

Silent Letters. — In many words one or more letters are used that are not sounded at all. Such letters are called silent letters, and are usually not marked. Name the silent letters in the following words: —

wāke	ōft'en	light	taught
bōat	měad'ow	stāirs	ēarn
bēach	thick	heārts	hān'dle

PUNCTUATION

In whatever you read you will find, besides the words, certain marks called *punctuation marks*. These marks are used to help make the meaning clear.

A **period** (.) is used at the end of a complete statement, as: —

All the children are happy to-day.

A **question mark** (?), or interrogation point, is used at the end of a question, as: —

Do you know why?

An **exclamation mark** (!) is used after words or sentences that express pleasure, surprise, or some other sudden thought or feeling, as: —

Oh, look at the moon!

A **comma** (,) is used to separate the parts of a sentence.

The **semicolon** (;) and the **colon** (:) are also used between the parts of a sentence, but where the separation is more distinct than that shown by a comma.

A **hyphen** (-) is used at the end of a line when a word is divided and part of it carried to the next line, as in the second line on page 10.

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SECOND READER.

delectar
spēll

lēt'ter

rēad'er

fīrst

lē'son

rēad'y



THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

All the children are happy to-day. Do you know why? It is the first day of school.

Henry has a new ball, and all the boys want to look at it. When play time comes, they will have fine fun with it.