

## Silent Letters

**T**he letter *k* in the word *knitting* is silent; that is, it is not pronounced. Silent letters appear in the spelling of many English words. In the conversation below between two *English Teaching Forum* readers, there are blanks for some words that contain silent letters. Can you fill in the blanks with letters to spell the appropriate words? In each missing word, the silent letter is given to you. (For example, in “Don’t forget to \_\_\_ **B** your hair,” the missing word would be *comb*—the *b* is silent.) Numbers in brackets, such as [1] and [2], at the end of a sentence correspond with the answers you will find in the Answer Key.

Forum Reader A: **\_H\_ \_** are you doing? [1]

Forum Reader B: I’m knitting a sweater.

A: That looks like fun.

B: So, do you like to knit?

A: I’m not sure. To tell you the truth, I don’t **K\_ \_ \_** how. [2]

B: I can teach you. All you have to do is watch me and **\_ \_ \_ T \_ \_** to my directions. I’ll tell you what to do. [3]

A: Thanks! I’d like to learn. I don’t have much time now, **\_ \_ \_ U G H**. Maybe some other time. [4]

B: Why don’t you come to my knitting circle? It’s a club I’m in. We get together to knit and chat for a few **H\_ \_ \_ \_**. It’s fun! [5]

A: But I’m not a member of your knitting circle.

B: No problem! You can come as my **\_ U \_ \_ \_**. Everyone will welcome you. [6]

A: It sounds interesting. When do you meet?

B: We meet **\_W\_** times a week, on Mondays and **\_ \_ D \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_**. [7], [8]

A: That sounds great! Thank you! Oh, by the way, **W\_ \_** is the sweater for? [9]

B: It’s for a close **\_ \_ I \_ \_ \_** of mine. She lives in a **\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ G \_** country, halfway around the world, so I’ll have to send it to her. In fact, she lives on an **\_ S \_ \_ \_ \_**, surrounded by water. [10], [11], [12]

A: Is the weather cold there?

B: Not in the summer. But it’s cool in the **\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N** and winter. [13]

A: Well, I hope she likes the sweater.

B: So do I. And I hope it fits her, too. I’m a little bit afraid it’s going to be the **W\_ \_ \_ \_** size! [14]

ANSWERS TO *THE LIGHTER SIDE*  
**SILENT LETTERS**

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. What   | 8. Wednesdays |
| 2. know   | 9. who        |
| 3. listen | 10. friend    |
| 4. though | 11. foreign   |
| 5. hours  | 12. island    |
| 6. guest  | 13. autumn    |
| 7. two    | 14. wrong     |