



Phonics Glossary



Phoneme	The smallest unit of sound in a word.
Grapheme	Written letters or a group of letters which represent one single sound (phoneme) e.g. a, l, sh, air, ck.
Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs)	The relationship between sounds and the letter or letters that represent that sound.
Blending	The building up of words from individual phonemes for reading.
Segmenting	Breaking down words into individual phonemes for writing.
Tricky (Common Exception) Words	Words that are not decodable at the child's current phonic level of understanding.
Digraph	Two letters which together make one sound e.g. ee, oa, ea, ch, ay. There are different types of digraph: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vowel digraph: a digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel, for example; boat or day.• Consonant digraph: two consonants which can go together, for example shop or thin.• Split digraph (previously called magic e): two letters, which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word e.g. a-e, e-e, ie, o-e, u-e. For example; cake or pine.
Trigraph	Three letters that work together to make one sound (igh).
Mnemonic	An illustration that is designed to support children's recognition of GPCs.
CVC Words	Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. Some examples of CVC words are: cat, pen, top, chat (because ch makes one sound). Other similar abbreviations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VC words e.g. on, is, it.• CCVC words e.g. trap and black.• CVCC words e.g. milk and fast.
Pure Sounds	Pronouncing each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end e.g. 'f' not 'fuh.' <u>Top Tip!</u> It is tricky to say some sounds without the 'uh' sound at the end – like b, d and g! Try to emphasise the main letter sound when talking about these letter sounds. Some are easier to say by dragging the sound out e.g. fffffff rather than 'fuh' or mmmmm rather than 'muh.'
Consonant	Most letters of the alphabet (excluding the vowels: a,e,i,o,u)
Vowel	The letters a, e, i, o, u.