

Glossary

alliteration	the repetition of a sound, usually the initial sound , at the start of two or more consecutive words – for example, ‘jolly Jack’, ‘giggly Grace’
blend	to say the separate sounds in a word and merge them together to make the whole word – for example, the three phonemes c-u-p are blended to make the word <i>cup</i>
digraph	two letters that make one sound (ai, ee, th, ng)
CCVC word	a word consisting entirely of two adjacent consonants (CC) then a vowel (V) and then a third consonant (C) (<i>clap, creep</i>)
CCVCC word	a word consisting entirely of two adjacent consonants (CC) then a vowel (V) and then two more adjacent consonants (CC) (<i>plant, drink</i>)
CVC word	a word consisting entirely of three phonemes: a consonant (C) then a vowel (V) and a second consonant (C) (<i>cat, sun, rang</i>)
CVCC word	a word consisting entirely of a consonant (C) then a vowel (V) and then two adjacent consonants (CC) (<i>felt, roast</i>)
grapheme	a letter or sequence of letters representing a phoneme
high-frequency words	common words frequently found in children’s reading material and used by them in their own writing
homograph	a word that has the same spelling as another word, but is pronounced differently and has a different meaning (<i>bow</i>)
initial sound	the first sound in a word
letter names	each letter has both a sound and a name – and children are taught letter sounds first as these help with reading and spelling; in Phase Three they learn letter names
phoneme	one of the separate sounds that a word contains – for example, <i>cup</i> can be broken into three phonemes, c-u-p ; <i>fish</i> also has three phonemes, f-i-sh , because the two letters s and h make a single sound
prefix	an extra part that can be added to the start of a word (un, dis)
segment	to break a word into separate sounds in order to spell it – for example, the word <i>dog</i> can be broken into three phonemes, d-o-g
sound button	a dot appearing below each letter, which the child presses as he or she says the letter sound; sound buttons encourage children to sound out each letter in a word in order to read it
sound talk	the process of saying, in the correct order, each phoneme in a word
suffix	an extra part that can be added to the end of a word (ful, ly)
syllable	one part of a word, usually containing one vowel sound; for example, <i>sister</i> contains two syllables – <i>sis/ter</i>
tricky words	words with letters that make unusual or unfamiliar sounds
trigraph	three letters that make one sound (igh, ear, ure)