



# Healdswood Phonics Glossary



A definition of the terms used in phonics

## Phoneme

A single sound made by a letter or group of letters.

## Grapheme

A letter or group of letters that represent a sound in a word.

## Trigraph

Three letters that together make one sound such as 'igh' in 'night'.

## Digraph

Two letters that together make one sound such as 'ch' in 'chip'.

## CVC word

A word that is made up of a consonant sound, a vowel sound and another consonant sound, such as 'c-a-t' or 'sh-o-p'.

## 'Harder to Read and Spell' word

A common word that is difficult to sound out using simple phonics, such as 'the'.

## Blending

The process of saying the individual sounds that make up a word and then merging them together to say the word.

## Decoding

The process of using phonic knowledge to read words.

## Segmenting

The process of splitting up the individual sounds that make up a word to help with spelling.

## Split digraph

A long vowel sound that has been split like in the words make, tale and like.

## High Frequency Word

A word that occurs frequently in speech and writing such as 'and'.