

Phonological definitions of elision and assimilation, with simple examples:

### 1. Elision (Phonology)

Definition:

Elision is the omission (deletion) of a sound—usually a vowel or consonant—in connected speech. It occurs to make pronunciation faster or easier.

Examples:

/t/ or /d/ deletion in clusters

next day → /neks deɪ/ (the /t/ is elided)

friendship → /frenʃɪp/ (the /d/ is elided)

Vowel elision

every → /evri/ instead of /evəri/

camera → /kæmrə/ instead of /kæməərə/

H-elision

him → /ɪm/ in rapid speech (Tell him → /tel ɪm/)

### 2. Assimilation (Phonology)

Definition:

Assimilation is a phonological process where a sound becomes more like a neighboring sound in terms of place, manner, or voicing.

Types and Examples:

#### a. Place Assimilation

One sound changes its place of articulation to match the next sound.

input → /ɪmpʊt/ (the /n/ becomes bilabial /m/ before /p/)

ten boys → /tem bɔɪz/ (the /n/ becomes /m/ before /b/)

## b. Manner Assimilation

One sound becomes pronounced with a similar manner of articulation.

good night → /gʊn naɪt/ (the /d/ becomes nasal /n/ before /n/)

## c. Voicing Assimilation

A consonant changes to match the voicing of a neighboring sound.

of course → /əf kɔ:s/ (the /v/ becomes voiceless /f/ before /k/)

have to → /hæv tu:/ (the /v/ becomes /f/)

## Summary

Elision = sounds deleted in fast/connected speech.

Assimilation = sounds become more similar to adjacent sounds.

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That's right, the word plumber does have a silent /b/.

😬 Examples of Silent /b/

The letter b is often silent when it follows the letter m at the end of a word.

Here are some common examples of words with a silent /b/:

Climb (as in to climb a ladder)

Comb (as in a hair comb)

Dumb (as in not able to speak or unintelligent)

Lamb (as in a baby sheep)

Limb (as in an arm or leg)

Numb (as in lacking feeling, like a frozen finger)

Thumb (as in the short, thick finger on your hand)

Tomb (as in a burial chamber)

Another less common pattern is when the b precedes a t:

Dett (pronounced like "det")

Subtle (pronounced like "suttle")

Would you like to know about other silent letters in English?

That's a great request! English is full of silent letters, which can make spelling tricky, but they often follow predictable patterns.

😬 Common Silent Letters in English

Here are some of the most common silent letters, along with examples:

1. Silent K (Usually before N)

The k is silent when it appears at the beginning of a word followed by n.

- \* Know (pronounced: no)
- \* Knife (pronounced: nife)
- \* Knee (pronounced: nee)
- \* Knit (pronounced: nit)
- \* Knock (pronounced: nock)

## 2. Silent W (Usually before R)

The w is often silent when it appears at the beginning of a word followed by r.

- \* Write (pronounced: rite)
- \* Wrong (pronounced: rong)
- \* Wrist (pronounced: rist)
- \* Wrap (pronounced: rap)
- \* Wreck (pronounced: reck)

> Note: The W is also silent in a few common words like who and whole.

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## 3. Silent L (Often after A, O, U)

The l is often silent when it comes after the vowels a, o, or u.

- \* Calm (pronounced: cahm)
- \* Talk (pronounced: tawk)
- \* Walk (pronounced: wawk)
- \* Should (pronounced: shood)
- \* Could (pronounced: cood)
- \* Salmon (pronounced: sammon)

## 4. Silent H

The h can be silent, particularly at the beginning of a word derived from French (like hour) or when it follows a g or r.

- \* Honest (pronounced: onest)
- \* Hour (pronounced: our)
- \* Ghost (pronounced: gost)
- \* Rhythm (pronounced: rhythm)
- \* Technique (pronounced: technique)

## 5. Silent P (Usually before S or N)

The p is often silent when it appears at the beginning of a word followed by s or n (often in words related to the mind or medicine).

- \* Psychology (pronounced: sychology)
- \* Pneumonia (pronounced: neumonia)
- \* Pseudonym (pronounced: seudonym)
- \* Coup (pronounced: coo)