Spelling the /k/ sound at the end of words: is it c or k?

Some helpful spelling rules

When the /k/ sound comes after another consonant, we usually use the letter k:

- task
- silk
- drink
- dark

When the /k/ sound comes straight after a short vowel sound we usually spell it ck:

- pack
- deck
- tick
- clock
- luck

But ..... words ending with the sound /ik/ have an extra rule:

At the end of a one-syllable word, use ick:

- lick
- stick
- click

In words of more than one syllable, use only ic:

- panic
- electric
- traffic

For more on this spelling rule, please see Spellzone Unit 2 where you will find complete spelling lesson plans, extensive word lists, practice exercises, spelling tests and spelling games for k/ck/ic/ick.

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