

Phonics Vocabulary

Phoneme

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word. Feel/watch how your mouth changes when you say a word, every time your mouth moves/changes shape you are saying a new phoneme, e.g. b-r-i-ck

There are 44 phonemes in the English language

Grapheme

Graphemes represent how a phoneme is spelt. Each grapheme is a unit of sound regardless of how many letters there are. e.g. The word b-r-igh-t is made up of 4 phonemes; the igh phoneme is represented by 3 letters but only makes one phoneme.

A grapheme can represent more than one phoneme e.g. C = cat and city

Diagraph

Two letters, which makes 1 phoneme. e.g. duck

A consonant diagraph contains 2 consonants

e.g. sh ck th ll

A vowel diagraph contains at least one vowel

e.g. ai ee ar oy

Split Diagraph

A diagraph in which the two letters are not adjacent e.g. make – ‘a-e’ is a unit of sound (diagraph)- it is being ‘split’ by the constant k.

Trigraph

Three letters, which make 1 phoneme. e.g. light.

Oral blending

Hearing a series of spoken phonemes and merging them together to make a spoken word without corresponding to any graphemes e.g. teacher says “d-o-g” children say “dog”.

Blending (links to reading)

When reading, recognising the letter sounds in a written word and merging them together in the order they are written to pronounce the word.

e.g. c-a-t = cat

Segmenting (links to writing)

Identifying the individual phonemes in a spoken word and writing them down to form a word.