K Sound Word List

The back of the tongue humps up and touches the soft palate at the back of the mouth, then releases. The tongue tip stays down and relaxed.



SOUND
/k/

TYPICAL AGE
By age 3-4

TYPE
Voiceless Velar stop

PRACTICE TIP

If the child says "tea" for "key," they are fronting. Try having them lie on their back - gravity pulls the tongue back and helps the /k/ pop out.

Initial Position (108 words)

The sound is at the beginning of the word.


cat


cup


key


cow


car


cake


kite


king

These and 69 more pictured words are in the K Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

52 words

cat	cage	carve	colt	cut
cup	calf	case	cone	keep
key	call	cash	cook	kick
cow	calm	catch	cool	kid
car	camp	cave	cork	kind
cake	can	coal	cost	kiss
kite	cane	coast	couch	kids
king	cap	code	count	cart
corn	cape	coil	cub	
coat	card	coin	cuff	
comb	care	cold	curl	

2 Syllables

48 words

cookie	cactus	cattle	couple	kayak
candy	camel	cocoon	courage	kennel
carrot	candle	collar	cousin	kernel
kitchen	canoe	color	cover	ketchup
cabbage	canyon	copper	cowboy	kettle
kitten	captain	copy	cozy	kitty
castle	carpet	costume	cuddle	kiwi
coffee	carriage	cottage	curtain	cooking
cabin	carton	cotton	cushion	
cable	cartoon	country	custard	

3 Syllables

6 words

camera	calendar	coconut
kangaroo	koala	coyote

4 Syllables

2 words

caterpillar	koala bear

High-frequency initial words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

could, coming, came, called, kids, cut, cold, catch, calling, careful, kept, caught, count, calls, keeping, keeps, color, carrying, kicked, cooking, carried, kissed, counting, kicking, cooked, colors, cuts, kisses, carries, counted

Medial Position (88 words)

The sound is in the middle of the word.



These and 57 more pictured words are in the K Sound picture cards.

2 Syllables

74 words

monkey	napkin	duckling	peacock	tricky
cookie	taco	echo	pickle	uncle
jacket	doctor	falcon	picnic	walking
bucket	turkey	freckle	pinky	weekend
pocket	vacuum	hiccup	rocking	yucky
rocket	acorn	hockey	rocky	thank you
chicken	anchor	locker	secret	ice cream
sticker	ankle	lucky	shaky	breakfast
bacon	backpack	marker	sneaker	baking
blanket	basket	market	soccer	biking
pumpkin	biscuit	mascot	sprinkler	cooking
raccoon	broken	nickel	stocking	checkers
second	buckle	nickname	tacos	raincoat
package	cupcake	pancake	ticket	looking
necklace	donkey	parking	tickle	

3 Syllables

13 words

bicycle	bakery	mechanic	porcupine	apricot
acrobat	balcony	mosquito	recover	
alarm clock	encourage	popcorn ball	vacation	

4 Syllables

1 word

helicopter

High-frequency medial words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

okay, because, talking, looking, actually, thinking, working, exactly, taking, making, become, taken, asking, speaking, across, quickly, broken, became, drinking, weekend, breaking, knocking, becomes, cooking, kicking, fixing, fixes

Final Position (107 words)

The sound is at the end of the word.


book


duck


sock


cake


milk


lake


rock


bike

These and 62 more pictured words are in the K Sound picture cards.

1 Syllable

100 words

book	pink	desk	oak	steak
duck	cheek	dock	park	stork
sock	brick	elk	peak	stuck
cake	chalk	flake	peek	take
milk	bank	flock	pick	talk
lake	beak	fork	poke	tank
rock	black	hawk	quack	thick
bike	break	honk	rack	think
snake	brook	hook	rake	tick
truck	buck	ink	rink	trick
clock	chick	joke	sack	trunk
block	chunk	junk	shake	wake
stick	click	kick	silk	week
back	cloak	knock	sink	wink
look	cluck	lick	skunk	yolk
walk	cook	lock	snack	link
work	crack	luck	sneak	leak
shark	creek	make	spark	pack
drink	dark	mask	stack	hike
thank	deck	neck	stalk	check

2 Syllables

7 words

backpack	mistake	magic	music
milkshake	sidewalk	plastic	

High-frequency final words

Everyday words rather than picture-card words - which is why most lists leave them out. A child already says these hundreds of times a day, so they carry more carryover value than any noun above. Target them in conversation, not in drill.

think, take, make, thank, took, drink, week, break, broke, spoke, weak, woke, thick, drank

Generalization

Word lists get a sound into a child's mouth. Generalization is what gets it into their life. These are activities where the target words come up on their own, so nobody has to be talked into practicing.

Play-based ideas for young children

Toy kitchen cooking

Cook pretend food together. Let them stir, taste and serve, and name everything you pick up as you go.

Words that come up: cook, cup, cake, cookie, carrot, corn, cut, hot, pancake, taco, milk, cold, kitchen, coffee

Car ramp and crash

Race toy cars down a ramp into a stack of blocks. Rebuild and repeat - the repetition is the point.

Words that come up: car, crash, go, back, knock, quick, stuck, kick, truck, block, pick, take, look, again

Cardboard box house

Turn a box into a house or cave for small toys. Cut a door, color it in, decide who lives there.

Words that come up: box, cut, color, cave, key, knock, come in, look, inside, hide, dark, make, take, cozy

Conversation and verbal games for older kids

Categories

Name things in a category until someone is stuck. Kitchens, clothes, countries, colors and animals with claws all start you in /k/.

Cooking show

Narrate making a snack, step by step, like a TV chef. Cook, cup, cut, mix, bake and "okay" are constant.

Keep or toss

Go through an imaginary box of stuff and decide what to keep. "Keep," "could," "cool" and "okay" run through the whole game.