Chapter 4: More About Silent-E
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Introduction to Silent-e Exceptions

Now it is time to learn more about silent-e. You have already learned that silent-e changes the sounds of a vowel from short to long. In this chapter, you will see how silent-e can also change s sounds to z sounds. You already do this without even realizing it when you say certain words! Another thing you will learn is that most, but not all, words follow the silent-e rule. You will learn about exceptions to the silent e rule and practice reading them. At the end of this chapter, you will truly be a silent-e expert!

These are the things we are going to do in Chapter 4:
1. Learn more about z and s sounds in silent-e words
2. Read some common silent-e exceptions
3. Practice both the z and s silent-e words and silent-e exceptions

Read as much of the text as you can, but remember to ask for help if you get stuck. The silent-e words are in orange. The exceptions are in this color: magenta.
The Magician Silent-e with s

In the last chapter, you saw that silent-e could turn any short vowel into a long one: short-a into long-a, short-e into long-e and so on. Here’s another bit of magic that silent-e does: it can turn s sounds into z sounds!

In us, the s sounds like an s. In fuse, a silent-e word, the s sounds like a z. Say the words again, holding onto the last sound.

us   ssss
fuse  zzzz

Z and s have similar sounds. To figure out the difference between them, put your hand on your throat and say “ssss.” Now say “zzzz.” Feel the buzz? Z has the buzz but s does not.
In silent-e words, the s sound will change to z sound, except when the s comes after an a or ou. Now keep your hand on your throat and say these words. Try to feel or hear whether the s sounds like a z or a s sound. Don’t forget that you can always ask for help!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>these</th>
<th>close</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mouse</td>
<td>chose</td>
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<tr>
<td>rise</td>
<td>cheese</td>
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<tr>
<td>wise</td>
<td>please</td>
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<tr>
<td>nose</td>
<td>chase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>base</td>
<td>use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rose</td>
<td>house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Listening for z and s sounds

Read these sentences and try to listen for the s and z sounds.

My brother got me wet with the hose. I got mad, but I was wise. I chose to go in the house and close my door. I do not want trouble.

Kim does not smell like a rose, she smells like cheese. Her pet mouse used his nose and chased her all day.
Can you use your toes to smell a rose?

Can you use your nose to close a door?

Can you use a hose to start a fire?

Can you use these to cut a cake?
Silent-e Exceptions

In the last chapter, you learned that the silent-e rule makes the vowel long and the e silent. Words almost always follow this rule, but some words are troublemakers that break the rules. Instead of having a long vowel because of the e at the end, the troublemakers have a different sound—usually a short vowel.

**have**  **come**  **none**  **give**

The silent-e rule says that the troublemakers should have long vowel sounds like in the words:

**shave**  **home**  **bone**  **hive**

The word *Nike* is really weird because the e is not silent!
These words are in detention because they broke the rules. They look like silent-e words but they don’t follow the silent-e rule. You might know some of them already. Try to remember all of them so you do not get fooled.

Look at the words in the detention room. These words, like almost all silent-e exceptions, have a v, n, or m before the e.

Look at the words that are having a good time outside because they followed the rules. Read a couple of them just for fun.
Here are some more troublemakers that are really different and do not follow the silent-e rule:

```
are were lose
move maybe
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Now practice reading these words:

My dad says that maybe we will move to a new house. My brother and I are happy now, but we were afraid we would lose our friends if we left our old town.
Introduction to The Fries

The Fries is about a boy who takes a dare. Did you ever take a dare? Reading this story will help you practice exceptions to the silent-e rule.

Challenge Words

The Fries has some big words you might not recognize right away. Before you start the story, make sure you know how to read these words:

super better mouth inside hundred
My brother said, “Give me those fries. If I eat them all, I will win a prize!”
I said, “No one can eat all that; they’re super super-sized!”
“Come on, no one in this place could eat that many. You’re not gonna win a penny!”
My brother said, “I’ll prove it”
So I said, “You had better move it!”
I was sure that my brother was going to lose, but he started to shove those fries in his mouth by twos. He ate and ate and ate like a fox, until none were left inside the box.
I never thought I’d see the day, when a hundred fries would go fast that way. He looked at me when he was done, and said, “I sure made myself sick, but hey, that was lots of fun!”
Introduction to *Kid on the Run*

You have seen pigeons all over the city. Doves are the same kind of bird. Did you ever think they could make trouble for you? Read this story and find out how much trouble they can cause. *Kid on the Run* also has more exceptions to the silent-e rule.

![Image of a pigeon](image)

**Challenge Words**

*Kid on the Run* has some big words you might not recognize right away. Before you start the story, make sure you know how to read these words:

- café
- awe
- chirp
- hover
- heart
- rubber
KID ON THE RUN
I was walking down the street today,
and do you know what I saw?
Two doves sitting at a café,
staring at me in awe.
The doves just started chirping, as they hovered there, up above. Then they started making rings. No, it was a heart for love.
So, I looked around for some other person, but I didn’t see anyone. The doves just kept on chirping loudly, like some sort of song in the sun.
Then, from where they were in the clouds, bird droppings began to come. I ran to find some cover, but all around there was none. I looked at the birds as they still hovered. I was a kid on the run.
I saw a glove on the floor. It was rubber, like some of them are. I ran faster than ever before, grabbed it, and ducked behind a car.
The birds flew over the car, to drop a bit more poop. So I stretched the glove back really far, and then I let it shoot.
The birds had fallen to the street and I didn’t even need to use my boot. Those doves won’t try to bomb me anymore.

What’s this in my hair -- OH SHOOT.
The Detective Game

Now you are almost finished with this chapter, and it’s time to play the Detective Game!

Detective Mack Jackson is very busy, so he needs more people on his team to help get some information about the stories in this chapter. Use your memory and your detective skills to help him get some answers!

You read two stories in this chapter: The Fries (Page 10), and Kid on the Run (Page 25). Pick your favorite story and find Detective Jackson’s list of questions.

You might want to spend a couple minutes reviewing the story with your tutor before moving on, and you might need to look at it again after you start the questions. That’s okay! The better you know the story, the better your answers will be.

Before you start, read the directions and make sure you know the meaning of all of the words in the Detective Game Dictionary.
The Tower Game

Let’s play the Tower Game! You get two dominoes to start. Every time you read a word right, you get another domino from your tutor. See how tall you can make your tower and don’t let your tutor win! …

1. love
2. give
3. dime
4. dine
5. come
6. done
7. home
8. save
9. bone
10. hose
11. above
12. cane
13. some
14. one
15. pole
16. ripe
17. shove
18. none
19. rude
20. here
The Tower Game: 2

Let’s play the Tower Game! You get two dominoes to start. Every time you read a word right, you get another domino from your tutor. See how tall you can make your tower and don’t let your tutor win! ...

1. rose
2. cute
3. made
4. are
5. some
6. have
7. none
8. bone
9. glove
10. size
11. lose
12. cover
13. bake
14. like
15. place
16. here
17. have
18. were
19. come
20. ace