You hear a word that begins with the k sound.

Does it start with c? k? or ck?

**Rules:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. ck</th>
<th>2. k</th>
<th>3. c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Words do not start with ck. | Use a k when the k sound is followed by:  
  1. e  
  2. i  
  3. y  
  key, kitchen | Use c to start a word, when the k sound is followed by anything else.  
  (a, o, or any consonant)  
  cat, cop, click |

As with most rules, there are exceptions. In the dictionary, you will find words that start with k and are followed by letters other than e, i, or y, but most of the time, these are words from another language that have made it into the English language and you will probably not use most of them.

A few exceptions: koala, kangaroo, Kate

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Starts with c or k?

The words below have the first letter (which makes a k sound) missing. Using the rules that you have learned, write c or k to finish the word. In the box after each word, write 2 or 3 to show which rule you used.

itchen ey
at one
racker ick
ite iss
ept andy
an oin
ill it
inky etchup
loud eg
old eep
lose lock
ar ash
id ast
ap idney
ing ab

Tip: Read the word endings. Go back and add the k sound to the beginning. Determine which rule applies to select c or k.

Teacher Tip:
Make a game out of the activity by writing one word at a time on the board. Split class into teams, first team to guess (c or k) correctly scores a point.

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# Starts with a C or K? Gameboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>___lose</th>
<th>___old</th>
<th>___loud</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___ar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___inkky</td>
<td>___oin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___id</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___ill</td>
<td>___in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___an</td>
<td>___itten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___ept</td>
<td>___ruckt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___ite</td>
<td>___iwi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___one</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___racker</td>
<td>___oal</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ick</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___at</td>
<td>___elp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___iss</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___itchen</td>
<td>___ind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___andy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Start</td>
<td>___up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___idney</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___it</td>
<td>___eg</td>
<td>___eep</td>
<td>___ash</td>
<td>___een</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use as a game or worksheet.