

A parent guide to the language of Phonics and Spelling

<u>phoneme</u> The smallest unit of sound in a word – often referred to as a ‘sound’.	<u>blending</u> Squashing sounds together to make words or syllables.	<u>recognition</u> Saying the phoneme when shown a grapheme.
<u>grapheme</u> The written representation of a phoneme – often referred to as ‘letters’.	<u>segmenting</u> Breaking words or parts of words into component sounds (phonemes)	<u>recall</u> Finding or writing the grapheme when listening to a phoneme.
<u>grapheme – phoneme correspondence (GPC)</u> The matching of phonemes and graphemes.	<u>sounding</u> Saying the phonemes that each grapheme represents in order to blend them.	<u>vowel</u> A speech sound which acts as the basis for a syllable a, e, i, o, u
<u>digraph</u> A phoneme which is represented by two graphemes. ‘oo’, ‘ey’	<u>sound – talk</u> Saying the phonemes in a word and then blending them back together as a whole word.	<u>consonant</u> A speech sound in which the breath is at least partially obstructed
<u>trigraph</u> A phoneme which is represented by three graphemes. ‘tch’, ‘igh’	<u>polysyllabic word</u> A word with multiple syllables.	<u>adjacent consonants</u> Two or more consonants next to each other at the beginning or end of a word or syllable.
<u>split digraph</u> A digraph which is separated within a word. a-e as in cake.	<u>Convention</u> A spelling rule which is followed for the majority of the time.	<u>exception</u> A word which does not follow the general convention for that phoneme/rule.