

Phonics terminology

Systematic Synthetic Phonics = the method of teaching children to read following a structured and sequential strategy. Children first identify letters and their sounds then learn to blend sounds together in order to read words.

Phoneme= a single unit of sound- there are 44 of them in the English language (e.g. s, a, t, ch, sh, air.)

Grapheme= the letter or letters that represent a sound (phoneme)- it's written form. The 44 sounds can be written in alternative ways e.g. ay, ae, ai. There are approximately 250 alternative ways of writing phonemes!

Digraph= two letters that make one sound e.g. sh, ch, th, ng.

Trigraph= three letters that make one sound e.g. igh, air, ear.

Split digraph= When one sound splits the a, e, i, o or u and the final e (there are only five: a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e.)

Oral Blending= Hearing phonemes and being able to merge them together to make a word.

Blending = Building words for reading by pushing together all the phonemes (sounds) in the word.

Oral segmenting= Hearing the whole word and being able to break it up into the phonemes needed to spell it.

Segmenting = Splitting up words for spelling by breaking up words into all of their sounds and then working out what letters are needed to represent each of the sounds.

Vowels- the letters a, e, i, o, u.

Consonants = letters other than the vowels (a, e, i, o, u) The remaining 21 letters of the alphabet.

CVC word = a word spelt with a consonant, vowel, consonant (e.g. cat, hat, mat, sit.)

CVCC word = a word spelt with a consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant (e.g. lamp, hump, crack, tent.)

CCVC word = a word spelt with a consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant, (e.g. step, flag.)

Consonant blends = letter combinations which are two single sounds but said fast together – they are not digraphs (e.g. bl, br, cl, dr, fl, gh, gr, pl, sc, sk, sn, st, sw, tr, tw, wr etc.)

Key Stage One Terms

Homophone = words that sound the same but are different in meaning and spelling (e.g. flour and flower, right and write).

Homograph = words that are spelled the same but are different in meaning or pronunciation (e.g. bear: 'to carry or support' and 'bear: the animal' or lead: 'to go first' and lead: 'the metal').

Base word = A word to which a prefix or suffix is added to form a new word (e.g. see + ing = seeing, player + er = player).

Compound word = when you combine two or more words together to create a new, compound word e.g. football, railroad, moonlight, hair brush).

Contraction = a short way to write two words as one by writing the two words together, while leaving out one or more letters and using an apostrophe (e.g. do not = don't, would not = wouldn't, cannot = can't).