

## VC+K and iC+K for KSR Words

A KSR word has essentially a Key Syllable and a Key Rule ending (K) consisting of an iV spelling. This lesson will focus on one vowel sound in each part – the stressed vowel in the Key and the largely unstressed V in the iV spelling.

### A. Stressed Vowels in the Key Syllable

One familiar pattern returns in KSR Key Syllables –  $\acute{V}CC = \text{shape}$ . Study the examples.

$\acute{V}CC = \text{shape}$

cálcium	/æ/	asphýxiant	/ɪ/
poténtial	/ɛ/	óbvious	/ɔ ~ ɑ/
míllion	/ɪ/	rúffian	/ʌ/

- a. *Underline the key syllable in each word.*
- b. *Mark the stress of the key syllable.*
- c. *Write out the vowel quality pattern of the key.*
- d. *Transcribe the key vowel using the name-shape translator.*
- e. *Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.*

E.g. <u>á</u> ction	$\acute{V}CC = \text{shape}$	/ æ /	4. axial	_____	/ /
E.g. <u>bí</u> lliards	$\acute{V}CC = \text{shape}$	/ ɪ /	5. options	_____	/ /
1. invention	_____	/ /	6. function	_____	/ /
2. omniscient	_____	/ /	7. symbiont	_____	/ /
3. percussion	_____	/ /	8. question	_____	/ /

Most Key Syllables in KSR words have a single vowel letter followed by a single consonant letter, VC, right before the KSR ending, +K. Except for the letters *i* and *y*, the predicted vowels are glided; they have their 'name' sound. By contrast, the letters *i* and *y* predict the unglided /ɪ/ vowel suggested by the 'shape' of *i* and *y*. These two specific pattern apply **before** the general VC+K = name pattern. Study these examples.

$\acute{V}C+K = \text{name}$				$iC+K = \text{shape}$	$yC+K = \text{shape}$
áC+K	éC+K	óC+K	úC+K	íC+K	ýC+K
<b>rád</b> ius	<b>sén</b> ior	<b>jó</b> vial	<b>stú</b> dio	<b>domín</b> ion	<b>elýs</b> ian
/ey/	/iy/	/ow/	/uw/	/ɪ/	/ɪ/

- Underline the key syllable in each word.
- Mark the stress of the key syllable.
- Write out the vowel quality pattern of the key.
- Transcribe the key vowel using the name-shape translator.
- Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

E.g. all <u>ú</u> vial	<u>ŶC+K = name</u>	/ uw /	8. spacious	_____	/ /
E.g. ví <u>ci</u> ous	<u>íC+K = shape</u>	/ ɪ /	9. rebellious	_____	/ /
1. permission	_____	/ /	10. initial	_____	/ /
2. genius	_____	/ /	11. quotient	_____	/ /
3. trivial	_____	/ /	12. fraction	_____	/ /
4. studious	_____	/ /	13. leniency	_____	/ /
5. explosion	_____	/ /	14. copious	_____	/ /
6. anxious	_____	/ /	15. stadium	_____	/ /
7. stygian	_____	/ /	16. junction	_____	/ /

Patterns for Keys with *r* and the spellings *au*, *eu*, and *ou* will be presented in later lessons.

The  $\acute{V}C+K$  and  $\acute{i}C+K$  patterns make accurate predictions 99% of the time. You should be familiar with the common exceptions. In these words, the Key vowel is unpredictably unglided and is pronounced with its “shape” sound: *compánion*, *Itálian*, *nátional*, *rátional*, *retáliate*, *Spániard*, *váliant*, *diskrétion*, *spécial*, *espécially*, *précious*. Others: *áncient ley*, *cúshion* /ɔ/, *collóquial/-ium low*, *ónion* /ɒ/.

## B. Unstressed Vowels in the V of iV Spellings

For the most part, the V in iV spellings is unstressed. The most common exceptions are minor stressed vowels in *-iàc*, *-iâte* and *-iàry* endings. From your past study, you will recognize the VQPs for all possible unstressed Vs in iV spellings. Study these examples.

<b>idiot</b> , <b>menial</b> , <b>union</b> , <b>median</b> , <b>sodium</b> , <b>genius</b>	$\check{V}C\#$ = reduced	/ ə /
<b>salience</b> , <b>variant</b>	$\check{V}CC$ = reduced	/ ə /
<b>talliage</b>	$\check{V}C+E$ = reduced	/ ə /
<b>envious</b>	$\check{V}C$ = reduced	/ ə /
<b>media</b>	$\check{a}$ = reduced	/ ə /
<b>radio</b>	$\check{V}$ = name	/ow/

In cases of two-syllables after the *i* of an iV spelling, such as, *-iency*, each syllable has its own VQP: *-iency*  $\check{V}CC$  = reduced /ə/,  $\check{y}$  = /iy/.

- Underline the key syllable in each word below.
- Mark the stress of the key syllable.
- Write out the vowel quality pattern of the target vowel.
- Transcribe the predicted vowel using the name-shape translator.
- Say each word aloud and check your pronunciation.

	Target: Key Vowel	Target: V of iV Spelling
E.g. <u>r</u> ádiant	<u>VC+K = name</u> / ey /	<u>VCC = reduced</u> / ə /
E.g. bi <u>é</u> nnial	<u>VCC = shape</u> / ε /	<u>V̇C# = reduced</u> / ə /
1. de <u>v</u> iciously	_____ / /	_____ / /
2. Ch <u>r</u> istians	_____ / /	_____ / /
3. st <u>u</u> dio	_____ / /	_____ / /
4. gr <u>a</u> dient	_____ / /	_____ / /
5. ut <u>o</u> pia	_____ / /	_____ / /
6. bom <u>b</u> ylious	_____ / /	_____ / /
7. ob <u>e</u> diently	_____ / /	_____ / /
8. Ru <u>s</u> sians	_____ / /	_____ / /
9. port <u>f</u> olio	_____ / /	_____ / /
10. Camb <u>i</u> um	_____ / /	_____ / /
11. pav <u>i</u> lions	_____ / /	_____ / /
12. negot <u>i</u> ants	_____ / /	_____ / /
13. an al <u>i</u> as	_____ / /	_____ / /
14. fin <u>a</u> ncially	_____ / /	_____ / /
15. Caledon <u>i</u> a	_____ / /	_____ / /

**Check your answers:** p. 1. 1. invéntion, V̇C = shape /ε/; 2. omniscient, V̇C = shape /ɪ/; 3. percússion, V̇C = shape /ʌ/; 4. áxial, V̇C = shape /æ/; 5. óptions, V̇C = shape /ɔ~ɑ/; 6. fúnction, V̇C = shape /ʌ/; 7. sýmbiont, V̇C = shape /ɪ/; 8. quéstion, V̇C = shape /ε/. p. 2. 1. permission, V̇C = shape /ɪ/; 2. génius, VC+K = name /iy/; 3. trivial, íC+K = shape /ɪ/; 4. stúdious, VC+K = name /uw/; 5. explósion, VC+K = name /ow/; 6. ánxious, V̇C = shape /æ/; 7. stýgian, ýC+K = shape /ɪ/; 8. spácious, V̇C+K = name /ey/; 9. rebéllious, V̇C = shape /ε/; 10. initial, íC+K = shape /ɪ/; 11. quótient, VC+K = name /ow/; 12. fráction, V̇C = shape /æ/; 13. léniency, VC+K = name /iy/; 14. cópious, V̇C+K = name /ow/; 15. stádium, V̇C+K = name /ey/; 16. júnction, V̇C = shape /ʌ/. p. 3. 1. déviciously, VC+K = name /iy/, V̇C = reduced /ə/; 2. Christians, V̇C = shape /ɪ/, V̇C# = reduced /ə/; 3. stúdio, V̇C+K = name /uw/, V̇ = name /ow/; 4. gradient, VC+K = name /ey/; V̇C = reduced /ə~ɪ/; 5. utópia, VC+K = name /ow/, ă = reduced /ə/; 6. bombylious, ýC+K = shape /ɪ/, V̇C = reduced /ə/; 7. obediently, V̇C+K = name /iy/; V̇C = reduced /ə~ɪ/; 8. Rússians, V̇C = shape /ʌ/, V̇C# = reduced /ə/; 9. portfolio, VC+K = name /ow/, V̇ = name /ow/; 10. Cámbium, V̇C = shape /æ/, V̇C# = reduced /ə/; 11. pavilions, íC+K = shape /ɪ/, V̇C# = reduced /ə/; 12. negotiants, V̇C+K = name /ow/; V̇C = reduced /ə/; 13. álias, VC+K = name /ey/, V̇C# = reduced /ə/; 14. financially, V̇C = shape /æ/, V̇C# = reduced /ə/; 15. Caledonia, V̇C+K = name /ow/, ă = reduced /ə/.