

# Phase 6

## Introduction to Letters and Sounds Phase 6



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At the start of Phase Six of Letters and Sounds, children will have already learnt the most frequently occurring grapheme–phoneme correspondences (GPCs) in the English language. They will be able to read many familiar words automatically. When they come across unfamiliar words they will in many cases be able to decode them quickly and quietly using their well-developed sounding and blending skills. With more complex unfamiliar words they will often be able to decode them by sounding them out.

At this stage children should be able to spell words phonemically although not always correctly. In Phase Six the main aim is for children to become more fluent readers and more accurate spellers. For full details, visit the Standards site to download a guide on implementing [Phase 6](#) of Letters and sounds in the classroom.

## Phonics Glossary

There are many technical terms which are used in phonics. It can sometimes seem that parents and teachers are not talking the same language, and confusion can result. Here is an explanation of the most commonly used phonics words.

Term	Meaning
CVC	A consonant-vowel-consonant word, such as <b>cat</b> , <b>pin</b> or <b>top</b> . You may also come across the abbreviation CCVC for consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant words such as <b>clap</b> and <b>from</b> . Also CVCC for words such as <b>mask</b> and <b>belt</b> .
<i>Phoneme</i>	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 <b>sit</b> /s/-/i/-/t/. If you change the phoneme /s/ for /f/, you have a new word, <b>fit</b> . If you change the phoneme /t/ in fit for a /sh/, you have a new word, <b>fish</b> - /f/-/i/-/sh/.
<i>Grapheme</i>	Graphemes are the written representation of sounds.