	7. aver <u>a</u> ge
8. bud <u>g</u> et	8. gener <u>a</u> l
9. sci <u>e</u> ntist	9. gener <u>a</u> lly
10. <u>p</u> sychographics	10. Annual Gener <u>a</u> l Meeting
11. wh <u>i</u> te knight	11. inter <u>e</u> sting
12. <u>k</u> nowledge	12. nation <u>a</u> l
13. mort <u>g</u> age	13. nation <u>a</u> lise
14. deb <u>t</u>	14. nation <u>a</u> lly
15. deb <u>t</u> or	15. busin <u>e</u> ss interests
16. foreig <u>n</u> exchange	16. invent <u>o</u> ries
17. advertising campai <u>g</u> n	17. natur <u>a</u> l
18. social clim <u>b</u> ing	18. territ <u>o</u> ry
	19. fact <u>o</u> ry
	20. corpor <u>a</u> te

Mark those two features on each word.

Add the missing letter which is spelt but not pronounced in each word below.

- w_ite-collar worker
- resi_n
- wei_hting
- _holesale
- office _ours
- ve_icle
- gover_ment
- enviro_mental
- ha_f-time job
- hi_hly recommended
- whis_le-blowing
- dis_onest
- ex_hibition

Test each other in pairs, saying any of the words and expressions in the three sections above and asking your partner to spell them, making sure that you don't pronounce the silent letter and syllables.

Suggested answers

Category 1 – words with silent letters	Category 2 – words with syllables which disappear when we speak quickly/naturally
1. <u>w</u> rite 2. <u>k</u> now 3. an <u>s</u> wer 4. recei <u>p</u> t 5. list <u>e</u> n 6. sign 7. <u>w</u> hole 8. bud <u>g</u> et 9. sci <u>en</u> tist 10. <u>p</u> sychographics 11. wh <u>i</u> te knight 12. <u>k</u> nowledge 13. mort <u>g</u> age 14. deb <u>t</u> 15. deb <u>t</u> or 16. forei <u>g</u> n exchange 17. adverti <u>s</u> ing campaign 18. social clim <u>b</u> ing	1. second <u>a</u> ry 2. monet <u>a</u> ry union 3. trav <u>e</u> ller 4. trav <u>e</u> lling 5. brand prefer <u>e</u> nce 6. inter <u>e</u> st rates 7. aver <u>a</u> ge 8. gener <u>a</u> l 9. gener <u>a</u> lly 10. Annual Gener <u>a</u> l Meeting 11. inter <u>e</u> sting 12. nation <u>a</u> l 13. nation <u>a</u> lise 14. nation <u>a</u> lly 15. busi <u>n</u> ess interests 16. invent <u>o</u> ries 17. natur <u>a</u> l 18. territ <u>o</u> ry 19. fact <u>o</u> ry 20. corpor <u>a</u> te

- white-collar worker
- resign
- weighting
- wholesale
- office hours
- vehicle
- government
- environmental
- half-time job
- highly recommended
- whistle-blowing
- dishonest
- exhibition