

Etwall Primary School Phonics Agreed Terminology



Phoneme	The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in the English language.
Grapheme	A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter, e.g. 'p'; 2 letters, e.g. 'sh'; 3 letters, e.g. 'igh' or 4 letters, e.g. 'ough'.
Segment	This involves splitting a word up into individual sounds. (robot arms)
Blending	This is when we put the individual sounds back together to read a word (crash back together clap)
CVC	A word that is made up of consonant - vowel- -consonant E.g. c-a-t
Digraph	2 letters make 1 sound, denoted by a line underneath when written, for example 'ai' in 'rain'
Trigraph	3 letters make 1 sound, denoted by a line drawn underneath when written, for example 'igh' in 'night'
Split digraph	When a digraph is split by a consonant it becomes a split digraph, denoted by an arc (formed underneath the word demonstrating the split) when written. For example, a e in late or i e in size
Vowel digraph	A digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel, for example: ea, ai, ar, ay
Phoneme frame	
Sound buttons	A dot under each single letter grapheme. For example, cat ...
Lowercase letter	A letter of the alphabet that usually differs from its corresponding capital letter in form and height.
Capital letter	A letter of the alphabet that usually differs from its corresponding lowercase letter in form and height.
Tricky/ Exception words	A word that cannot be decoded. They are learnt by sight. Denoted by a squiggly line underneath when written.
Alien word	Nonsense words that can be decoded.
Consonant cluster	A group of consonants said one after the other, such as 'str' in strong.

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Alliteration	When several words together begin with the same letter.
Decoding	The process of using phonic knowledge to read words.
Rhythm	A regular, repeated rhythm of beats or sounds in a text.
Syllable	A unit of pronunciation containing one vowel sound; for example, there is one syllable in the word dog; two syllables in the word spell/ing; thee syllables in the word env/el/ope