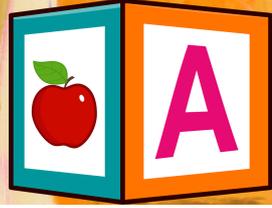




PHONICS VOCABULARY GUIDE

A guide for parents



Introduction to Phonics

Welcome to the world of phonics! Phonics is a method of teaching reading and writing by focusing on the relationship between sounds (**phonemes**) and the letters that represent them (**graphemes**). It's a crucial building block for your child's literacy journey in Reception and Key Stage 1 (KS1).

By understanding the core vocabulary of phonics, you can better support your child's learning at home and communicate effectively with their teacher. This guide will provide you with the key terms you need to know, presented in a clear and easy-to-understand way.

How You Can Help at Home

There are many simple and fun ways you can support your child's phonics learning at home:

- **Read aloud:** Expose your child to a wide range of books. Point out words and sounds as you read.
- **Play phonics games:** Use flashcards, online resources, or create your own games focusing on letter sounds and blending.
- **Sound out words:** Encourage your child to sound out unfamiliar words when reading, rather than guessing.
- **Practice writing:** Help your child practice writing letters and simple words, focusing on correct letter formation.
- **Use sound buttons:** Draw sound buttons underneath words, such as dots for single sounds or lines for digraphs. This helps children see the sounds in a word.
- **Make it fun!** Learning should be enjoyable. Keep activities short and engaging.

Phonics Glossary: Key Terms Explained

Here's a glossary of key phonics terms you'll encounter during your child's early years of reading and writing:

- **Phoneme:** The smallest unit of sound in a word. For example, the word 'cat' has three phonemes: /c/, /a/, /t/.

- **Grapheme:** The written representation of a phoneme (a letter or group of letters). For example, the grapheme 'c' represents the phoneme /k/.
- **Blending:** Combining individual sounds together to read a word. For example, blending /c/, /a/, /t/ to read 'cat'.
- **Segmenting:** Breaking down a word into its individual sounds. For example, segmenting 'dog' into /d/, /o/, /g/.
- **Digraph:** Two letters that make one sound. Examples include 'sh', 'ch', 'th', 'ee', 'ai'.
- **Trigraph:** Three letters that make one sound. Examples include 'igh', 'ear', 'air'.
- **Split Digraph:** Two vowels that make one sound, but are separated by a consonant. For example, 'a-e' in 'cake', 'i-e' in 'bike', 'o-e' in 'home', 'u-e' in 'cube', and 'e-e' in 'theme'.
- **Phonics Phase:** A stage in the phonics learning sequence. Children typically progress through different phases, learning new sounds and skills at each stage.
- **High-Frequency Words:** Words that appear frequently in written text. These words are often learned by sight, but phonics knowledge helps too. Examples include 'the', 'and', 'a', 'I', 'to'.
- **Tricky Words:** Words that cannot be easily sounded out using phonics rules. These words need to be learned by sight. Examples include 'said', 'was', 'you', 'they'.
- **CVC Words:** Words made up of a Consonant, Vowel, and Consonant. Examples include 'cat', 'dog', 'sun'.
- **CCVC Words:** Words made up of a Consonant, Consonant, Vowel, and Consonant. Examples include 'trip', 'stop', 'frog'.
- **CVCC Words:** Words made up of a Consonant, Vowel, Consonant, and Consonant. Examples include 'tent', 'hand', 'fast'.
- **Sound Buttons:** A visual aid used to help children identify the sounds in a word. Each sound is represented by a dot or a dash (for digraphs/trigraphs) underneath the word.
- **Alien Words:** Nonsense words used in phonics assessments and games. These words help to assess a child's ability to decode using phonics skills, rather than relying on memorization.
- **Phonics Screening Check:** A short assessment administered to Year 1 children to check their phonic knowledge. It involves reading a combination of real and alien words.

Next Steps

We hope this guide has been helpful! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions. Together, we can help your child become a confident and enthusiastic reader!

Happy Reading!