

[k] Spelled or

CK-12 English

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AUTHORS

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[k] Spelled <ch> or <lk>

[k] spelled <ch> as in "school" or <lk> as in "chalk"

[k] Spelled <ch> or <lk>



Most of the words in English that contain the sound [k] spelled <ch> come from old Greek words with chi.

We borrowed the letters of our alphabet from the Romans. The Romans had borrowed their alphabet from a group of people called the Etruscans, who had borrowed theirs from the Greeks. One of the Greeks' letters looked like our <X>. It was called *chi*, pronounced [kī], and it spelled the sound [k]. When we borrowed Greek words that contained chi, we changed the spelling from <x> to <ch>, still pronounced [k] - as in words like *chorus*, *school*, and *Christmas*.

There is one other spelling of [k] that is worth a special look. In a few words [k] is spelled <lk> - as in *chalk*. A long time ago the <l> was pronounced, but no longer.

Examples

The following words contain a <ch> spelling of [k].

school anchor christmas

The following words contain an <lk> spelling of [k] where the <l> is no longer pronounced.

talk walk stalk

Review

1. Underline the <ch> spellings of [k] in each of the following words.

orchestra	school	architect	psychiatrist
chorus	chaos	echo	scholar
chronicle	mechanic	character	orchid
ache	schedule	scheme	chord
psychology	chemical	anchor	Christmas
monarch	stomach	technical	chlorophyll

2. Sort the words into the three groups described below.

Words in which [k] is spelled <ch> . . .

at the front	in the middle		at the end

[Figure1]

3. All of the following words contain an <l> that is usually no longer pronounced. Six of them end in the sound [k] spelled <lk>. Sort the sixteen words into the four groups described below.

salmon	talk	stalk	halve
walk	yolk	palm	chalk
folk	halfway	psalm	calves
calf	calm	salve	behalf

Words that end . . .

<lk>	<lf>	<lm>	<lve>

[Figure2]

4. In the words in which [k] is spelled <lk>, what letter usually is right in front of the <l>? _____. In words in which [k] is spelled <lk>, what other letter sometimes is right in front of the <l>? _____. In words that end <alk>, which does the <a> spell: [a] or [o]? _____. In words that end <olk>, which does the <o> spell: [o] or [ō]? _____.

Review (Answers)

1.

<i>orchestra</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>architect</i>	<i>psychiatrist</i>
<i>chorus</i>	<i>chaos</i>	<i>echo</i>	<i>scholar</i>
<i>chronicle</i>	<i>mechanic</i>	<i>character</i>	<i>orchid</i>
<i>ache</i>	<i>schedule</i>	<i>scheme</i>	<i>chord</i>
<i>psychology</i>	<i>chemical</i>	<i>anchor</i>	<i>christmas</i>
<i>monarch</i>	<i>stomach</i>	<i>technical</i>	<i>chlorophyll</i>

2.

Words in which [k] is spelled <ch> ...

at the front	in the middle		at the end
<i>chorus</i>	<i>orchestra</i>	<i>scheme</i>	<i>ache</i>
<i>chronicle</i>	<i>psychology</i>	<i>anchor</i>	<i>monarch</i>
<i>chaos</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>technical</i>	<i>stomach</i>
<i>chemical</i>	<i>mechanic</i>	<i>psychiatrist</i>	
<i>character</i>	<i>schedule</i>	<i>scholar</i>	
<i>chord</i>	<i>architect</i>	<i>orchid</i>	
<i>Christmas</i>	<i>echo</i>		
<i>chlorophyll</i>			

3.

salmon	talk	stalk	halve
walk	yolk	palm	chalk
folk	halfway	psalm	calves
calf	calm	salve	behalf

Words that end ...

<lk>	<lf>	<lm>	<lve>
<i>walk</i>	<i>calf</i>	<i>salmon</i>	<i>salve</i>
<i>folk</i>	<i>halfway</i>	<i>calm</i>	<i>halve</i>
<i>talk</i>	<i>behalf</i>	<i>palm</i>	<i>calves</i>
<i>yolk</i>		<i>psalm</i>	
<i>stalk</i>			
<i>chalk</i>			

4. In the words in which [k] is spelled <lk>, what letter usually is right in front of the <l>? a. In words in which [k] is spelled <lk>, what other letter sometimes is right in front of the <l>? o. In words that end <alk>, which does the <a> spell: [a] or [o]? o. In words that end <olk>, which does the <o> spell: [o] or [ō]? ō.

1.0 REFERENCES

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