

## Glossary of Phonics Terms

**Blending** : Putting the sounds together to read a word. Sh-o-p becomes shop. Primarily used in reading.

**Cluster** : two (or three) letters making two (or three) sounds e.g. st or str.

**CVC**: Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. sat.

**Digraph**: Two letters that make one sound when read e.g. sh

**Grapheme**: The written sound e.g. Th

**Mnemonic** : a way of remembering and recalling something. S is shaped like a snake; round the apple, up the stalk and down the leaf to write the letter a; big elephants can always understand small elephants for because.

Phonemes: The smallest units of sound that are found within a word. In sat s is the first phoneme. In shop sh is the first phoneme.

Segmenting: Breaking up a word into its sounds. Sat becomes s-a-t. Primarily used in writing.

Split digraph : two letters, which are split in the word, making one sound. In site the split digraph is i-e. This is sometimes described as a magic e.

Tricky words: Words that cannot easily be decoded as the graphemes (letters) do not correlate to the phonemes (sounds) e.g. was, because.

Trigraphs: Three letters that make one sound e.g. igh

Vowel digraph : two vowels that make one sound e.g. oo, ai.