

LISTERDALE JUNIOR ACADEMY

PHONICS GLOSSARY



This is a useful guide to help you understand the different phonics terminology that is used in our school.

Segmenting

This means breaking up individual sounds when reading or writing.

Blending

This is where sounds are merged together, after segmenting to say the word as used when reading.

Phoneme

The smallest unit of sound. There are 44 phonemes. Phonemes can be put together to make words.

Grapheme

A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g. ough.

Pure Sound

The skill of pronouncing each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end.
e.g f not fuh and s not suh

Digraph

Two letters that go together to make one sound (phoneme).
e.g th, ch, sh

Split Digraph

A digraph that is split by a consonant. Usually a long vowel sound.
e.g a-e like cake or e-e like Pete

Trigraph

Three letters that go together to make one sound.
e.g igh, ear, air

Consonant Blends

Is a combination of two or more consonants that are blending together but each sound in the blend can be heard.
e.g st in star or dr in drink

Tricky Words

These are words that are difficult to sound out e.g. said, the, because which don't follow phonics rules.

High Frequency Words

These are words that appear frequently in reading material. Children need to learn these words so they can read them at a glance.

GPC

This is short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.