



PHONICS EXPLAINED



Key Vocabulary

Phoneme

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word.

Example: The word "cat" has three phonemes: /k/, /æ/, /t/.

Grapheme

A grapheme is the written representation of a phoneme.

Example: The phoneme /k/ can be represented by the graphemes "c," "k," or "ck."

Blend

Blending is the process of combining individual sounds to form a word.

Example: The sounds /c/, /a/, and /t/ blend together to form the word "cat."

Segment

Segmenting is the process of breaking a word down into its individual sounds.

Example: The word "dog" can be segmented into three sounds: /d/, /o/, /g/.

CVC Word

A CVC (Consonant-Vowel-Consonant) word is a simple three-letter word where a consonant is followed by a vowel and then another consonant.

Example: "cat," "dog," and "map."

CVVC Word

A CVVC (Consonant-Vowel-Consonant) word is a simple four-letter word where a consonant is followed by two vowels

Digraph

A digraph is a combination of two letters that make one sound.

Example: "ch" as in "chat" or "sh" as in "ship."

Trigraph

A trigraph is a group of three letters that together make one sound.

Example: "igh" as in "high."

What is Phonics?

Phonics is the method used to teach children how to read and write by linking sounds (phonemes) with letters (graphemes). By recognising the sounds in words, children can decode (sound out) unfamiliar words and develop strong reading skills.

How Phonics Helps

Decoding: Phonics helps children sound out words, enabling them to read new words independently.

Spelling: Understanding the relationship between sounds and letters helps children spell words correctly.

Fluency: Phonics instruction builds the foundation for reading fluency, allowing children to read smoothly and with confidence.

Comprehension: As children become more fluent in decoding words, they can focus more on understanding the meaning of what they read.

Key Vocabulary

Sight Words

Sight words are words that children are encouraged to recognize by sight because they don't always follow typical phonics rules (e.g., "the," "said," "was")

Rime

The rime is the vowel and any following consonants in a syllable.

Example: In the word "plan," "an" is the rime.