4a: Spelling /k/

Compare the spellings of these words. What is the main use of the letter k?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>certain</th>
<th>curtain</th>
<th>kernel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>center</td>
<td>canter</td>
<td>kennel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comic</td>
<td>service</td>
<td>brake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are three other uses for the letter k:

- Use k at the end of a word after a long vowel: take, steak, oak, like.
- Use ck at the end of a word after a short stressed vowel: back, pick, lock.
- Use k after final c to keep the “hard” sound when adding i, e, or y:
  - picnic + ing ===> picnicking
  - panic + y ===> panicky
  - mimic + ed ===> mimicked

Otherwise, use the letter c for the sound /k/.

Exercise A: Spelling /k/

Spell the sound /k/ in these words. Use the letters c, k, or ck according to the rules we have just mentioned.

1. s___etch
2. ___indling
3. s___ald
4. ___urse
5. blea___
6. s___eptic
7. logi___al
8. compa___t
9. froli___ing
10. comi___al
11. fabri___ate
12. sto___e
13. crea___
14. la___ing
15. thi___est