



Early Reading Glossary

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| Phonological lexicon | A storage system in the brain consisting of individual word <u>pronunciations</u> . |
| Semantic lexicon | A storage system in the brain consisting of individual word <u>meanings</u> . |
| Orthographic lexicon | A storage system in the brain consisting of individual word <u>spellings</u> . |
| Phoneme: | <p>The most elemental unit of sound in a given language (usually designated by slash marks). For example, /a/ (lowercase) is the first sound you can hear in the word APPLE (before you close your mouth to articulate the P sound). The sound /A/ (uppercase) is the first sound you can hear in APRIL (long A). The words CAT, SHED, CHEAP, and TAUGHT (for example) have three phonemes each, despite the fact that they have 3, 4, 5, and 6 letters respectively:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CAT = /k/ + /a/ + /t/ SHED = /sh/ + /e/ + /d/ (lowercase /e/ = short E) CHEAP = /ch/ + /E/ + /p/ (uppercase /E/ = long E) TAUGHT = /t/ + /aw/ + /t/</p> |
| Grapheme | <p>A letter (or a group of letters) that symbolize a <u>single</u> phoneme. Nearly all graphemes consist of one or two letters (as shown in the above examples). Be careful though: SH (no slash marks) is a grapheme that symbolizes the phoneme /sh/ in the word SHED. CH and EA are graphemes that symbolize the phonemes /ch/ and /E/, respectively, in CHEAP. Other common 2-letter graphemes are TH and OA (THIN and ROAD). IGH is an example of a 3-letter grapheme. It symbolizes the long I sound in a word like SIGH and FIGHT.</p> <p>There are a few 4-letter graphemes as well such as AUGH, OUGH, and EIGH. The first two of these symbolize the phoneme /aw/ in words like TAUGHT and BOUGHT (3 phonemes each). EIGH symbolizes the long A sound in words like EIGHT and NEIGHBOR. For any given word, the number of phonemes and graphemes are equal.</p> |
| Decoding: | To see a written word, to assign a phoneme to <u>each</u> of its graphemes, and to smoothly blend those phonemes (left to right) to form a pronunciation – thereby "sounding out" the word. If the word is then recognized by the child, because it's in his or her spoken (or listening) vocabulary, this process is also called reading . |



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| Encoding | To hear a spoken word, to segment it into <u>all</u> its constituent phonemes, and to assign a grapheme to each of those phonemes – thereby spelling it. |
| Phonemic Awareness | To become conscious of the phonemes in everyday speech. Most illiterate children (and adults) are unconscious of phonemes. Children develop an awareness of phonemes <u>as they learn to read</u> . Decoding and segmenting both require phonemic awareness. |
| Sight Word | A written word that is recognized at a glance. A written word which no longer needs to be identified by decoding (sounding out). |
| Orthographic Mapping | A process which involves making explicit the connections between the graphemes in a written word and the phonemes in its pronunciation. Orthographic Mapping automatically creates sight words |
| Digraph | A digraph is two letters that make one sound. A digraph can be made of vowels or consonants ie 'sh' and 'oa' |
| Trigraph | A trigraph is three letters that make one sound e.g. ear, air, igh, dge, tch. |
| Split Digraph | Two vowels which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word e.g. a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e. For example: a-e in cake, i-e in pine or o-e in hope |
| Pure Sound | Pronouncing each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end e.g. 'f' not 'fuh.' |
| Sound Buttons | Circles/spots and lines which are written underneath a sound to support children reading. When you touch the sound button, you then practise saying the sound aloud. |
| High Frequency Words | The most common words used in the English language. High frequency words include a combination of phonetically decodable words and common exception words |
| Pseudo/Alien Words | These words are used to assess phonetic decoding; they show that the word hasn't been memorised or learned by sight. |
| Syllable | A unit of pronunciation having one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants, forming the whole or a part of a word; for example, there are two syllables in 'water' and three in 'inferno'. |



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