

Phonic terms glossary

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| Phoneme | A single unit of sound within a word. E.g. c-a-t (3 phonemes), ch-a-m-p (4 phonemes) |
| Grapheme | The written correspondence to each phoneme. (How the sound is written down). |
| Diagraph | 2 letters which together make one phoneme (sound) e.g. oa, ai, ee, or, sh. |
| <i>Short vowel diagraph</i> | 2 vowels together making a shorter vowel sound in a word e.g. oo – book, |
| <i>Long vowel diagraph</i> | 2 vowels together making a longer vowel sound in a word e.g. oo – food, ee – feet, ai – rain, igh – night |
| Trigraph | 3 letters which together make one phoneme (sound) e.g. igh, ear, air, ure |
| Split digraph | (Taught at phase 5) When a long vowel sound is stretched around a consonant. E.g. like, cake, broken |
| Segment | To split up a word into its individual phonemes (also known as sound-talking or when you ask children to ‘sound it out’). |
| Blend | (In reading, after segmenting). To draw individual sounds back together to say a word. E.g. s-n-a-p → snap |
| CVC word | Word made up of consonant phoneme-vowel phoneme-consonant phoneme. E.g. c-a-t, ch-i-n, b-oa-t |
| CVCC word | Word made up of consonant phoneme - vowel phoneme- two consonant phonemes. E.g. n-e-s-t, sh-e-l-f |
| CCVC word | Word made up of two consonant phonemes – vowel phoneme – consonant phoneme E.g. s-t-o-p, b-r-ai-n, s-p-oi-l |
| Decodable polysyllabic words | A word with more than two-syllables which is phonetically decodable. E.g. chimpanzee (ch-i-m-p-a-n-z-ee), carnival (c-ar-n-i-v-a-l) |