

## PART 1: SILENT S DEEP DIVE

### Mini-Lecture: Why is S Silent?

**Teacher says:** "In English, some letters are 'ghost letters' - we write them but don't pronounce them. Today we focus on SILENT S."

#### Rules for Silent S:

1. **Before consonants:** island, isle, aisle
2. **French/Latin origins:** debris, rendezvous, chassis
3. **Specific word patterns:** mesquite, Arkansas (place names)
4. **Historical reasons:** Often from old French or Latin where S was dropped in pronunciation but kept in spelling

#### Most Frequently Used Words:

**Island** /'aɪ.lənd/

**Aisle** /aɪl/

**Debris** /də'brɪ:/ or /'deb.rɪ:/

**Corps** /kɔːr/ (military)

**Illinois** /,ɪl.ə'nɔɪ/ (US state)

**Arkansas** /'ɑːr.kən.sɔː/ (US state)

**Rendezvous** /'rɑːn.deɪ.vuː/

**Viscount** /'vaɪ.kɑʊnt/ (noble title)

**Apropos** /,æp.rə'pɒz/ (regarding)

**Chassis** /'ʃæs.i/ (vehicle frame)

**Lisle** /laɪl/ (type of thread)

**Isle** /aɪl/ (small island)

#### Pronunciation Practice:

- "I live on an **island** with no **social media**."
- "Clean the **debris** from your **desk**."
- "Meet me at our usual **rendezvous**."