Words with CH  Introduction

The letter combination ch has three distinct sounds:

1. The most usual is the way it is pronounced in words like:

   chair, check, chicken, chop, chuckle
   much, rich, such

2. However, in words taken into English from Greek ch- sounds like k:

   character, chemist, chorus, etc.
   ache, echo, school, etc.

3. The third group, drawn from French, if written as it sounds, would be a combination of S and H as in machine (ma-sheen). In words taken into English from French, ch- sounds like sh:

   chef, chauffeur, chaperone, etc.
   machine, moustache, parachute

You don’t need to remember this in order to spell the words properly but it can help to learn the same pattern of words together. (The letter C even without the H can sound either like a K or a S. It sounds like an S before E or I so you have cat (kat) but city (sit-ee).
Exercise 1  *ch saying chuh*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>church</th>
<th>choose</th>
<th>chips</th>
<th>cheek</th>
<th>chicken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chairs</td>
<td>change</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>chocolate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>much</td>
<td>such</td>
<td>rich</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Rewrite, filling the gaps with words from the box:

1. Fish and ch - - -
2. Tables and ch - - - -
3. He was left in the lurch, waiting at the ch - - ch.
4. They both look so delicious, I don't know which to ch - - - -.
5. I've never heard - - ch a ridiculous story.
6. You have a terrible ch - - - to suggest such a thing.
7. Bonnie Prince Ch - - - - -.
8. I don't think - - ch of that idea.
9. A ch - - - - is as good as a rest.
10. What I’d really like right now is a bar of ch - - - - - -.
11. All those children eat is fish fingers and ch - - - - nuggets.
12. Sometimes it seems there is one law for the poor and one for the - - - -.

Answers to all exercises are on page 5.
Exercise 2  CH pronounced k  (Words with Greek origins)

At the start:

chorus  chord  chemist
chaos  character

In the middle or end of words:

headache  architect  stomach
echo  schemes  anchor
mechanic

Pick the word:

1. Can you get this prescription filled at the ch - - - - -?

2. He is an odd ch- - - - - - who always seems to be alone.

3. If the strike goes ahead, there will be ch - - - in the hospitals.

4. Does that strike a ch - - - with you?

5. I want you to all join in the ch - - - - of the song.

6. I have a terrible - - - - - ch- from all the noise.

7. He is a marvellous - - ch - - - - who can fix any car.

8. I wish the - - ch - - - - who designed this house had thought more about the problems of the poor housewife who would have to keep it tidy.

9. In the empty room, our footsteps seemed to - ch - loudly.

10. I swear I’m never again getting involved in his hair-brained - ch - - - -.

11. There were a number of boats lying at - - ch - - in the harbour.

12. You will end up with a pain in your - - - - ch if you eat any more of that chocolate cake.
### Exercise 3  ch saying sh (words with French origins)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At the start of words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>champagne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chauffeur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chaperones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chassis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chivalry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the middle or end of words:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>machinists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moustache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parachuted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pick the word:**

1. I think the occasion calls for a glass of ch - - - - - - -.
2. There is a lot of rust on the ch - - - - - of that car.
3. The food at the hotel is famous since they got that new French ch - -.
4. The Minister arrived in his ch - - - - - - driven car.
5. Most parents don’t like having to act as ch - - - - - - at teenage parties.
6. The age of ch - - - - - is definitely past!
7. Sunbeam employed a large number of girls as - - ch - - - - -.
8. The local people heard that a plane had crashed and that the pilot had - - - ch - - - - into the village green.
9. He looks quite different now that he has shaved off his - - - - ch -.
10. Would you ever drop into the travel agent and pick up a - - ch - - on holidays in Spain?
Answers

Exercise 1:
1. chips  2. chairs  3. church  4. choose  5. such  6. cheek
12. rich.

Exercise 2:
1. chemist  2. character  3. chaos  4. chord  5. chorus
6. headache  7. mechanic  8. architect  9. echo  10. schemes
11. anchor  12. stomach

Exercise 3
1. champagne  2. chassis  3. chef  4. chauffeur  5. chaperones
6. chivalry  7. machinists  8. parachuted  9. moustache
10. brochure

For worksheets on SCH, -TCH and CHR, etc. see the set of exercises called Triple Consonants. (Remember - the vowels are a,e,i,o,u, the other letters are consonants).