

REVISION OF SPELLING

Hard and Soft Consonants

A quick reminder:

The consonants *c* and *g* can make different sounds:

Hard sounds (as in *cat* and *goat*) and

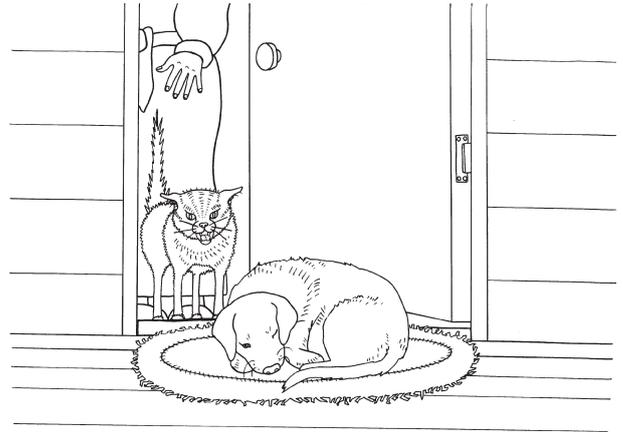
Soft sounds (as in *face* and *cage*).

Here are some examples:

*In the morning, Mrs Marr opened the front door to let her **big** ginger cat out.*

*The puppy jumped up. The **cat** leapt over him.*

*The puppy pounced. The **cat** scratched the puppy's nose.*



(From *Toffee in Trouble*, Animal stories, Ziptales)

Can you see the words using soft and hard consonant sounds?

Hard *c* – *cat*, *scratched* Soft *c* – *pounced*

Hard *g* – *big* Soft *g* – *ginger*

Rules for hard and soft consonants:

Rule 1: The *hard* sound is the usual sound the letter makes (like *c* for crab and *g* for grapes).

Rule 2: If *c* or *g* is followed by the letters *i*, *e* or *y* – they usually make a *soft* sound. Soft *c* makes an *s* sound (like in *race*) and soft *g* makes a *j* sound (like in *giant*).

BUT...there are words that don't follow these rules – like the words **get** and **give**.

EXERCISE 1

Write *soft c*, *hard c*, *soft g* or *hard g* to describe the sound of the underlined words from the story *Toffee in Trouble*.

1. The puppy's body shivered in the cold. _____
2. Nothing happened, except the puppy began to feel colder. _____
3. Something big and noisy thundered past. _____
4. He curled up on the mat and went to sleep. _____
5. Toffee licked Emily's hand again. _____
6. The cat went over the fence like a yellow streak. _____
7. Toffee squeezed under the gate. _____
8. Emily gave Toffee a big bowl of cereal and warm milk. _____
9. Toffee raced after it and brought it back. _____
10. "After we've changed, we'll go to the RSPCA," said Mrs Marr. _____

EXERCISE 2

Did you know that other letters can make a *hard c* sound? Like *k*, *ck*, *ch* and *qu*. Choose one of these to finish the words in the sentences.

1. Harry Potter is my favourite boo___ character.
2. My cousins came ba___ safely from their holiday.
3. I always love the first day of s___ool.
4. We all felt si___ after eating too many lollies.
5. I put on sunscreen so my s___in would not burn.
6. There was an annoying mos___ito buzzing near my ear.
7. After we eat food, it goes into our stoma___ to be digested.
8. We went to the la___e for a swim.

9. My sister had a toothache so Mum took her to the dentist.

10. Grandma has an old antique clock in her bedroom.

EXERCISE 3

A soft *c* sound often follows the letter *x*. Find words with 'xc' to fill in the gaps.

(Clue: The words in brackets are synonyms for the missing words.)

I got an _____ (*brilliant*) report from my teacher.

Everyone is able to come to my party _____ (*but not*) Jordan.

Grandpa had an _____ (*oversupply*) of tomatoes from his garden.

We were all _____ (*eager*) to go on the excursion to the zoo.

The number of applicants _____ (*was greater than*) the number of places at the ballet school.

Challenge

These clues will help you find words that have soft and hard consonant sounds.

Really cute or beautiful: _ o r _ e o u s

A fun place to go where clowns perform: _ i r _ u s

Another word for huge: _ i _ a n t i c

Something you ride with two wheels: b i _ y _ l e

You put this in the bin: _ a r b a _ e

A terrible thing to happen in a car: a _ _ i d e n t

The opposite of decline (for an invitation): a _ _ e p t

A place to keep a car: _ a r a _ e

Able to go through: a __ e s s

Achieved something great: s u __ e s s f u l

You take this on holiday: l u __ a _ e