

Phonics Glossary

Blending involves merging the sounds in a word together in order to pronounce it. For example, j-a-m blended together reads jam.

Consonants are the letters of the alphabet apart from the **vowels** a, e, i, o, u.

CVC words are consonant-vowel-consonant words such as cat, pin, top.

Digraphs are graphemes made up of two letters that make one sound (sh as in shop). **Trigraphs** are graphemes made of three letters (igh in high). A **split digraph** is split between a consonant and usually changes the sound of the first vowel. For example man and mane.

Graphemes are the written representation of sounds; it may be one letter (f), two letters (ir) three letters (igh) or four letters (ough).

Helpful words are common words that have spelling patterns which make them difficult to read and write using early phonic knowledge. For example, said, of, and was.

Phonemes are the smallest unit of speech-sound which make up a word. For example, there are three phonemes in the word sit /s//i//t/ and the word fish /f//i//sh/. There are around 44 phonemes in the English language.

Segmenting involves breaking up a word that you hear into sounds. For example, the word jam is segmented into the sounds.