

Phonics Vocabulary

<u>Phoneme</u>	The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in English (it depends on different accents). Phonemes can be put together to make words.
<u>Grapheme</u>	A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up of 1 or more letters.
<u>GPC</u>	This is short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.
<u>Digraph</u>	A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound (phoneme) eg. ch and oa.
<u>Trigraph</u>	A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound (phoneme) eg. igh and air.
<u>Oral blending</u>	This involves hearing phonemes and being able to merge them together to make a word. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to blend written words.
<u>Blending</u>	This involves looking at a written word, looking at each grapheme and using knowledge of GPCs to work out which phoneme each grapheme represents and then merging these phonemes together to make a word. This is the basis of reading.
<u>Oral segmenting</u>	This is the act hearing a whole word and then splitting it up into the phonemes that make it. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to segment words to spell them.
<u>Segmenting</u>	This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes that make it, using knowledge of GPCs to work out which graphemes represent those phonemes and then writing those graphemes down in the right order. This is the basis of spelling.
<u>Adjacent consonants</u>	Adjacent consonants are two or more consonants that appear next to one another within a word and they represent a different sound. e.g. stop - the 'st' are adjacent consonants because they appear next to each other and they also spell two different sounds. /s/ and /t/