

# Unlocking the Key to the Silent E

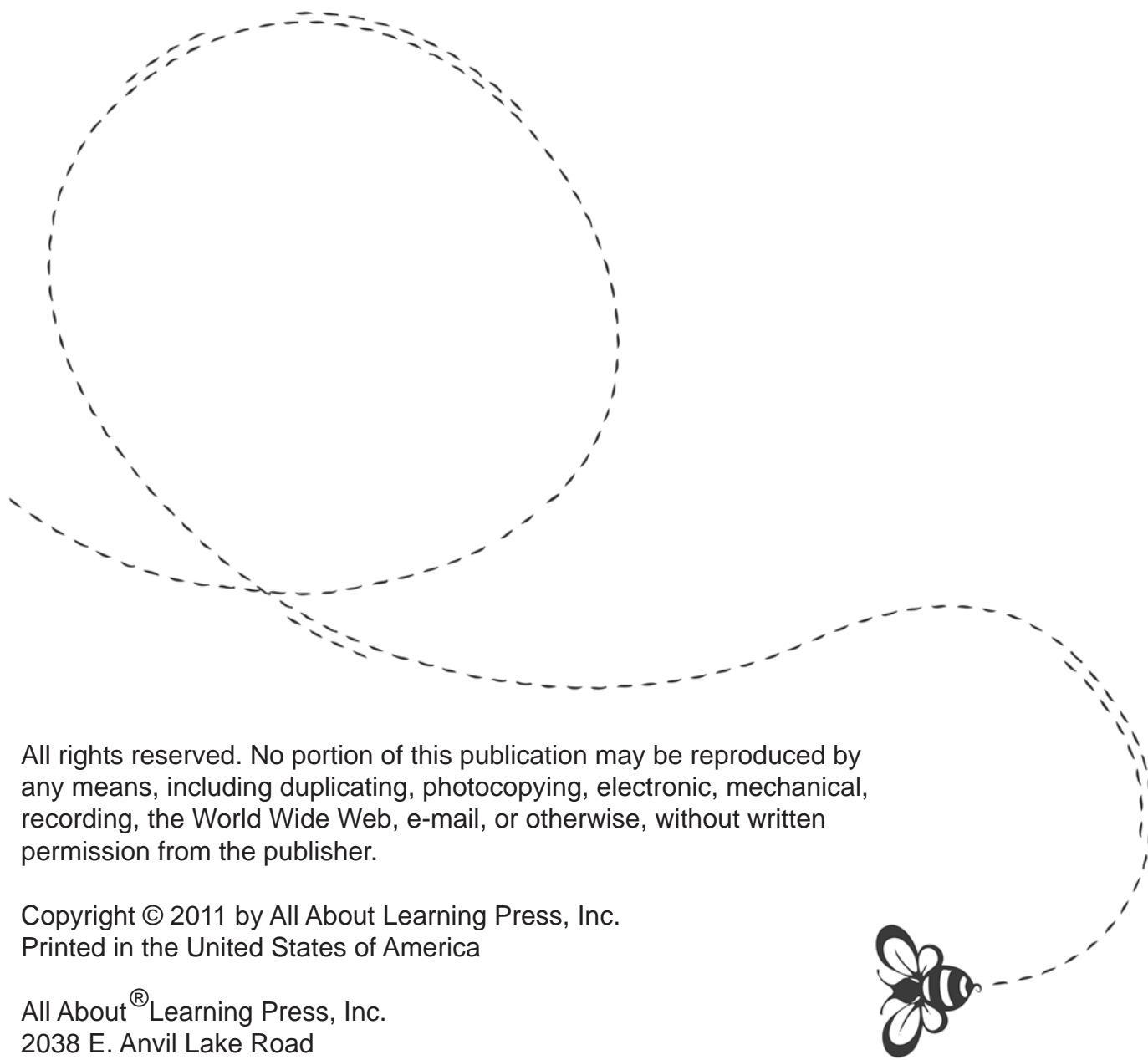
an Easy Spelling Key™ booklet



by  
*Marie Rippel*

 ALL ABOUT *Spelling*

Level 2



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# Welcome to *Unlocking the Key to the Silent E!*

Silent E is an important letter in the English language. It doesn't make a sound, but it performs five different jobs. This booklet is designed to help you teach your child about the jobs of Silent E, which will enable them to become better readers and spellers.

Here's what you will find on the pages that follow:

For your use as the teacher:

- A summary of the five jobs of Silent E (pages 4-5)
- Tips for Teaching the Five Jobs of Silent E (page 6)
- Silent E Word Bank (page 7)

For your child's use:

- An introduction to the Detective Dog (page 8)
- Five printable sheets for your child to record the Silent E words (pages 9-13)

Enjoy teaching your child about Silent E!

*Marie Rippel*

# The Five Jobs of Silent E

Silent E has five different jobs in the English language:

## **Job 1: Silent E makes the vowel before it long as in the word *name*.**

This is the most common job of Silent E, and it is the job that children are most familiar with. More examples include *cake*, *hide*, *joke*, and *cute*.

## **Job 2: Silent E gives c and g a soft sound.**

The letter c normally says /k/ as in the word *cat*. But if c is followed by an e, it says /s/ as in *cent* and *space*. The /s/ sound is considered the soft sound of the letter c.

Likewise, g normally says /g/ as in *goat*. But if g is followed by an e, it can say /j/ as in *gem* and *large*.

## **Job 3: Silent E keeps u and v from being the last letter in a word.**

In English, words normally don't end in u or v, so Silent E helps out. Some examples include *clue*, *have*, and *true*.

## **Job 4: Silent E adds a vowel to a C+le syllable.**

What is a C+le syllable? It is a syllable that ends in a consonant and the letters le. (The letter C stands for *consonant*.) Examples include *table*, *maple*, *pickle*, and *riddle*. See how each of those words ends in a consonant followed by an le?

There is a rule in English that every syllable must have a vowel. That's why Silent E is added to the last syllable of the above words. Without Silent E, these words wouldn't have a vowel in the last syllable.

**Job 5: Handyman E takes care of the jobs the other e's don't cover.**

If a word contains Silent E but doesn't fit into the first four categories, it is a Handyman E.

- Handyman E keeps a singular word from ending in s. For example, the word *goose* would look like *goos* without the Silent E at the end.
- Handyman E can be found in words where the e used to be pronounced. An example is the word *come*.
- Handyman E is added to distinguish between two words, like *or* and *ore*.

# Teaching the Five Jobs

Introduce one job of the Silent E at a time. After one job is mastered and your child is ready, move on to the next job.

On the next page is a Word Bank of Silent E words. After your child has learned one of the jobs of Silent E, dictate words from that section of the Word Bank. When your child knows several jobs of Silent E, randomly dictate words from those several sections and have your child put the words on the correct page.

Your child may notice that some words fall into two categories. For example, the Silent E in the word *place* makes the a long and gives the c a soft sound. In that case, your child can enter the word in either or both categories.

# Silent E Word Bank

## Job 1:

plate	smile	hide	size	trade	these
hope	lone	use	home	June	lake

## Job 2:

fence	large	ice	since	hinge	grace
place	twice	fringe	range	age	wage

## Job 3:

clue	give	twelve	glue	have	curve
hive	glove	brave	live		

## Job 4:

little	maple	handle	middle	candle	puzzle
title	bubble	able	uncle	staple	gentle

## Job 5:

are	nurse	please	mouse	loose	ore
goose	house	were			

# Help the Detective Dog Find the Clues!

The Detective Dog is looking for words with Silent E. The next five pages contain summaries of the jobs of Silent E, along with space to record the Silent E words.

Help the Detective Dog put the words on the correct page!





# Job #1

Silent E makes the vowel  
before it long.

1. note

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.



## Job #2

Silent E gives c and g a soft sound.

1. space

2. page

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.



## Job #3

Silent E keeps u and y from being the last letter in a word.

1. due

2. love

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.



## Job #4

Silent E adds a vowel to a  
C + le syllable

1. table

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.



## Job #5

Silent E takes care of the jobs  
the other e's don't cover.

1. are

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

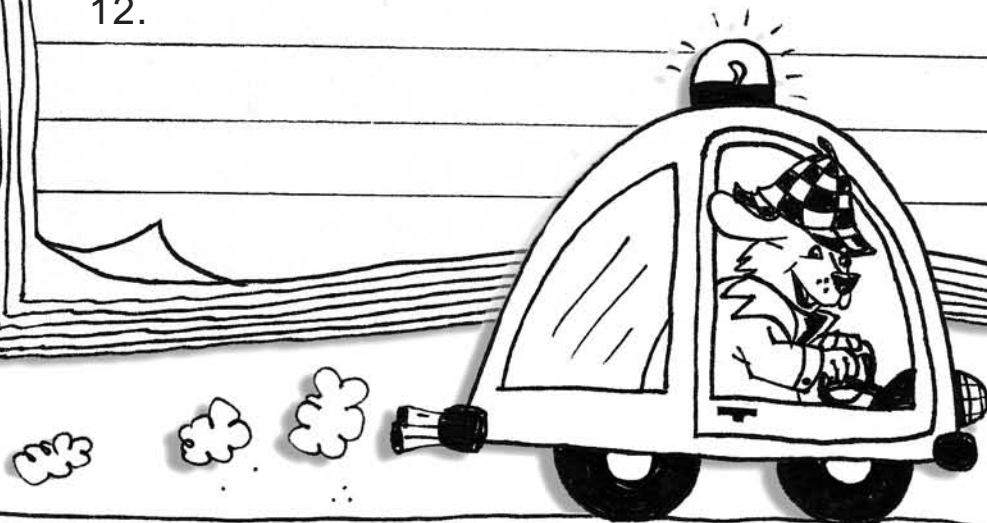
8.

9.

10.

11.

12.





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