

# English Pronunciation – The Letters 'CH'

In English, the letter combination “ch” can be pronounced in five different ways, depending on etymology (Germanic, Greek, or French origins).

## 1. Germanic origin – the “ch” sound (most common)

### Examples

- chair
- child
- chocolate
- teacher
- church
- watch
- cheese
- beach
- check
- kitchen
- chat
- choose
- chicken
- match
- touch
- switch
- branch
- lunch
- speech
- reach
- rich
- French

## 2. Greek origin – the “k” sound

### Examples

- chemistry
- chorus
- character
- school
- architect
- chrome
- choir
- stomach
- chemist
- mechanic
- orchestra
- monarch
- patriarch
- matriarch
- schedule (USA: sk-edule, UK: sh-edule)

### 3. French origin – the “sh” sound

#### Examples

- machine
- chef
- chic
- brochure
- parachute
- champagne
- moustache
- cache
- nonchalant
- chauffeur
- chivalry
- quiche
- cliché / cliche
- attaché / attache

### 4. Other origins – the fricative sound (USA: ‘k’)

#### Examples

- loch (Scottish origin)
- Bach (Germanic origin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMkoHt73loQ>

### 5. Silent

The letters ‘ch’ can be silent, but this is very rare.

#### Example

- yacht

Exercise. Can you pronounce these words correctly?

1. chaos
2. finch
3. chauvinist
4. fuchsia
5. mechanism
6. characteristic
7. psychotherapist
8. Chichester (city name in England)
9. chandelier
10. crochet