

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 178 • HARD C AS IN CAN (C = K = /k/) C = K (/k/) BEFORE A, O, U

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 93

Cardinal Orthographic Law • The Hard Sound of Letter C

The letter **c** has its **hard sound (like k, /k/)** when followed by the vowels **a, o, u**, or by consonants (**l, r**):

CONCEPT

12 Target Words: *căn-dle, crā-dle, cōr-ner, cūs-tom, cōt-tage, cōp-per, cāt-tle, cār-rot, cār-pet, cāb-in, cōl-lar, cām-el.*

1

Vowel Environment Sorting: ca-, co-, cu- • 26px Track
Sort the 12 words by the vowel following the hard c:

Hard c before a: *can-dle • cra-dle • cat-tle • car-rot • car-pet • cab-in • cam-el*

Hard c before o: *cor-ner • cot-tage • cop-per • col-lar*

Hard c before u: *cus-tom*

2

Penmanship Track • Diacritical Hard C Observation
Copy the pairs neatly on the 26px lines:

can-dle in cot-tage cra-dle for ba-by car-rot for cam-el

3

Contextual Sentences • Application
Fill each blank using words from the list:

1. The cozy stone _____ had roses growing beside its wooden door.

2. A patient _____ carried heavy packs across the sandy desert.

WHEELER'S ORTHOEPIK RULES • THE HARD C LAW

1. 1. **Hard C Before A, O, U:** The letter c represents /k/ before a, o, u (*candle, corner, custom*). It never sounds /s/ in these positions.

2. 2. **Contrast with Soft C:** Before e, i, y, the letter c softens to /s/ (*cent, city, cyclone*).

3. 3. **Hard C in Consonant Blends:** When c begins a blend with l or r (*cradle, clown*), it always retains its hard /k/ value.

LESSON 178 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

ORTHOEPY • CONSONANTS • HARD C LAW

Wheeler's Elementary Speller • Page 93

WORD	IPA	FOLLOWING LETTER	TEACHING PRESCRIPTION
candle	/ˈkændəl/	Followed by a	Hard c = /k/; unaccented syllabic -le.
cradle	/ˈkreɪdəl/	Followed by r	Consonant blend cr- = /kr/; open syllable.
corner	/ˈkɔːrnər/	Followed by o	Hard c = /k/; circumflex ô before r.
custom	/ˈkʌstəm/	Followed by u	Hard c = /k/; short ŭ closed by s.
cottage	/ˈkɒtɪdʒ/	Followed by o	Hard c; double tt; suffix -age = /ɪdʒ/.
camel	/ˈkæməl/	Followed by a	Desert pack animal. Short ă closed by m.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S EXERCISES

Exercise 1 Sorting Key:

- Before a: candle, cradle, cattle, carrot, carpet, cabin, camel.
- Before o: corner, cottage, copper, collar.
- Before u: custom.

All 12 feature the hard velar plosive /k/.

Exercise 3 Solutions:

- cottage.
- camel.

The Golden Rule of C: c before a, o, u is hard (/k/); c before e, i, y is soft (/s/).

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- What vowels make the letter 'c' say its hard /k/ sound?
- Look at 'cradle'. What sound does the 'c' make? Why isn't it soft?
- What happens to the sound of 'c' when an 'e' or 'i' comes right after it?

DICTATION & ORAL APPLICATION SENTENCES (READ SLOWLY AT NORMAL SPEAKING PACE):

- A wax candle flickered in the corner of the rustic cabin.
- The mother rocked the baby's wooden cradle with gentle care.
- A peaceful stone cottage stood near the green cattle pasture.
- The patient camel knelt down upon the warm desert sand.