

# Glossary

- adjacent consonants** two or three consonants that come next to each other in a word and each represent a different sound (for example, 'st', 'scr')
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- blend** to say the separate sounds in a word and merge them together to read the whole word. **Blending** is the reverse of **segmenting**.
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- CCVC word** a word consisting entirely of two **adjacent consonants** (CC), then a vowel (V) and then a third consonant (C) (for example, 'clap', 'creep').  
*Note: A vowel sound can be represented by two letters, as in 'creep'.*
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- CCVCC word** a word consisting entirely of two **adjacent consonants** (CC), then a vowel (V) and then two more **adjacent consonants** (CC) (for example, 'plant', 'drink')
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- CCCVC word** a word consisting entirely of three **adjacent consonants** (CCC), then a vowel (V) and then a fourth consonant (C) (for example, 'strip', 'scrap')
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- CVCC word** a word consisting entirely of a consonant (C), then a vowel (V) and then two **adjacent consonants** (CC) (for example, 'felt', 'roast')
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- digraph** a combination of two letters representing one sound (for example, 'sh', 'oi', 'ee', 'ss', 'ch')
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- segment** to break a word into separate sounds in order to spell it. **Segmenting** is the reverse of **blending**.
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- sound button** a mark appearing below each letter, **digraph** or **trigraph**, which the child can touch as they say the sound. A dot is used when one letter represents one sound; a line is used when two or more letters represent one sound. **Sound buttons** encourage children to say the sounds for each letter, in order, so they can **blend** them to read words.
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- sound-talk** the process of saying, in the correct order, each separate sound in a word
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- tricky word** a word that contains a letter or a group of letters that make an unusual or unfamiliar sound. For example, the words 'said' and 'so' are **tricky words** because the **digraph** 'ai' in 'said' and the letter 'o' in 'so' do not correspond to the sounds that the children know for these letters.
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- trigraph** a combination of three letters representing one sound (for example, 'ear')