

North Wootton Academy

Phonics Glossary Page 1

Glossary

phoneme	A phoneme is the sound that a letter makes e.g. 'a' for ant.
grapheme	A grapheme is the letter we write to represent the phoneme/sound.
segmenting	Segmenting is where the word is broken down into the phonemes/sounds.
blending	Blending is where the sounds are joined together to make the word.
decoding	Decoding is the process of seeing written words on a page and being able to say them out loud.
sight words	Tricky words cannot be sounded out easily. They are common words that have complex spellings in them.
high frequency words	High frequency words are common words, words that appear very often in written texts. They are a mixture of decodable words (words that can be sounded out) and tricky / exception words (words in which the English spelling code works in an unusual or uncommon way, which means the words have to be learned and recognised by sight).

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Glossary

digraph	Is a phoneme that is represented by 2 letters, e.g. 'ai' as in 'rain'.
trigraph	Is a phoneme that is represented by 3 letters, e.g. 'igh' as in 'night'.
split vowel digraph	Is a phoneme that is split up with a letter in between, e.g. 'a_e' as in 'cake'.
vowel digraph	Is a phoneme that makes a vowel sound, e.g. ai (rain), ee (feet), igh (night), oa (goat), ew (screw).
cvc word	A word made up of a consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. cat.
ccvc/cvvc words	CCVC—consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant (step, spot). CVVC—consonant, vowel, vowel, consonant (red, sail).