

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY



PHOTO – GRAEME WOOD / RICHMOND NEWS

Chak Au is standing next to a bus shelter in Richmond. The sign is mostly printed in Chinese.

LEVEL 3

City of Richmond says signs in bus shelters must be in English

Bus shelters are good places to advertise. Signs in bus shelters advertise real estate, toothpaste, credit cards, beer, entertainment and more.

Most signs in bus shelters in Richmond are written in both Chinese and English. In 2015, 58% of sign permits were for “mixed language” signs.

Recently, Budweiser put up an ad that was all in Chinese. People complained. Budweiser took the sign down.

Chak Au is a city councillor in Richmond. He is concerned about the language on signs.

Au says signs need to change

Au says that if people don't read Chinese they cannot understand all the information on the sign.

Bus shelters are owned by the city. Recently, the City of Richmond decided that signs in bus shelters must be more English than Chinese.

Future signs in bus shelters must be at least 50% in English. Signs on private businesses do not have to be in English.



PHOTO – GRAEME WOOD / RICHMOND NEWS

People in Richmond complained about this Budweiser beer sign.

The City of Richmond wants its community to be inclusive and multi-lingual. That will require that all people can understand the signs.

Private business is being encouraged to use English on their signs.



PHOTO - STEVE BOSCH / VANCOUVER SUN

Many private business signs are completely in Chinese. They are like this sign at a shopping mall.

Did you know....

Residents of Richmond speak over 21 different languages:

- 84% speak English at work
- 16% speak other languages or more than one language at work

The most common languages spoken are English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Chinese, and Taiwanese.

Most of the immigrants to Richmond come from China, Philippines and Taiwan.

The total population of Richmond in 2016 is 213,891.

Source: Language Hot Facts – City of Richmond

Story adapted from *The Vancouver Sun and Richmond News*



PHOTO - LES BAZZO / VANCOUVER SUN

Other agencies want everyone to understand important safety and public information.

WorkSafeBC, libraries and hospitals all publish information in many languages.

Exercise

Answer Key - Silent letters - g, k, w

1. sign
2. knee
3. knit
4. wreck
5. gnat
6. know
7. knife
8. wrote
9. resigned
10. wrench

Exercise

Silent letters – g, k, w

‘Sign’ is a word used in this story. It sounds like ‘sine’. The ‘g’ is silent.

Letters that are sometimes silent are: g, k and w

‘g’ is silent when paired with ‘n’

‘k’ is silent when paired with ‘n’

‘w’ is silent when paired with ‘r’

Examples:

gn	kn	wr
sign	know	wrote
gnat	knit	wreck
resign	knife	wrench
gnaw	knee	write

Directions:

Use a word from the lists above to fill in the blank.

1. The _____ in the bus shelter advertises toothpaste.
2. Joan fell and hurt her _____.
3. My friend _____ a sweater.
4. Two cars crashed. They caused a _____.
5. The _____ landed on my nose.
6. I _____ how to spell a lot of words.
7. I cut my meat with a sharp _____.
8. I _____ a story about my work.
9. I didn't like my job, so I decided to _____.
10. I used a _____ to turn the bolt.