

## Worksheet 1

# The Missing Angel

## *Identify the Missing Letter*

The English language is derived from many different languages and is notoriously difficult to spell due to the many varied rules. Spelling common letter clusters at the ends of words can be tricky as many of them sound the same but interchange certain vowels. For example 'ible' and 'able' sound the same but are used differently in many commonly used words.

**Task 1:** Insert the letter 'i' or 'a' to spell each highlighted word correctly:

1. I have a special invitation to something **unbeliev\_\_bly** exciting.
2. In the middle of the floor stood a display case. Inside was a **remark\_\_ble** statue.
3. Infrared beams...all around the case. Like an **invis\_\_ble** fence – all around the statue.
4. Stealing the golden angel would be – I think the word is “**imposs\_\_ble**”.
5. Arthur thought no more of the golden angel – until the **unthink\_\_ble** happened.
6. As you can see, there are just two doors – both **access\_\_ble** after hours only by the magnetic key – each one absolutely unique and **uncopi\_\_ble**.
7. Four of them have **poss\_\_ble** motives – but of those two have a watertight alibi.

**Task 2:** Another example of a tricky end cluster is 'ance' and 'ence'. Insert the letter 'a' or 'e' to spell each highlighted word correctly.

1. Needless to say, no one knows a thing about the **disappear\_\_nce**.
2. At the back of that folder are profiles on the six high **clear\_\_nce** personnel.
3. Just in case, the police have them under 24-hour **surveill\_\_nce**.
4. He came to the museum after a stint at a 'think tank', where he specialised in artificial **intellig\_\_nce** and robotics.

Now use a dictionary or spellchecker to check your answers.

**Task 3:** Research the origins of 'able' and 'ible'. Are there any rules of thumb to help you identify the correct use of each one? Present a spelling lesson to the class explaining the difference between the two end clusters offering clues on the correct use of each.

### Extension Activity:

- Infrared beams are often used in famous art galleries as a form of security. A common household object that you probably use every day with an infrared beam is the trusty television remote control. Write an informative text explaining how a remote control works.