

The long **i** sound spelled with “i + silent **gh**” as in “**night**”

sight, site, cite

The Homonyms’ Theory: Perhaps this “**igh**” spelling pattern of the long “**i**” was used or accepted into English to tell apart homonyms like “**sight**,” “**site**,” and “**cite**.” Once the “**igh**” pattern was created or accepted to tell apart specific words, more words ended up being spelled with it.

igh = i

To tell apart “sight” and “site”

Compare: Compare “**sit**” with “**sight**.” The “**i**” in “**sit**” does not sound like the name of the letter **I**. Without the silent “**gh**,” we would have the word “**sit**” not “**sight**,” and the “**i**” in “**sit**” has the unique short “**i**” sound.



Compare short **i** with long **i**, and then compare homonyms of long **i**:

lit, **light**

nit, **night**

knit, **knight**

fit, **fight**

frit, **fright**

flit, **flight**

slit, **sight**

sit, **sight**

mitt, **might**

hit, **height**

bit, **bight**

bight, **bite**

sight, **site**, **cite**

might, **mite**

right, **write**, **rite**

play·**wright**

high, **hi**

higher, **hire**, **heir**



The “**igh**” phonic occurs in approximately **95** words; read them aloud slowly:

night

night·time

over·**night**

mid·**night**

night·mare

night·light

night·gown

night·dress

night·shirt



night·in·gale

knight

knights

light	day·light	night·light
spot·light	high·light	twi·light
de·light	en·light·en	en·light·ened
en·light·en·ing	en·lighten·ment	light·weight
light·er	light·est	light·ly



slight	slight·est	slight·ly
plight	plight·ed	plight·ing
blight	flight	flights
 right	right·ful	right·eous
right·ness	right·ist	right·wing
right·handed	a·right	down·right
copy·right	bright	bright·er
bright·est	bright·en	bright·ened
bright·en·ing	fright	fright·en
fright·ened	fright·ful	play·wright
 sight	sight·ed	in·sight
in·sights	hind·sight	sight·seeing

sight·seer

near·sighted

far·sighted



up·tight

tight

tight·er

tight·est

tight·en

tight·ened

tight·en·ing

tight·ens

tight·wad



might

might·y

al·might·y

might·ly

fight

bull·fight

bight

bights

height

heights

height·en

height·ened



high

high·er

high·est

high·ly

high·way

high·light

thigh

thighs

sigh