

Phonics Glossary

Word	What Does It Mean?
blend	Saying the individual sounds that make up a word and then merging or blending the sounds together to say the word – used when reading.
consonant	Most letters of the alphabet (excluding the vowels: a, e, i, o, u).
CVC words	Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. Some examples of CVC words are: cat, pen, top, chat (because ch makes one sound). Other similar abbreviations include. • VC words e.g. on, is, it. • CCVC words e.g. trap and black. • CVCC words e.g. milk and fast.
digraph	Two letters which together make one sound e.g. ee, oa, ea, ch, ay. There are different types of digraph: • Vowel digraph: a digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel, for example; b(oa)t or d(ay). • Consonant digraph: two consonants which can go together, for example (sh)op or (th)in. • Split digraph (previously called magic e): two letters, which works as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word e.g. a-e, e-e, i-e, o-u, u-e. For example c(a)k(e) or p(i)n(e).
grapheme	Written letters or a group of letters which represent one single sound (phoneme) e.g. a, l, sh, air, ck.

Word	What Does It Mean?
No Nonsense Phonics Skills programme Book content (featured graphemes)	Book 1 Featured Graphemes 1 s a t i p n c k -ck e h r th 2 m d g o u l -ll f -ff -ss b j y 2+ v w x z zz qu ch sh ng nk 3 ai -ay w oa ow -ie -igh -le o a e i o u -y 4 ee or z -zz wh ea -ea -s -se -ze aw 5 -ng -nk v -ve -oo oo -y -ey -x ch sh th ph 5+ er ir ur a-e e-e i-e o-e u-e air -are -ear 6 qu ou ow oi oy -ue -ue er ar -ce -ge -se 7 c g -oe i-e e-e o-e a-e u-e air -are -ear -ere 8 eer ear -ere -ier ir ur ear wor -our 9 -x -ie ew ch ou a ch -tch -ture -ti -ci -ssi -si -s -ge -le -ll -al -el f -ff ph -gh j -ge gi -dge kn gn wr -mb -st -or ore -our oar -oor ough aw au a -al augh war quar
phoneme	A single sound that can be made by one or more letters – e.g. s, k, z, oo, ph, igh.
phonics	Phonics teaches children to listen and identify the sounds that make up words. This helps them to read and write words.
pure sound	Pronouncing each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end e.g. 'f' not 'fuh.'
segment	This is the opposite of blending (see above). Splitting a word up into individual sounds – used when spelling and writing.
tricky words	Words that are difficult to sound out e.g. said, the, because.
trigraph	Three letters which go together make one sound e.g. ear, air, igh, dge, tch.
vowel	The letters a, e, i, o, u.