

Reading words with C and Spelling the sound of /k/

C is the most common spelling of the sound of /k/. (This clue is in the Spelling Sound Dictionary)

cut

camp

coke

cup

actor

C say /s/ before e, i and y.

city

cent

circus

cycle

The letter k is a substitute for c when the sound of /k/ is followed by e, i, or y.

kept

kit

skin

keep

lake

risky

See the exercise that follows

Spelling the sound of /k/

Here is a good exercise. We know how to spell these words by memory. However if we did not know what letter these words started with, we could still spell them correctly if we understand the clues.

Given the directions: "The following words all start with the sound of /k/. How do you spell these words applying the clues from the previous page?"

(The letter k is a substitute
the sound of /k/ is followed

for c when
by e, i, or y.)

_ot

_it

_iss

_are

_ept

_amp

_ite

_at

_itten

So we can answer the question, "Why do we spell cat with a c and kitten with a k?"