



The Missing /k/: The Birthday Ache

Preparation (1 minute):

- Click on the “Subscribe” button on the **Sounder & Friends™ YouTube Channel** at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCehiYc9ALWque3nVTQhvmHw>.
- Cue your screen to the beginning of **Episode 1: The Birthday Ache** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9gAsp_g-fs).
- Download the accompanying **Sounder & Friends™ Pictures Page** and have it available for viewing.

Lesson (15 minutes):

1. Ask children to listen for the sound at the beginning of the following words: cup, cat, coat. Which sound do they hear? Guide children to identify the sound /k/.
2. Encourage children to pronounce the sound /k/ multiple times. What does it feel like when they say the sound? Are their mouths open or closed when they say the sound? Can they feel the burst of air? What else do they notice when they say /k/? Invite children to say the words “cup,” “cat,” and “coat,” listening for and noticing when they pronounce the sound /k/ in each word.
3. Play **Episode 1: The Birthday Ache**. Pause at 1:06 and ask children what sound they hear at the beginning of the word, “cake.” Resume the episode.
4. Pause at 2:00. Invite children to listen and look for a /k/. Show children the **Sounder & Friends™ Pictures Page**. Say the sounds in each word, encouraging children to indicate with a thumbs up if they hear a /k/ in the word, and a thumbs down if they don’t.

Word	3 - 4 year olds	5 – 7 year olds
star	st - /ar/	/s/ /t/ /ar/
plane	pl - ane	/p/ /l/ /ay/ /n/
bat	/b/ - at	/b/ /a/ /t/
car	/k/ - ar	/k/ /ar/

5. Tell the children, “Let’s see if Sounder’s friends can find a /k/!” Resume the episode.
6. Invite children to draw a picture of any object that begins with (for 3-4 year olds) or includes (for 5-7 year olds) the sound /k/. Invite children to share their drawings.

