

Silent letters and rhyming words activities

Read the poem below and do the activity or activities here that your teacher says:

- Work together to read through the poem below, making sure that the two lines which are together rhyme, e.g. that line three rhymes with line four. One person should say just line one, then the next person should say lines two and three, then the next person lines four and five, etc, so the two rhyming words are said by different people each time.
- Listen as your partner reads out the first ten lines of the poem and correct them if any of the pairs of lines don't rhyme. They will then do the same as you read the next ten lines.
- Listen as your partner reads out the poem with silent letters wrongly pronounced, then correct them on their deliberate mistakes.
- Listen as your partner reads out the poem, underline any letters in the final words of the lines which they don't pronounce, then discuss which letters you underlined and if there are any other silent letters.
- Work together to underline the silent letters in the final words of the lines below, using the rhymes with the matching words to help. There is one silent letter in each pair of lines.

Ask about anything you don't understand, are not sure how to pronounce, etc.

Do the matching and/ or gapfill tasks below.

Look at lists of silent letters online, try to think of rhyming words, then do one of these activities:

- Challenge another group to think of rhyming words for words with silent letters
- Read out the word with a silent letter and the word you thought of, and see if the other group agree that they rhyme
- Read out the word and rhyming word and see if the other group can identify the silent letter

Silent letters poem

There are many mountains that I want to climb
I will do one this evening if I have the time

My birthday treat is one chocolate biscuit
But I'm on a diet – I shouldn't risk it

I shouted out for a hip-hop dancer
But from the street there was no answer

It took some time to walk down the aisle
From the door to the priest was more than a mile

The priest asked us to sing a hymn
But it was difficult to do both that and swim

He asked me to repay my debt
But my money was all far too wet

I wish that I was much more handsome
Then my wife would pay my ransom

I really need a new steam iron
But instead I bought another lion

The police want me to take off my hood
But my hair is a mess, so I don't think I should

Cavemen didn't use a comb
Having neat hair was invented in Rome

I nearly bought the whole of Oxford Street
But the man on the corner wouldn't give a receipt

Mary had a little lamb
But she swapped it for my can of Spam

The tarantula asked to be let out
I shouldn't have done it, without a doubt

He asked to join me in my tomb
But with me and my car there won't be room

A typical hitchhiker's thumb
Is much improved if you stick on a plum

Matching rhyming words

Thinking about rhyme and meaning, find a matching line for each line on the left.

There are many mountains that I want to climb	But I'm on a diet – I shouldn't risk it
My birthday treat is one chocolate biscuit	But from the street there was no answer
I shouted out for a hip-hop dancer	But instead I bought another lion
It took some time to walk down the aisle	But it was difficult to do both that and swim
The priest asked us to sing a hymn	But my hair is a mess, so I don't think I should
He asked me to repay my debt	But my money was all far too wet
I wish that I was much more handsome	But she swapped it for my can of Spam
I really need a new steam iron	But the man on the corner wouldn't give a receipt
The police want me to take off my hood	But with me and my car there won't be room
Cavemen Britons didn't use a comb	From the door to the priest was more than a mile
I nearly bought the whole of Oxford Street	Having neat hair was invented in Rome
Mary had a little lamb	I shouldn't have done it, without a doubt
The tarantula asked to be let out	I will do one this evening if I have the time
He asked to join me in my tomb	Smells and looks better if you stick on a plum
A typical hitchhiker's thumb	Then my wife would pay my ransom

Check above.

Second rhyming word gapfill

Write a rhyming word in each gap below, thinking about the pronunciation and meaning, making sure that you don't pronounce the silent letters in the words at the end of the lines.

There are many mountains that I want to climb
I will do one this evening if I have the _____
My birthday treat is one chocolate biscuit
But I'm on a diet – I shouldn't risk _____

I shouted out for a hip-hop _____
But from the street there was no answer
It took some time to walk down the aisle
From the door to the priest was more than a _____

The priest asked us to sing a hymn
But it was difficult to do both that and _____
He asked me to repay my debt
But my money was all far too _____

I wish that I was much more handsome
Then my wife would pay my _____
I really need a new steam iron
But instead I bought another _____

The police want me to take off my _____
But my hair is a mess, so I don't think I should
Cavemen didn't use a comb
Having neat hair was invented in _____

I nearly bought the whole of Oxford _____
But the man on the corner wouldn't give a receipt
Mary had a little lamb
But she swapped it for my can of _____

The tarantula asked to be let _____
I shouldn't have done it, without a doubt
He asked to join me in my tomb
But with me and my car there won't be _____

A typical hitchhiker's thumb
Smells and looks better if you stick on a _____

-----fold, cover or cut-----

Use these mixed answers to help:

Rome	Spam	Street
answer	hood	it
lion	mile	out
plum	ransom	room
swim	time	wet

First rhyming word gapfill

Write a rhyming word with a silent letter in each gap below.

There are many mountains that I want to _____

I will do one this evening if I have the time

My birthday treat is one chocolate _____

But I'm on a diet – I shouldn't risk it

I shouted out for a new dancer

But from the street there was no _____

It took some time to walk down the _____

From the door to the priest was more than a mile

The priest asked us to sing a _____

But it was difficult to do both that and swim

He asked me to repay my _____

But my money was all far too wet

I wish that I was much more _____

Then my wife would pay my ransom

I really need a new steam _____

But instead I bought another lion

The police want me to take off my hood

But my hair is a mess, so I don't think I _____

Cavemen didn't use a _____

Having neat hair was invented in Rome

I nearly bought the whole of Oxford Street

But the man on the corner wouldn't give a _____

Mary had a little _____

But she swapped it for my can of Spam

The tarantula asked to be let out

I shouldn't have done it, without a _____

He asked to join me in my _____

But with me and my car there won't be room

A typical hitchhiker's _____

Is much improved if you stick on a plum

-----fold, cover or cut-----

Use these mixed answers to help:

aisle
climb
doubt
iron
should

answer
comb
handsome
lamb
thumb

biscuit
debt
hymn
receipt
tomb