



Rocket Phonics Glossary

adjacent consonants	Two (or three) consonant letters representing two (or three) sounds, e.g. tw, str, bl. (Also known as a consonant cluster or blend)
blending	The process of using phonics for reading. To identify and blend the phonemes in order to hear and say a word.
code	The alphabetic code is the correlation between the sounds of speech and the individual letters or groups of letters used to represent those sounds in print.
phoneme	The smallest unit of sound in a word. Represented in print using slash marks, e.g., /a/.
grapheme	A letter or group of letters representing one sound (phoneme).
decoding	The ability to apply knowledge of letter-sound relationships, including knowledge of letter patterns, to correctly pronounce written words.
segmenting	Using phonics for spelling and writing. Children listen to the whole word and break it down in to phonemes. They then choose the corresponding grapheme to represent each phoneme, for example, 'sheep' can be segmented as sh-ee-p.
encoding	When you break a spoken word into its separate sounds (phonemes) you spell the word.
digraph	Two letters which together represent one sound, e.g., ai, ea, mb. There are different types of digraph – vowel, consonant and split.
vowel digraph	A digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel, e.g., ee, ay, oi, or.
consonant digraph	Two consonant letters which represent one sound, e.g., sh, ch, th.
split digraph	Two letters which work as a pair to represent one sound but are separated within the word, e.g., a_e as in cake, o_e as in note.
trigraph	Three letters which together represent one sound, e.g., igh, ear.
quadgraph	Four letters which together represent one sound, e.g., eigh, ough.
common exception word (CEW)	A high frequency word with an unusual letter-sound correspondence, e.g., one, their, because. These words are taught by decoding the familiar part and pointing out the unusual part.
high frequency words	The most common words used in English. They are a combination of phonetically decodable words and CEW words.
CVC, CCVC, CCVCC words	These represent the consonant and vowel sounds in word structures, for example, a CVC word – h-e-n, b-oa-t or ch-i-p. A CCVCC word – p-r-i-n-t.
schwa	The name of a vowel sound that is found only in unstressed positions in English.