

Support for English Learners

Unit 34, page 216: Silent Consonants

Some students may have difficulty understanding that some consonants are not pronounced. They may try to pronounce every consonant.

Listen

Display a word card for the Basic Word *comb*. Say the word, and explain that the ending sound is /m/. The consonant *b* is silent. Say: *Let's listen to the ending sound in comb. Say /m/, /mmm/, elongate the /m/ sound as part of the word comb, then say comb.*

Continue with the Basic Words *wrinkle*, *calm*, and *listen*.

Speak and Read

Say: *Let's practice saying the ending sound in comb: /m/, /mmm/, comb. Repeat with the /r/ sound in the Basic Word *wrinkle*, with the /f/ sound in the Basic Word *half*, and with the /s/ sound in the Basic Word *listen*.*

Write *comb*, *wrinkle*, and *half* on the board and circle *mb*, *wr*, and *lf*. Say: *The ending sound in comb is spelled m-b. The b is silent. The beginning /r/ sound in wrinkle is spelled w-r. Which letter is silent? The ending /f/ sound in half is spelled l-f. Which letter is silent?* Have students point out the silent letters in each word.

Spell

Beginning/Preproduction Write the Basic Words *comb*, *kneel*, *honest*, *wreath*, *yolk*, *often*, and *answer* on the board. Explain that there is a silent consonant in each word. Say each word slowly and have students identify the silent consonant. Have volunteers come to the board and cross out the silent letter. Then have students write the words in their word-study notebooks.

Early Production/Speech Emergent Write the Basic Words *com_*, *_neel*, *_onest*, *_reath*, *yo_k*, *of_en*, and *ans_er* in columns on the board. Distribute the letter cards *b*, *k*, *h*, *w*, *l*, and *t* to pairs of students. Say each word aloud and have students take turns taping the letter cards under the appropriate words.

Intermediate/Advanced Explain to students that you are going to describe a Basic Word for them to guess. Say: *I am thinking of a Basic Word with five letters. It has a silent b at the end. What is the word? (climb)* Say: *I am thinking of a Basic word with five letters. It starts with a silent k. What is the word? (kneel)* Continue with other Basic Words. Have students write the words in their word-study notebooks and underline the silent consonants.

