

The Many Jobs of Silent E



Converting the preceding vowel to a long sound is only *one* of the important duties that Silent E performs. The versatile and multi-tasking Silent E actually has seven different jobs.

- 1** **Job #1:** Silent E makes the vowel sound before it long, as in *plate* and *wrote*.
- 2** **Job #2:** Silent E can make **c** and **g** soft, as in *dance* and *large*.
- 3** **Job #3:** Silent E keeps **i**, **u**, and **v** from being the last letter in a word, as in *pie*, *true*, and *give*.
- 4** **Job #4:** Silent E can show that the word is not plural, as in *dense*, *tease*, and *lapse* (which would otherwise look like *dens*, *teas*, and *laps*).
- 5** **Job #5:** Silent E adds a vowel to syllables with the consonant + l - e syllable pattern, as in *bundle* and *puzzle*.
- 6** **Job #6:** Silent E makes **th** say its second sound, /~~th~~/, as in *teethe* and *bathe*.
- 7** **Job #7:** Silent E clarifies the meaning of the word, as in the word pairs *by* → *bye* and *aw* → *awe*.

Silent E can also be added to Rule Breakers, such as *come*, *are*, *where*, *shoe*, *were*, and *one*. In these words, the reason for Silent E isn't obvious.