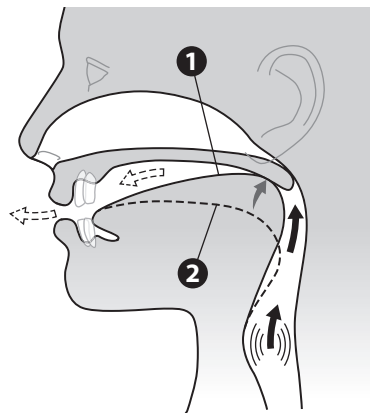


# COT & GOT

/k/ (cot), /g/ (got)



## Make the sounds



- 1 Raise the back of your tongue to touch the back of the roof of your mouth.
- 2 Start to breathe out, and let a little air build up behind your tongue.
- 3 Don't let any air out through your nose!
- 4 Drop the back of your tongue down quickly, letting the air out of your mouth.
- 5 The sound you produce can be voiced /g/ or voiceless /k/ (see page 15).

## When do I use this sound?



10

Voiced/voiceless	Spelling	Examples	Frequency
voiceless	<i>c, cc, k, ck</i>	cat, soccer, key, back	often
voiceless	<i>ch</i>	chord, ache	sometimes
voiceless (+/w/)	<i>qu</i>	quit, aqua	often
voiceless (+/s/)	<i>x</i> (irregular)	exit, six	often
voiced	<i>g, gg</i>	get, again, bigger	often
voiced	<i>gh, gu</i>	ghost, guess	sometimes
voiced	<i>x</i> (irregular)	examine, exotic	sometimes

- ! There is a silent *k* in *kn* spellings at the start of words like 'know', 'knee', 'knife'.  
 There can be a silent *g* in *gn* spellings like 'gnome' and 'sign'.  
 The *g* in *gh* spellings is not usually pronounced as a /g/. Sometimes it is silent ('through'), and other times *gh* is pronounced /f/ ('enough').

## Now try it!



- Say each of these words and sentences aloud. Then compare your pronunciation with the model on tracks 11–13.
- A**
- 1 cat    clean    echo    record    back    ask    six
- 2 get    green    argue    again    bag    dog    digger
- B**
- 1 Excuse me, could you bake me a cream cake?
- 2 The girl got good grades in her exams.
- C**
- 1 Six quick cricket critics.
- 2 A gaggle of grey geese are in the green grass grazing.

## Am I doing something wrong?



### All groups



Not adding an extra puff of air for a /k/ sound.



Make sure to allow a small extra puff of air as your lips spring apart if:

- /k/ is the first sound in a word ('cat') or is the stressed syllable ('record' *verb*), and
- it is followed by a vowel.

You don't need this puff of air if the /k/ is followed by a consonant ('clean'), is unstressed ('record' *noun*), or is at the end of a word ('back').



### All groups



Using the same sound in 'back' and 'bag'.



First, revise the exercises for how to make voiced and voiceless sounds (page 7).

Then, revise the *When do I use this sound?* table above for /k/ and /g/.

Keep a hand on your larynx while you practise, so that you can check whether you are adding vibration or not.



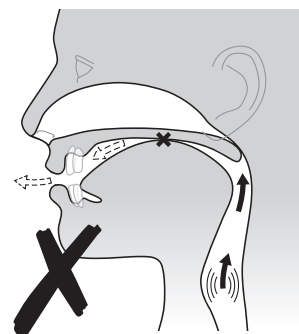
### 4 8



Using the middle of your tongue, rather than the back. If you feel your tongue pressing against the highest part of the roof of your mouth – this is wrong.



The back of your tongue should touch your soft palate, which is further back in your mouth.



The letter c can often be pronounced with a /s/ sound. For more rules on this, turn to the /s/ page (page 28).