

# Phonics Glossary

Here are some words that are used in phonics!

## Phonics

Phonics is how we read and write. We blend words to read and we segment words to write. We segment the words into phonemes.

## Phonemes

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word. For example, the word 'cat' has three phonemes, 'c', 'a', 't'. When we are writing something down, phonemes are represented by graphemes.

## Graphemes

A grapheme is the written symbol of a phoneme. It is a letter, or group of letters, representing a sound. For example, the 'c' sound (or phoneme) can be written using the 'c', 'k' or 'ck' graphemes.

## Segmenting

Segmenting consists of breaking words down into their smallest units of sound (phonemes) to spell.

## Blending

Blending consists of building words from their smallest units of sound (phonemes) to read.

## Digraph

A digraph is a two-letter grapheme where two letters represent one sound. For example, 'ea' in 'seat' and 'sh' in 'ship'.

## Trigraph

A trigraph is a three-letter grapheme where three letters represent one sound (phoneme). For example, 'igh' in 'light'.

## Consonant cluster

A consonant cluster is a group of consonants that creates a sound that does not include any vowel sounds. For example, 's', 't' and 'r' create the 'str' sound in strap.

## Syllable

A syllable is part of a word and only contains one vowel sound. The word 'pocket' has two syllables, 'pock' 'et'.

## CVC

A word made up of Consonant-Vowel-Consonant (e.g. dog). VC (at), CVCC (hump), CCVC (crab) etc. may also be used.