

# Glossary

**blend** to say the separate sounds in a word and merge them together to read the whole word

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**contraction** a shortened form of two words. For example, 'don't' is a shortened form of 'do not'. The apostrophe goes in place of the missing letter.

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**digraph** two letters representing one sound (for example, 'ay')

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**grapheme** a letter or group of letters representing a **phoneme** or sound in a word

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**grapheme-phoneme correspondence (GPC)** matching a **phoneme** to a **grapheme**, and vice versa

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**long vowel** vowel sounds that can be stretched out, for example /ar/ in the word 'start' and /ee/ in the word 'seat'

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**phoneme** the smallest unit of sound in speech

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**phoneme family** a group of **graphemes** that represent the same sound (for example, the **graphemes** 'ai', 'ay', and 'a-e' represent the /ai/ **phoneme**)

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**segment** to break a word into separate sounds in order to spell it

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**short vowel** the short vowel sounds are /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/, /u/, as found in the words 'cat', 'peg', 'bin', 'dog' and 'cup'. They are all said with a short sound.

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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

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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 or a **grapheme** that the children do not yet know

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**trigraph** three letters representing one sound (for example, 'air')

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