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. write	1. secondary
2. know	2. monetary union
3. answer	3. traveller
4. receipt	4. travelling
5. listen	5. brand preference
6. sign	6. interest rates
7. whole	7. average
8. budget	8. general
9. scientist	9. generally
10. psychographics	10. Annual General Meeting
11. white knight	11. interesting
12. knowledge	12. national
13. mortgage	13. nationalise
14. debt	14. nationally
15. debtor	15. business interests
16. foreign exchange	16. inventories
17. advertising campaign	17. natural
18. social climbing	18. territory
	19. factory
	20. corporate

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_ibition

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. write	1. secondary
2. know	2. monetary union
3. answer	3. traveller
4. receipt	4. travelling
5. listen	5. brand preference
6. sign	6. interest rates
7. whole	7. average
8. budget	8. general
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- white-collar worker
- resign
- weighting
- wholesale
- office hours
- vehicle
- government
- environmental
- half-time job
- highly recommended
- whistle-blowing
- dishonest
- exhibition