

# Phonics Jargon Buster

Some useful Phonics terminology and explanations

## Pure Sounds

Avoid adding an /uh/ sound to the end of letter sounds, so not /suh/ but /sss/, not /muh/ but /mmm/

## Phoneme

The smallest unit of sound within a word. 'cat' has 3 phonemes, 'green' has 4 sounds, 'spend' has 5 sounds.

## Grapheme

The written form of the phoneme. It is what you see on the paper. A grapheme can be made of 1 letter or combinations of letters.

## Digraph

When two letters together make one sound.

Examples are 'ck', 'ai', 'oe' and 'ch'

## Trigraph

When three letters together make one sound.

Examples are 'igh', 'air' and 'ear'

## Split Digraph

A digraph that has been split by placing a consonant in the middle. There are 5 to learn (a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e and u-e)

## Blending

Children identify the graphemes within a word, say the phonemes and then push these sounds together to form the word.

## Segmenting

The opposite to blending. Children break up a word into its individual sounds. Segmenting a word is needed to spell it.

## CVC word

A word that is made up of a consonant sound, vowel sound and consonant sound. The words 'dog,' rain' and 'sheep' are all CVC words.



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## Decodable

Being able to utilise Phonics and 'sound out' a word to read it. Some books sent home from School will be decodable.

## Tricky Word

A word where there is a tricky part that does not follow the usual phonetic pattern learnt so far. Tricky words include 'said' and 'was'.

## High Frequency

Words that are frequently found within reading books. They can be made up of decodable and tricky words.

## Non-word

A nonsense word that children can use their phonics to decode and read. Sometimes referred to as alien or pseudo words. The Year 1 screening check contains them.

## Polysyllabic Word

A word that is made up of more than one syllable. Words such as 'reading', 'notebook', 'jargon' are all polysyllabic words.

## Compound Word

When two or more smaller words are joined to create a new word. Examples are 'bedroom', 'cupcake' and 'playground'.

## Fluency

The ultimate goal of Phonics! The ability to read a piece of text or book easily and with accuracy without the need to 'sound out' the words.

## Adjacent Consonant

When two consonants are next to each other within a word that make two separate sounds. Words like 'went', 'frog' and 'play'

## Alternative Grapheme

Children will learn that there are different ways to spell the same phoneme, e.g  
ai, ay, a-e  
or, au, aw  
ee, ea, e-e, ey