

Glossary

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

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

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

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

phoneme the smallest unit of sound in speech

prefix a part added to the beginning of a word to make a new word and change its meaning

root word a basic word with no **prefix** or **suffix** added to it

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

sound button a mark appearing below each letter, **digraph** or **trigraph**, which the child can touch as they say the sound

sound-talk the process of saying, in the correct order, each separate sound in a word

suffix a part added to the end of a word to make a new word and change its meaning

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

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

unstressed an **unstressed** vowel or syllable is one that does not make a clear sound. For example, the 'o' in the word 'crocodile' does not usually make a clear 'o' sound.