

# Phonics Glossary

The terms below are used widely by teachers in schools when teaching phonics. Most children will be familiar with these terms and feel comfortable using them.

**blending** — drawing individual sounds together to read a word, e.g. /s/n/a/p/ reads **snap**

**chunking** — reading or spelling chunks / syllables within a word and putting together e.g. /cap/ /it/ /al/ - **capital**

**CVC word** — a word spelt with a **C**onsonant, **V**owel, **C**onsonant pattern, for example **pig**

**CCVC** — a word spelt with adjacent consonants (**C**onsonant, **C**onsonant), **V**owel, **C**onsonant eg **flap** (**CVCC** eg **ramp** / **CCVCC** eg **clump**)

**decodable** — a word that can be read by blending known the phonemes for the graphemes

**decoding** — reading a word by saying the phoneme for each grapheme in a written word then blending

**digraph** — two letters that make one sound, for example /**sh**/ in **shop** or /**ow**/ in **towel**

**encoding** — spelling a word by segmenting each phoneme then writing the grapheme

**grapheme** — a letter or group of letters representing one sound, e.g. /**s**/ /**o**/ /**sh**/ /**ch**/ /**igh**/

**high frequency words (useful words)** — the 100 most common words used in the English language, some are **decodable** and some are **tricky**

**phoneme** — the smallest single unit of sound, for example the letters /**sh**/ represent just one sound, but /**sp**/ represents two sounds (/s/ **and** /p/)

**segmenting** — splitting up a word into its individual phonemes for spelling using sound talk, e.g. the word **cat** has three phonemes: /**c**/ /**a**/ /**t**/

**snowballing** — to read a longer word, adding each phoneme one at a time to build up the word e.g. /s/ /t/ st, st /o/ sto, sto /p/ stop

**split digraph** — two letters, separated by another letter, that make one sound, e.g. /**a-e**/ in **make** and /**i-e**/ in **tide**

**syllable** — unit of speech within a word eg seg / ment - segment

**tricky word** — a word in the English language that cannot be phonetically decoded, such as **the** and **said**

**trigraph** — three letters that make one sound, for example /**igh**/ in **light**