

Fonnix - Phonics terms and definitions

Below are some of the terms your child is taught at school when learning phonics.

Phoneme – The smallest unit of sound
The word 'start' has 5 letters but 4 phonemes **s+t+a+r+t**
The word 'church' has 6 letters but 3 phonemes **ch+ur+ch**

Grapheme – the letter or letter symbols that are used to represent a phoneme.

Digraph – two letters that represent one phoneme such as ch, sh, th, ar oi

Trigraph – three letters that represent one phoneme such as igh, ear, ure

Split vowel digraph – a two letter grapheme separated by a consonant. You may have been taught it as 'magic e'.

cake these
cube phone
lite

Blending - Building words for reading by pushing together all the phonemes or sounds in the word.

Segmenting - Building words for reading by pushing together all the phonemes or sounds in the word.

Short vowel sound - The sound that the letters a, e, i, o, u make in a word eg cat, peg, hit, not, sun

Long vowel sound - The sound that is like the names of the vowel letters. The long vowel sounds are often represented in more than one way by digraphs and trigraphs eg main, stay, cake, see, seat, mice, light, coat, bone, glue, spoon.

Remember that there might only be 26 letters of the English alphabet but there are 44 phonemes.

Follow the link below to see how phonemes are pronounced

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE>

Hope this helps - *Sarah*