



Phonics Glossary

Term	What does it mean?
blending	Merging the individual sounds of a word together to say the word - used when reading. The opposite of segmenting.
consonant	The letters of the alphabet excluding vowels.
cvc words	Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-consonant words (e.g. cat, pen, top). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VC words (e.g. on, is, it)• CCVC words (e.g. trap, black)• CVCC words (e.g. milk, fast)
digraph	Two letters which make one sounds (e.g. ee, ch, oh). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vowel digraph (e.g. oa, ay, ea)• Consonant digraph (e.g. sh, th, ch, ck)• Split digraph - separated by other letters (e.g. a-e in cake; i-e in mine)
grapheme	Written letters representing a sound (phoneme). e.g. a, l, sh, air, ck
phoneme	A single sound made by one or more letters (graphemes). e.g. s, k, z, oo
phonics	Teaching children to identify sounds that make up words to help them read and write.
pure sound	Pronouncing each letter sound clearly with adding additional sounds (e.g. 'f' not 'fuh').
segmenting	Splitting the word up into individual sounds (p-l-ay) - used for spelling and writing. The opposite of blending.
tricky words	Words that are difficult to sound out or break spelling rules (e.g said, because, the). Sometimes referred to as red/orange words.
trigraph	Three letters which make one sound. e.g. air, igh, tch, dge
vowel	The letters a,e,i,o,u.

“Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.”

(Proverbs 22:6)