



Spelling Glossary



These concepts and definitions are intended to support the teaching of spelling.

Phonics

Children listen to and identify the sounds that make up words. This help them to read & write words.

Blend

Saying the individual sounds that make up a word and then merging or blending the sounds together to say the word.

Segment

Splitting words into individual sounds (opposite to blending). This is used when spelling & writing.

Pure Sounds

Pronouncing each letter sound clearly & distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end (e.g. 'f'; not 'fuh')

CVC Words

Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-vowel words, used to describe the order of sounds.

Vowels & Consonant

Vowels - a, e, i, o, u
Consonant - all the other letters of the alphabet

GPC

Stands for 'grapheme-phoneme correspondence', and refers to the ways that sounds heard in words are written down.

Phoneme

A single sound that can be made be one or more letter (e.g. 's', 'k', 'oo', 'igh')

Grapheme

Written letters or groups of letters which represent one single sound (e.g. 'a')

Diagraph

Two letters, next to each other, which make one sound. They can vowel (e.g. 'oa' - **boat**) or consonant (e.g. 'th' - **thin**) diagraphs.

Trigraph

Three letters which go together to make one sound (e.g. 'ear', 'air', 'igh')

Split Diagraph

Two letters, which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word by a consonant (e.g. 'a-e' - **o.k.e**)

As children's confidence in spelling increases, they will begin to explore words and spelling patterns in more depth enabling them to develop their vocabulary and accuracy in spelling trickier words.

Root Word

A basic words with no prefix or suffix added to it.

Suffix

A string of letters at the end of a root word, changing or adding to its meaning,

Prefix

Letters that go in front of a root word and change its meaning (e.g. 'un-' - **un**happy).

Syllable

Words are broken down into the number of beats you can hear in it (e.g. **kitch en** - 2 syllables).

Compound Word

A combination of two or more individual words that have a single meaning (e.g. 'football', 'sunflower').

Contracted Word

Short words made by putting two words together and omitting some letters, which are replaced by an apostrophe (e.g. did not - didn't).

Antonym

A word with the opposite meaning to another (e.g. good/bad, wise/foolish)

Synonym

A word which has exactly or nearly the same meaning as another word.

Homophone

Words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings (e.g. there, their & they're).

Word Family

A group of words which may share a common root word or morphology (e.g. happy, unhappy, happily, unhappily, unhappiness)

Morphology

The study of words, how they are formed & their relationship to other words in the same language. It analyses the structure of words.

Etymology

The origin of words and how they have changed over time.

All the concepts and definitions in this glossary are aimed to support parents/carers understanding of our 'Spelling Guides' and are used on a day-to-day basis by staff when teaching spelling and writing.

Please Note: For some concepts, the technical definition may be slightly different from the meaning that you may have learnt at school!