Term	Meaning
Adjacent consonants	Two or three consonants next to each other that represent different sounds. For example, **bl** in **bl**ack. Notice here that **bl** makes the two different sounds **b** and **l**, whereas **ck** makes the single sound **ck**.
Blending	Blending involves merging the sounds in a word together in order to pronounce it. This is important for reading. For example, **j-a-m** blended together reads the word **jam**.
Consonant	The letters of the alphabet (apart from the vowels **a**, **e**, **i**, **o** and **u**).
Consonant digraph	A digraph that is made up of two consonants (**sh** in **sh**op).
CVC words	A consonant-vowel-consonant word, such as **cat**, **pin** or **top**.
CCVC words	Consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant words such as **clap** and **from**.
CVCC words	Consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant words such as **mask** and **belt**.
Digraph	A grapheme made up of two letters that makes one sound (**sh** in **sh**op).
Grapheme	Graphemes are the written representation of sounds. A grapheme may be one letter (**f**), two letters (**ir**), three letters (**igh**) or four letters in length (**ough**).
Grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs)	Knowing your GPCs means being able to hear a phoneme and knowing what grapheme to use to represent it. This is helpful for spelling. It also means seeing a grapheme and knowing the phoneme that relates to it, which is important for reading.
Phoneme	Phonemes are the smallest unit of speech-sounds which make up a word. If you change a phoneme in a word, you would change its meaning. For example, there are three phonemes in the word **sit** /s/-/i/-/t/. If you change the phoneme /s/ for /f/, you have a new word, **fit**. If you change the phoneme /t/ in fit for a /sh/, you have a new word, **fish** – /f/-/i/-/sh/. There are around 44 phonemes in English and they are represented by graphemes in writing.
Segmenting	Segmenting involves breaking up a word that you hear into its sounds. This helps with spelling because if you know what graphemes represent the sounds in the word, you can write it! For example, the word **jam** is segmented into the sounds **j-a-m**.
Split digraph	A digraph that is split between a consonant (**a-e** in m**a**k**e**). A split digraph usually changes the sound of the first vowel. For example, compare the pronunciation between **man** and **made**.
Tricky words	Words that are commonly used in English, but they have spelling patterns which make them difficult to read and write using introductory phonic knowledge. For example, **said**, **of** and **was**.
Trigraph	A grapheme made up of three letters that makes one sound (**igh** in h**igh**).
Vowel	The letters **a**, **e**, **i**, **o** and **u**.