

Phonics Glossary



Blending - Blending is the process that is involved in bringing the sounds together to make a word or a syllable and is how /c/ /a/ /t / becomes cat.

Segmenting- segmentation is the ability to break words down into individual sounds. For example, the learner breaks the word 'run' into its component sounds – r, u, and n.

Phoneme - It is the smallest unit of sound and a piece of terminology that children like to use and should be taught. At first it will equate with a letter sound but later on will include the digraphs. For example:

- * the letter 's' makes the sound 's'
- * the letters 'sh' represent just one sound (phoneme)
- * but 'sp' represents two (/s/ and /p/)

Pure sounds – The way to pronounce the sounds. See video link back on the understanding phonics page. Basically you take 'uh' off the end of a sound. So for 't' you don't say 'tuh' you say 't' (listen how the 't' sound when you say cat – that is pure and how to pronounce it on its own too)

Digraph -This is when two or more letters come together to make a phoneme. /oa/ makes the sound in boat

Trigraph - three letters making one sound, e.g. air, igh, ure.

Split digraph - two letters, split, making one sound, e.g. a-e as in make or i-e in site.

Grapheme - A grapheme is a letter or a number of letters that represent a (one) sound (phoneme) in a word. Another way to explain it is to say that a grapheme is a letter or letters that spell a sound in a word. E.g. **c** for **cat** or **sh** for **shop**.

Decode - occurs when a student uses his/her knowledge of letter-sound relationships to accurately read a word. To 'sound out'

CVC –A CVC word is a word that is made up of a consonant, vowel and consonant sound. **Cat, hot, tip, man and hut are all CVC words**

Tricky words – words that need to be learnt by sight and **cannot** be segmented (sounded out)

