

ENGLISH · RECEPTION-Y2

Early Reading & Phonics

Knowledge Organiser — EYFS / KS1

Phonics key vocabulary

1

Phoneme

The smallest unit of SOUND in a word. Represented by a grapheme.

Example: cat has 3 phonemes: /k/ /a/ /t/

2

Grapheme

The written LETTER(S) representing a phoneme.

Example: 'sh', 'ea', 'igh' are all graphemes (digraph/trigraph)

3

Digraph

Two letters that make ONE sound.

Example: sh, ch, th, ai, oa, ee, oo

4

Trigraph

Three letters that make ONE sound.

Example: igh, ear, air, ure

5

Blending

Merging individual phonemes to read a whole word.

Example: /d/ /o/ /g/ → 'dog'

6

Segmenting

Breaking a word into individual phonemes to spell it.

Example: 'ship' → /sh/ /i/ /p/



7

Common exception words

Words that cannot be decoded phonetically — pupils must learn them by sight.

Example: said, the, have, were, one, once, their

Phonics overview (Letters and Sounds)

Approximate progression

- PHASE 1: Sound awareness — environmental sounds, instrumental, body percussion, alliteration, rhythm
- PHASE 2: s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l — first decodable words
- PHASE 3: j v w x y z zz qu — plus digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er
- PHASE 4: Blending and segmenting longer words — consonant clusters (bl, st, fl, tr...)
- PHASE 5: Alternative graphemes and phonemes — c/k/ck all make /k/; a-e, i-e, o-e (split digraphs)
- PHASE 6: Spelling — adding suffixes, past tense, plurals, spelling rules
- COMMON EXCEPTION WORDS (KS1): I, the, to, do, said, come, some, was, is, his, has, you, they, be, he, she, we, me, my, are, your, were, all, want, went

