



Glossary

Phoneme - 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.

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. 'tch' or 4 letters e.g. ough.

GPC - This is short for **G**rapheme **P**honeme **C**orrespondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.

Digraph - A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Trigraph - A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Oral Blending - 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.

Blending - 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.

Split Digraphs –two letters, split, making one sound, e.g. a-e as in make or i-e in site.

Vowels – **a, e, i, o** and **u**. The letter **y** is a vowel when it makes the sound (i) as in happy or (i) as in cry.

Consonants –all the other letters of the alphabet.

Oral Segmenting - This is the act of 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.

Segmenting - 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.

Alternative Pronunciations – when a grapheme looks the same but has an alternative phoneme, e.g., 'ow' as in brown, but 'ow' as in blow.

Syllables – How many beats there are in a word, e.g., the word 'discover' has 3 syllables: dis + cov + er.

Prefix - A prefix is a letter or letters added to the beginning of a word to change the way a word is used, e.g. re-cover, un – happy.

Suffix - A suffix is a letter or letters added to the end of a base word to change the way the word is used. If you add the suffix 'ed' to the base word act, you have acted (past tense). Other suffixes include s, es, less, ness, en, ing, ful, ly, y, er, est and ment.