

The /k/ sound

There are five ways to spell the /k/ sound

c k -ck ch -que

When to use C

At the beginning of words followed by short vowel ǎ,ŏ,ǔ or followed by a consonant (e.g. cl)

cat, cot, cup cod, can, copper, call,

club, clip, clap

In the middle of a word followed by short vowel ă,ŏ,ŭ or followed a consonant (usually t)

scat, scamp, scuff, Scott (skull and skunk are exceptions!)
act, elect,

At the end of a multi-syllabic word

music, rustic, frolic, manic, panic, frantic

When to use **k**

At the beginning of words followed by short vowel ĭ,ĕ or y kip, kitten, kiss, kennel, Kyle, kipper

In the middle of a word followed by short vowel ĭ,ĕ or y skim, sky, skeleton (skull and skunk are exceptions!)

/k/ in the middle of split digraph or after a vowel team or a consonant (split digraph) bike, lake, cake, make, duke, spoke, fluke, (Vowel team) crook, beak, cloak, soak, week, (After a consonant) prank, sank, task, mask, flask

When to use -Ck

At the end of a one-syllable word following a short vowel back, speck, lock, duck, pluck, muck (also mucky etc..)

When to use **ch**

Not as common, only found in words that come from the Greek language. chemist, mechanic, chord, character

When to use -QUE

Not as common, only found in words that come from the French language. It is usually at the end of words.

opaque, plaque, technique

