

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**