

Phonics Jargon Buster

Phoneme – A single unit of sound we hear.

★ /s/, /a/, /t/ (There are 44 in English).

Grapheme – A written way of showing a sound.

★ Can be one letter (s) or more (sh, igh).

Vowel – a, e, i, o, u.

Consonant – All the other letters.

Blending – Saying sounds together to read a word.

★ /c/ /a/ /t/ → cat.

Segmenting – Breaking a word into its sounds.

★ dog → /d/ /o/ /g/.

Digraph – Two letters making one sound.

★ sh, ch, ee, oa.

Split digraph – A digraph split by another letter.

★ a-e (cake), i-e (bike).

Trigraph – Three letters making one sound.

★ igh in night.

Decodable words – Words you can sound out.

★ cat, ship, rain.

High frequency words – Words that appear often in texts.

★ and, it, was.

Tricky words – Words that don't follow usual rules.

★ said, the, you.