

Phonics glossary

blending	Blending is the skill of joining sounds together to read words. Children are taught to say the separate sounds in a word and to then blend them together to decode the word.
segmenting	Segmenting is the opposite of blending. Children are taught to segment a word into its separate sounds in order to spell it.
Fred talk or Fred fingers	This is a strategy we use when we are segmenting words to spell. Each separate sound in a word is represented by a finger in order to spell it. For example in the word play we would need three fingers for the sounds p-l-ay
phoneme	A phoneme is a unit of sound e.g. the word 'cat' contains three phonemes; c - a - t.
grapheme	A grapheme is a visual representation of a sound e.g. a letter or a group of letters. Some sounds are represented by a single letter whilst others are represented by more than one letter.
digraph	A digraph is a sound that is represented by two letters e.g. the sound 'a' in rain is represented by the digraph 'ai'.
split digraph	A split digraph is a digraph that is separated by other letters e.g. the sound 'a' in the word take is represented by the split digraph a-e.
trigraph	A trigraph is a sound that is represented by three letters e.g. the sound 'I' in high is represented by the trigraph 'igh'.