

Worksheet 1

The Case of the Deadly Orchid

The Case of the Confusing 'ch' Blend

The word 'orchid' is spelt using the blend 'ch' - however it is not pronounced the usual 'ch' way (as in church, change or chimpanzee) rather as a 'k' sound. In the table below you will find a list of words that are also spelt using the blend 'ch' but not as it usually sounds. Read through each word and see if you can pronounce each one properly.

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| schedule | chrome | chronic | chemotherapy |
| chef | chloroform | chalet | parachute |
| school | champagne | chemical | moustache |
| chlorine | chemist | yacht | charisma |
| chauffeur | chandelier | chord | chassis |
| chronicle | chiropractor | brochure | chorus |
| chasm | chute | chrysalis | choir |

Task 1: Classify each word above by identifying the sound that the 'ch' makes in that particular word. Use the following headings:

- ch pronounced 'k'
- ch pronounced 'sh'
- ch pronounced 'qu'
- Silent 'ch'

Extension Activities:

- Research the French origins of the 'ch' blend pronounced as 'sh'. Compare to the Greek origin of 'ch' pronounced 'k'.
- Write an informative text about the structure and characteristics of orchids.