



The Modern English Alphabet

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

@TINYSTEPSPMAKEBIGSTRIDES

The set of letters used when writing

The letters combine to form graphemes, morphemes and words

Consonant

A speech sound produced when the vocal tract has various restrictions of airflow.

Vowel

A speech sound produced with no restriction of airflow.

The Alphabetic Principle

The starting point of any alphabetic writing system.

The understanding that there are predictable relationships between written letters and spoken sounds.



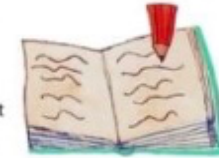
Phoneme

The smallest unit of sound within oral words. We must help children reach the phoneme level, but this isn't natural because we don't talk in segmented sounds.



Grapheme

A letter or letter string that represents a phoneme (speech sound).



b o a t

Digraph

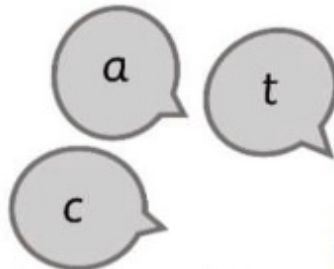
2 letters that represent a speech sound.



Trigraph

3 letters that represent a speech sound.

l i g h t



d o u g h n u t

Tetragraph

4 letters that represent a speech sound.

There are etymological reasons that some refute this terminology. In the early years it is easiest to discuss spellings that relate to speech sounds. In later years, a discussion about etymology may help some to spell and understand the system.



Phonological Awareness

An umbrella term for sounds (phoneme) awareness, rhyming, alliteration, syllables and onset and rime.

The ability to notice, segment and move around the individual sound units within words.

Phonics

Instruction that shows children how speech sounds relate to print.



phonology

Orthographic Mapping

The mental process we use to store words for automatic retrieval.



Orthography

The correct spelling of words. The orthography of a language is how we visually represent language on paper.

Morphology

Study of the structure of words.



Morphemes

The smallest unit of meaning in a language.