An Introduction to Twinkl Phonics

for Parents and Carers



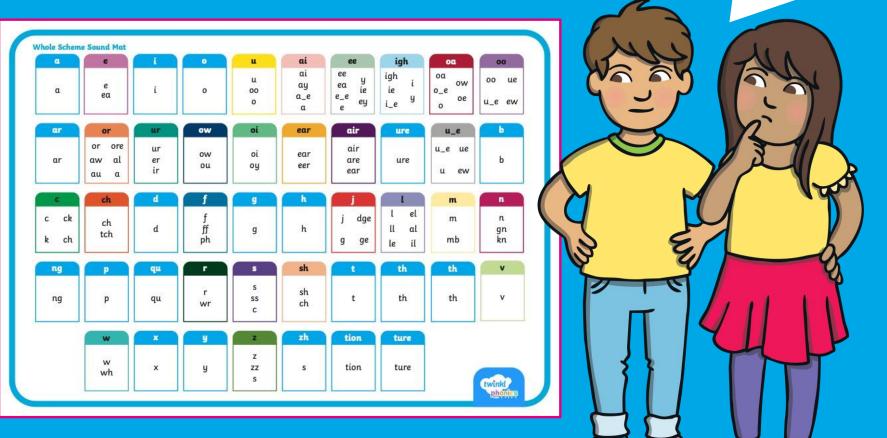


Effective Phonics, Done Simply

Did You Know...?

There are 26 letters in the alphabet but there are 44 sounds and over 100 different ways of spelling them.

This is why English is one of the most complex languages to learn!



What is phonics?

Phonics is a method for teaching reading and writing.

It develops phonemic awareness - the ability to hear, recognise and use the sounds within words.

Learners are also taught the correspondence between sounds and the graphemes (spelling patterns) that represent them.

Phonics is currently the main way in which children in British primary schools are taught to read in their earliest years.

Children will also be taught other skills, such as whole-word recognition (see 'tricky words'), book skills and a love and enjoyment of reading.

Why is your child taught phonics?

Phonics, taught in a structured way, is generally accepted to be the most effective way to teach reading and writing.

Children learn to hear and recognise sounds in words and spell them correctly.

This assists with their confidence, accuracy and fluency.

Phonics should not be taught in isolation – children also need to learn other reading and comprehension skills alongside phonic knowledge.

Phonics Terminology Here is some of the terminology you might hear as your children begin to learn phonics.

Phoneme	the smallest unit of sound in words				
Grapheme	the written representation of a sound				
GPC (Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence)	being able to match a phoneme with the correct grapheme and vice versa				
Blending	joining individual speech sounds together to read a word				
Segmenting	breaking down words into individual speech sounds to spell a word				
Digraph	two letters making one sound e.g. 'sh'				
Trigraph	three letters making one sound e.g. 'igh'				
Split Digraph	two letters making one sound which are divided by a consonant e.g. the i_e sound in the word 'side'				
Tricky/Common Exception Words	words that are not fully decodable such as 'the' and 'was'				
Sound buttons	circles or spots that can be written underneath a sound to support reading				
Sound bars	lines that can be written underneath digraphs or trigraphs to show that the letters make one sound				
Mnemonic	a visual prompt to help children remember a sound				



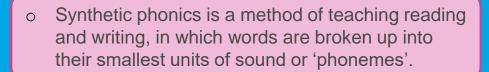


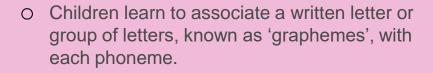




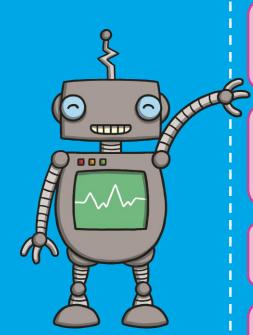


What Is Synthetic Phonics?

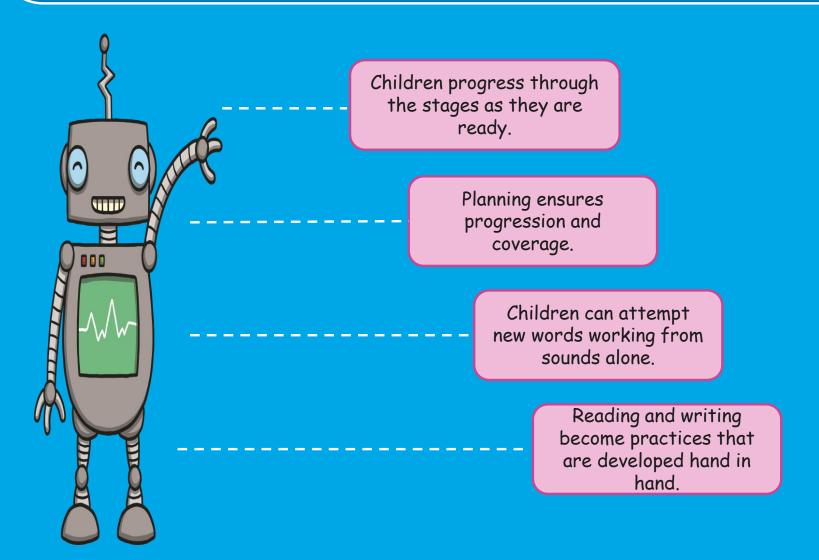




- Sounds are then joined or 'blended' together into words for reading or, conversely, whole words are broken down or 'segmented' into their sounds for writing.
- It is the UK's most preferred method of teaching phonics.
- O Sounds are taught in a prescribed order starting with s, a, t, p, i, n, as this allows for the most words to be made from the start, such as 'sat,' 'tap' and 'pin'.



What Are the Benefits of Synthetic Phonics?



What Is Taught and When?

	Twinkl Phonics Level	Number of Teaching Weeks	Recommended Year Group (UK schools)	Age of Children
	Level 1	36	Nursery/Preschool	3-4 years
	Level 2	6	Reception	4-5 years
I	Level 3	12	Reception	4-5 years
	Level 4	4	Reception	4-5 years
	Level 5	30	Year 1	5-6 years
	Level 6	30	Year 2	6-7 years

Level 1 continues to be taught alongside the other levels.

This is just an overview. We understand that every child progresses at their own pace.

The importance of listening skills

Phonics learning relies on children being able to hear and distinguish the sounds within words.

Children with poor listening and/or attention skills can struggle with phonics learning.

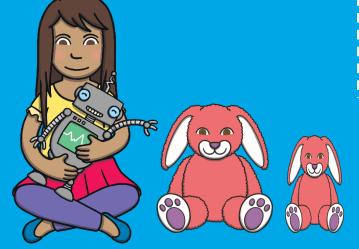
Listening skills begin at birth and there are lots of things that parents and carers can do to support these skills.

Children are also taught listening and attention skills during their early years education (age 0-5).

The first phase of formal phonics education (Phase 1) also focuses on key listening skills. Without these skills, children may struggle to master the next stage of their phonics learning.

Level 1 is taught in Nursery/Preschool.

By the end of Level 1, children will have had the opportunities to:



- o listen attentively;
- enlarge their vocabulary;
- speak confidently to adults and other children;
- discriminate different sounds including phonemes;
- O reproduce audibly the phonemes they hear in words;
- O orally segment words into phonemes.

These learning opportunities are presented through 7 Aspects.



What Are the 7 Aspects of Level 1?

Aspect 1: Environmental Sounds

- Develop listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment
- Identify and remember the differences between sounds
- ✓ Talk about sounds in greater detail

Aspect 2: Instrumental Sounds

- Develop awareness of sounds made with instruments
- Listen to and appreciate the differences between sounds made with instruments
- Use a wide vocabulary to talk about instrument sounds

Aspect 3: Body Percussion

- Develop awareness of sounds and rhythms
- Distinguish between sounds and remember patterns of sound
- ✓ Talk about sounds we make with our bodies and what the sounds mean

Aspect 4: Rhythm and Rhyme

- Experience and appreciate rhythm and rhyme and develop awareness of rhythm and rhyme in speech
- Increase awareness of words that rhyme and develop knowledge about rhyme
- Talk about words that rhyme and produce rhyming words greater detail

Aspect 5: Alliteration

- Develop understanding of alliteration
- Listen to sounds at the beginning of words and hear the differences between them
- Explore how different sounds are articulated

Aspect 6: Voice Sounds

- Distinguish between the differences in vocal sounds
- Explore speechsounds
- Talk about the different sounds that we can make with our voices

Aspect 7: Oral Blending & Segmenting

- Develop oral blending and segmenting of sounds in words
- Listen to sounds within words and remember them in the order in which they occur
- ✓ Talk about the different sounds that make up words

Level 2 is taught in Reception.

By the end of Level 2, children will have had the opportunities to:



- identify the phoneme when shown any Level 2 grapheme;
- identify any Level 2 grapheme when they hear the phoneme;
- orally blend and segment CVC words such as, 'sat' and 'pat';
- blend sounds to read VC words such as, 'if', 'am', 'on' and 'up';
- segment VC words into their sounds to spell them (using magnetic letters);
- o read the tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out): the, to, I, no, go.



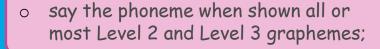
Level 2 Actions and Mnemonics

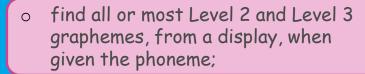


Every sound has a corresponding action and mnemonic which helps children to remember them. You can support your child by modelling the same sounds and actions at home.

Level 3 is taught in Reception.

By the end of Level 3, children will have had the opportunities to:







- blend and read CVC words (single-syllable words consisting of Level 2 and Level 3 graphemes) such as 'chop' and 'night';
- segment and make phonetically plausible attempts at spelling CVC words (single-syllable words consisting of Level 2 and Level 3 graphemes) such as 'paid' and 'seed';
- read the tricky words he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, her, they, all, are & spell the tricky words - the, to, I, no, go;
- write each letter correctly when following a model.







































































Level 3 Actions and Mnemonics



It is really important that children learn to form the letters using the correct letter formation when writing. As they are introduced to a new sound, children are taught how to write it correctly. It would be great if you could also model this at home.

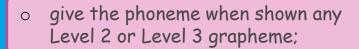
By Phase 4, children are able to represent each of 42 phonemes with a grapheme. Children will be able to read CVC words and begin to segment them to spell them.

Phase 4 is consolidation of children's knowledge. Children also move on to blending and segmenting using adjacent consonants, e.g. st, sp, tr, br, spr, str in words such as string, blow, train.

Phonics teaching continues to be regular and structured and children play games to consolidate their learning.

Level 4 is taught in Reception.

By the end of Level 4, children will have had the opportunities to:



- find any Level 2 or Level 3 grapheme when given the phoneme;
- blend and read words containing adjacent consonants as well as segment and spell words containing adjacent consonants such as, 'sand', 'bench' and 'flight';
- read the tricky words some, one, said, come, do, so, were, when, have, there, out, like, little, what & spell the tricky words - he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, here, they, all, are;
- write each letter, usually using the correct formation;
- orally segment words into phonemes.























































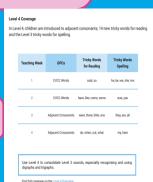








No new sounds are taught in level 4.



Children will broaden their knowledge of graphemes and phonemes.

They will learn alternative ways of spelling the phonemes they have already learnt.

They will learn strategies to help them choose the correct grapheme for spelling.

Children will be reading with more and more fluency, no longer needing to 'sound out' most familiar words.

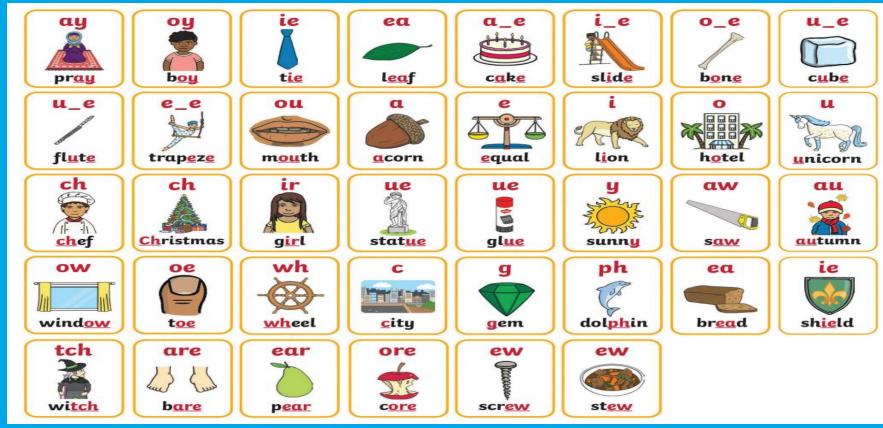
Level 5 is taught in Year 1.

By the end of Level 5, children will have had the opportunities to:



- o give the phoneme, when shown any grapheme that has been taught;
- for any given phoneme, write the common graphemes;
- apply phonics knowledge and skills as the primary approach to reading and spelling unfamiliar words that are not completely decodable;
- read and spell phonically decodable two-syllable and three syllable words such as 'dolphin' and 'fantastic';
- read automatically all taught tricky and common exception words;
- accurately spell all the Level 2, 3 and 4 tricky words and most of the common exception words for reading;
- form each letter correctly;
- use alternative ways of pronouncing and representing the long vowel phonemes.

Level 5 Mnemonics





The new sound is displayed within a word linked to the mnemonic for Level 5.

Level 5 Overview

Teaching Week	GPCs	Common Exception Words for Reading	Common Exception Words for Spelling	Teaching Week	GPCs	Common Exception Words for Reading	Common Exception Words for Spelling
1	'ay' saying /ai/	could should	said so	16	'ow'/'oe' saying /oa/	once, please	thought through
2	'oy' saying /oi/	would want	have like	17	'wh' saying /w/	live, coming	work house
3	'ie saying /igh/	oh their	some come	18	'c' saying /s/ 'g' saying /j/	Monday, Tuesday	many laughed
4	'ea' saying /ee/	Mr Mrs	were there	19	'ph' saying /f/	Wednesday, brother	because different
5	'a_e' saying /ai/	love your	little one	20	'ea' saying /e/	more, before	any eye
6	'i_e' saying /igh/ 'o_e' saying /oa/	people looked	do when	21	'ie' saying /ee/	January, February	friend also
7	'u_e' saying (y) /oo/ and /oo/ 'e_e' saying /ee/	called asked	what could	22	adding -ed (root word unchanged)	April, July	once please
8	'ou' saying /ow/	water where	should would	23	adding -s and -es	scissors, castle	live coming
9	Long Vowel Sounds	who why	want their	24	adding -er and est (adj)	beautiful, treasure	Monday Tuesday
10	'ch' saying /c/ 'ch' saying /sh/	thought through	Mr Mrs	25	'tch' saying /ch/	door, floor	Wednesday brother
11	'ir' saying /ur/	work house	love your	26	adding - ing and -er (verbs)	bought, favourite	more before
12	'ue' saying (y) /oo/ and /oo/	many laughed	people looked	27	'are'/'ear' saying /air/	autumn, gone	January February
13	'ew' saying (y) /oo/ and /oo/	because different	asked called	28	've' saying /v/	know, colour	April July
14	'y' saying /ee/	any eye	water where	29	'ore' saying /or/	other, does	scissors castle
15	'aw'/'au' saying /or/	friend also	who why	30	adding un-	talk, two	beautiful treasure

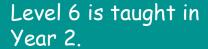


Phase 6 is mainly taught as children progress through year 2 (age 6-7).

Children are becoming fluent readers and more accurate spellers. They learn more spelling patterns such as the use of prefixes and suffixes, contracted forms of words (e.g. can't, won't) and other words in common usage such as days of the week.

At this stage, children can read hundreds of words automatically. They are now reading for pleasure and reading to learn rather than learning to read.

They can decode words quickly and silently and only need to sound out longer or more unfamiliar words.



By the end of Level 6, children will have had the opportunities to:

At this stage, children can read hundreds of words automatically. They are now reading for pleasure and reading to learn rather than learning to read.

- read accurately most words of two or more syllables;
- o read most words containing common suffixes;
- read most common exception words:
- read most words accurately, in age-appropriate books, without overt sounding and blending, fluent enough to allow them to focus on their understanding rather than on decoding individual words;
- sound out most unfamiliar words accurately, without undue hesitation;
- segment spoken words into phonemes and represent these by graphemes, spelling many of these words correctly and making phonetically plausible attempts at others;
- o spell most common exception words correctly.

Level 6 Overview

Teaching Week	Spelling Pattern	Common Exception Words for Spelling	Grammar Focus	Teaching Week	Spelling Pattern	Common Exception Words for Spelling	Grammar Focus
1	'y' saying /igh/	door, floor	Capital Letters and Full Stops	16	'mb' saying /m/	famous, shoe	Using a Dictionary 1 - Finding Definitions
2	'dge' saying /j/ 'ge' saying /j/	bought, favourite	Proper Nouns (Names)	17	'al' saying /or/	pretty, neighbour	Coordinating Conjunctions
3	-es to words ending in y	autumn gone	Plural nouns	18	-ing , -ed to CVC, CCVC words	England, tongue	Irregular Past Tense
4	'gn' saying /n/	know colour	Alphabetical Order (1) - First/Second Letter	19	'o' saying /u/	group, country	Exciting Words (1) - alt words for said
5	'kn' saying /n/	other does	Alphabetical Order (2) - Second/ Subsequent Letters	20	'ey' saying /ee/	heart, dangerous	Exclamation Marks (to show emotion/shouting)
6	-ed, -ing to words ending in y	talk two	Verbs	21	-er, -est, -y to CVC, CVCC words	special, enough	Improving Sentences (1) Adjectives and Nouns
7	'wr' saying /r/	four, eight	Adverbs	22	contractions	aunt, father	Contractions
8	-le	world work	Common Nouns (Revision)	23	'war' saying /wor/ 'wor' saying /wur/	prove, improve	Subordinating Conjunctions
9	-er, -est to words ending in y	poor, great	Adjectives and Expanded Noun Phrases	24	suffixes -ment, -ness	hour, move	Improving Sentences (2) - Verbs and adverbs
10	-el	break, steak	Commas in Lists	25	's' saying /zh/	sure, sugar	Exciting Words (2) Using a Thesaurus
11	-al, -il	busy, clothes	Capital letters for place names	26	'wa' saying /wo/ 'qua' saying /quo/	half, quarter	Posessive Apostrophe
12	-ed, -er to words ending in e	whole, listen	Regular Past Tense	27	tion	straight, touch	Improving Sentences (2) - when, if, because
13	'eer' saying /ear/	build, earth	Regular Present Tense	28	suffixes -ful, -less, -ly	caught, daughter	Speech Marks
14	ture	delicious, fruit	Question Marks and Commands	29	homophones/near homophones	journey, area	Commas in Speech
15	-est, -y to words ending in e	learn, search	Exclamations and Statements	30	prefix dis-	heard, early	Using a Dictionary 2 - Checking Spellings



Level 6 Mnemonics













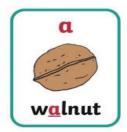




























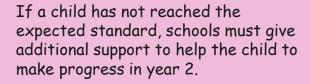


Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

In June, all year 1 children are expected to complete the year 1 Phonics Screening Check.

The aim is to check that a child is making progress in phonics. They are expected to read a mixture of real words and 'nonsense' words. (Nonsense words can also be referred to as 'pseudo' or 'alien' words)

For more information why not take a look at the Twinkl Phonics Year 1 Screening **Check Guide for Parents**



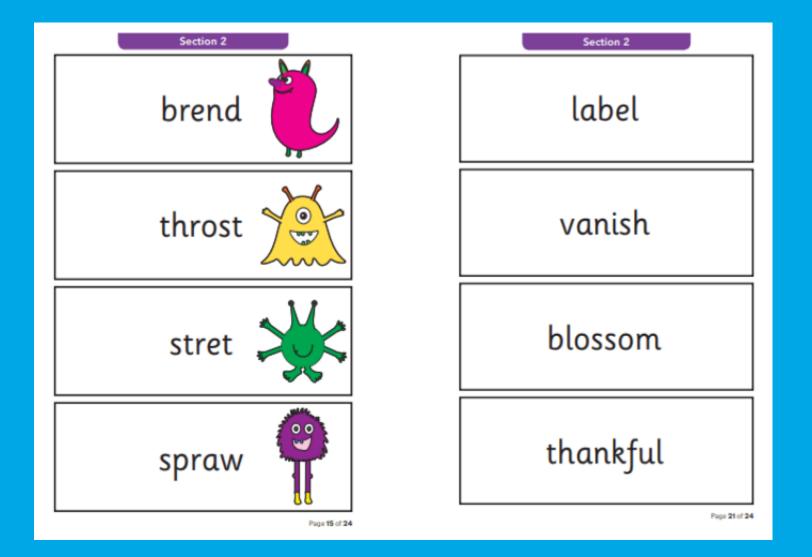
Children who have not passed the check in year 1 will have the opportunity to retake it in year 2.







Year 1 Phonics Screening Check



How You Can Help Your Child at Home

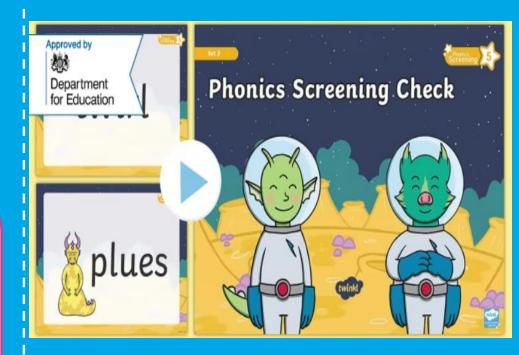
Work on listening skills, taking turns and encouraging your child to look at you when you are speaking.

Practise segmenting and blending words.

Look for familiar sounds and words in the world around you. Such as, when in the supermarket, can your child find words on your shopping list or recognise letters on food packaging?

When outside, can they recognise letters on street names or on car number plates?

When in the house, can they recognise letters or words in magazines or letters you receive?





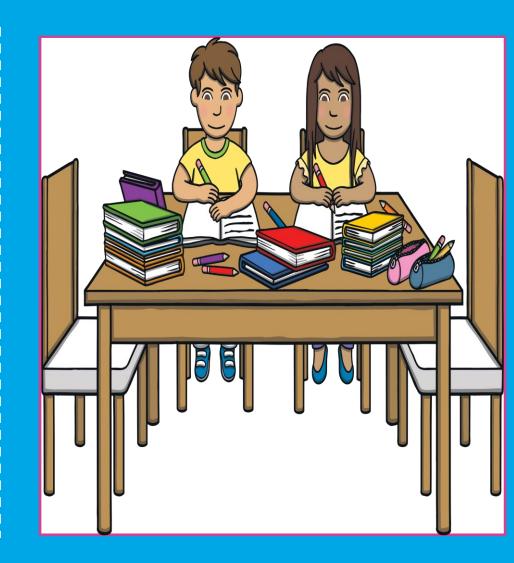
How You Can Help Your Child at Home

Practise the new sounds and graphemes your child brings home using the Parent Information Sheets. Remember to use 'pure' sounds when pronouncing the sounds and model the correct letter formation as is taught in school.

Support your child to complete any homework they bring home.

Read to and with your child every day.

Finally, remember to ask your child's class teacher if you are unsure about any aspect of your child's phonics learning. A consistent approach is important.



Assessment

Literacy

Comprehension

- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
- Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.
- Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, nonfiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.

Word Reading

- Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs.
- Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending.
- Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.

Writing

- Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.
- Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

Year 1:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study#key-stage-1---year-1

Year 2:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-english-programmes-of-study#key-stage-1---year-2

Any Questions?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFjzVBjQoC4