



Phonics Glossary

Phonics teaches children to listen to and identify the sounds that make up words. This helps them to read and write words.

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| Blend | Saying the individual sounds that make up a word then putting the sounds together to make a word E.g. s – n – a – p, blended together, reads as snap |
| Segment | Using spoken sounds to write words. Children listen to the whole word then break it up into sounds E.g. ship can be segmented to sh – i – p |
| Vowel | The letters a, e, i, o, u |
| Consonant | All letters of the alphabet which are not vowels |
| CVC words | An abbreviation for words made up of consonant-vowel-consonant. E.g. cat, pen, top CVCC (e.g. milk, fast) and CCVC (e.g. trap, black) are also common abbreviations used. |
| Phoneme | A single sound that can be made by one or more letters E.g. s, k, oo, z, ph, igh |
| Grapheme | Written letters which represent one single sound E.g. ck, sh, air, a |
| Digraph | Two letters which make one sound when put together E.g. ea, ay, ar |
| Split digraph | Two letters which make one sound but are separated within a word a-e o-e i-e u-e e-e E.g. cake, pine |
| Trigraph | Three letters which make one sound when put together E.g. air, igh, dge |
| Whole word | Words that are difficult to sound out and should be recognised by sight E.g. said, the, because |
| Sound buttons | Dots and lines drawn underneath sounds to represent each sound. This supports children with blending to |

read new words.

E.g. **cart**
