## Spelling list: Silent t words

Watch out for the silent t in these words!

The origins of *silent t* words can be traced back to the history of the English language itself. Many of these words have their roots in Old English, where the *t* was actually pronounced.

However, as the language evolved over centuries, and absorbed influences from French and Latin, the pronunciation of the *t* gradually faded away. The evolution of language isn't only about adding new words but also about adapting existing ones to new phonetic patterns.

Use the *Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check* activity to learn these words. When you 'say' each word, pronounce the *t* like in Old English to help you remember it's there.

fasten I **fasten** my coat before going outside.

hasten Jim turned up the oven heat to **hasten** the cooking.

glisten Frost can **glisten** in the sunlight.

listen I like to **listen** to the radio in the car.

moisten I **moisten** a cloth and clean the window.

apostle Mark was an **apostle** of Christ.

thistle **Thistle** flowers are beautiful.

whistle The referee blew his **whistle** at the end of the game.

wrestle We saw the policeman **wrestle** the burglar to the ground.

mortgage We'll need a bigger **mortgage** to buy a bigger house.

Christmas is a busy time of year.