



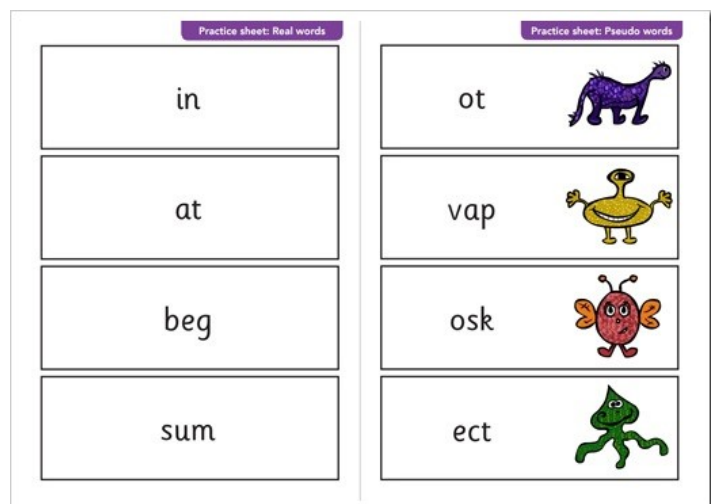
*Year 1*  
**2020-2021**

## What is the Phonics Screening Check?

All children will complete a Phonics Screening Check so that their teachers can see how well they can apply their phonics knowledge to decode words. Your child will sit with the class teacher and will be asked to read 40 words aloud. The test normally takes a few minutes. If your child is struggling the teacher will stop the check.

The check consists of a list of 40 words, **half real words** and **half nonsense** or **pseudo words**. To pass your child must read around 32/40 words correctly. The 40 words in the check are split into sections progressing from simple word structures to trickier words with five or six letters.

The sometimes confusing thing about the screening check is that 20/40 of the words that children are expected to read are 'nonsense words'; alien words that have no meaning. This is so that the check tests a child's skills in phonetically decoding words exclusively and to ensure they don't just know the word in the check by memory. The aim of the check is to ensure children have the skills they need to learn new words in the future.



## What is Phonics?

Let's start at the beginning... Each one of the 26 letters in the alphabet has its own 'sound'. This is very different to how a letter is 'said' in the alphabet.

For example:

'a' in 'ant'



'b' in 'box'.



Of course phonics is not that simple! There are more than 26 letters in English language, in fact there are 44 sounds in total. Some of these sounds are made up of 2 or 3 letters. Two letter sounds are called digraphs and three letter sounds are called trigraphs.

'oa' digraph in boat



'igh' trigraph in night



It gets a bit more complicated than that too!

For example the 'n' sound, like in 'nail' is also spelt 'kn' like in 'knot' or 'gn' like in 'gnome'.

gnome



knot



nail



The sound that children struggle to spot the most when decoding words and breaking them down into its sounds is the 'split digraph'. This is when two letters work together to make one sound, however they are split by having a separate letter in the middle. Fortunately 'split digraphs' always end in an 'e' which does make them a little easier to spot!

a\_e in cake



o\_e in phone



## Phonics Vocabulary

**Phoneme** - a sound as it is said

**Grapheme** - a sound that is written

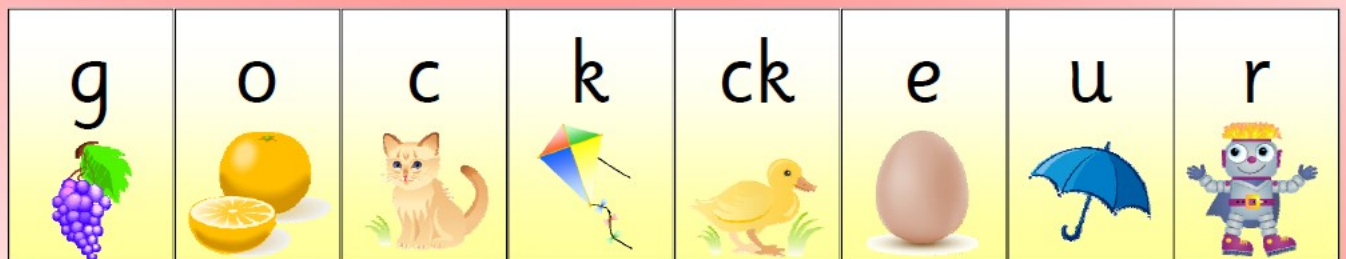
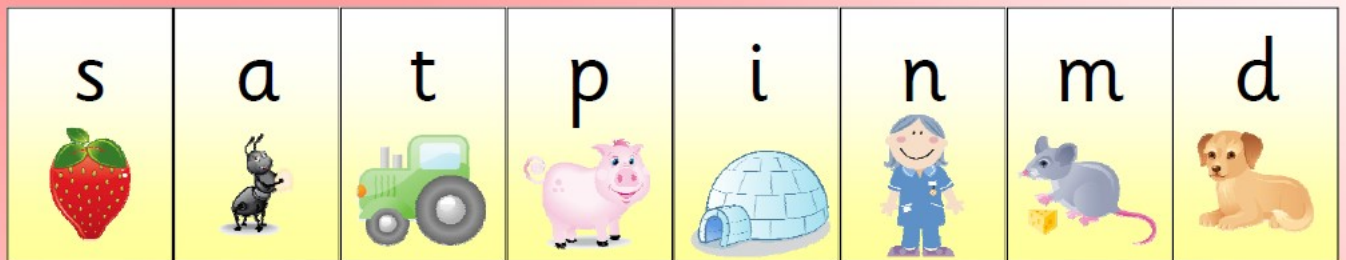
**Digraph** - two letters that work together to make the same sound

**Trigraph** - Three letters that work together to make the same sound










**Split digraph** - Two letters that work together to make the same sound, separated by another letter










### How can I help my child with phonics at home?










- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng/ in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.



These tables have all of the sounds from Phase 2, Phase 3 and Phase 5 which will be included in the phonics check.




j	v	w	x	y	z	zz	qu	ch
								

sh	th	ng	ai	ee	igh	oa	oo	oo
								

ar	or	ur	ow	oi	ear	air	ure	er
								

ay	ou	ie	ea	oy	ir	ue	aw	wh
								

ph	ew	oe	au	ey	a_e	e_e
						

i_e	o_e	u_e
		



## Let's have a go!

Here are some real and pseudo words in a similar format to how the children will read them in the check. Please practise them at home.

jox



bang

peek

lound



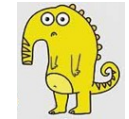
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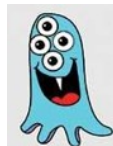
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giving

finger

teacher

sunlight