

# Silent H in English

## Let's look at words that start with a silent H in English.

Most of the time, we pronounce **H** in English, but there are several words that contain a silent **H**.

Note: This is not a complete list of words with a silent **H**. These are just the words that start with a silent **H**.

### 1) heir

This is pronounced exactly the same way as "air". It is not pronounced "hair".

UK: /eə(r)/

US: /er/

The **H** is also silent in "**heiress**" and "**heirloom**".

### 2) honest

UK: /'ɒn.ɪst/

US: /'ɑː.nɪst/

The **H** is also silent in "**honesty**", "**honestly**", "**dishonest**", "**dishonesty**" and "**dishonestly**".

### 3) honour (UK), honor (US)

UK: /'ɒn.ə(r)/

US: /'ɑː.nər/

The **H** is also silent in "**honourable**", "**honourably**", "**dishonour**", "**dishonourable**" and "**dishonourably**".

(US: **honorable**, **honorably**, **dishonor**, **dishonorable** and **dishonorably**)

## 4) hour

UK: /aʊə(r)/

US: /aʊr/

The **H** is also silent in **"hourglass"** and **"hourly"**.

## 5) herb

**!** Most speakers of American English do not pronounce the **H** in **"herb"**, but it is pronounced in standard British English.

UK: /hɜ:b/

US: /ɜ:rb/

The same rules apply to **"herbal"** and other words that begin with **"herb"**.