

Phonics glossary

alliteration	when several words close together begin with the same letter sound
blending	the process of saying the individual sounds that comprise a word separately and then merging them together to say the word
consonant	a letter of the alphabet that is not a vowel, such as 'b', 'j' and 'z'
consonant cluster	a group of consonants said one after another, such as 'str' in 'strong'
CCVC word	a word comprising two consonant sounds, a vowel sound and another consonant sound, such as 'd-r-o-p' or 't-r-i-ck'
CVC word	a word comprising a consonant sound, a vowel sound and another consonant sound, such as 'c-a-t' or 'sh-o-p'
CVCC word	a word comprising a consonant sound, a vowel sound and two consonant sounds, such as 'm-i-l-k' or 'ch-a-m-p'
decoding	the process of using phonic knowledge to read words
digraph	two letters that together make one sound, such as 'ai' in 'rain'
grapheme	the letter or group of letters that represent a phoneme or 'letter sound'
high-frequency word	a word that occurs frequently in speech and writing, such as 'and'
phoneme	a single sound made by a grapheme, also known as a 'letter sound'
rhyme	the result of two or more words containing the same sound, such as 'cat' and 'bat' or 'shoe' and 'two'
rhythm	a regular, repeated pattern of beats or sounds in a text
segmenting	the process of splitting up the individual sounds that comprise a word to help with spelling
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' and three syllables in the word 'en/vel/ope'
tricky word	a common word that is difficult to sound out using simple phonics, such as 'go'
trigraph	three letters that together make one sound, such as 'igh' in 'night'
VC word	a word comprising one vowel and one consonant, such as 'a-t'
vowel	a letter of the alphabet that is not a consonant: 'a', 'e', 'i', 'o' and 'u'