

# 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!

Whole Scheme Sound Mat

a a	e e ea	i i	o o	u u oo o	ai ai ay a_e a	ee ee y ie e_e ey e	igh igh i ie y i_e	oa oa ow o_e oe o	oo oo ue u_e ew
ar ar	or or ore aw al au a	ur ur er ir	ow ow ou	oi oi oy	ear ear eer	air air are ear	ure ure	u_e u_e ue u ew	b b
c c ck k ch	ch ch tch	d d	f f ff ph	g g	h h	j j dge g ge	l l el ll al le il	m m mb	n n gn kn
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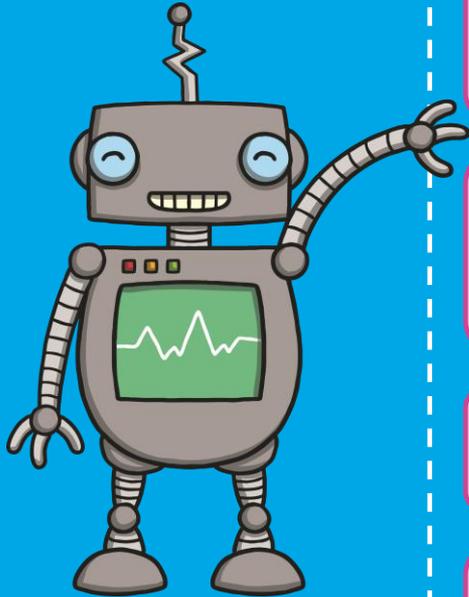
# Phonics Terminology

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

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

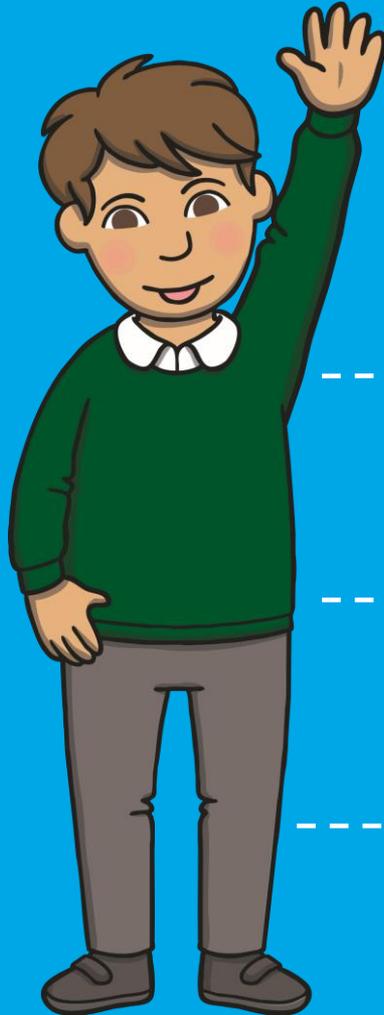


# What Is Synthetic Phonics?



- Synthetic phonics is a method of teaching reading and writing, in which words are broken up into their smallest units of sound or 'phonemes'.
- Children learn to associate a written letter or group of letters, known as 'graphemes', with each phoneme.
- 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.
- 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?



Children progress through the stages as they are ready.

Planning ensures progression and coverage.

Children can attempt new words working from sounds alone.

Reading and writing become practices that are developed hand in hand.

# 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	7	Reception	4-5 years
Level 3	12	Reception	4-5 years
Level 4	5	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.

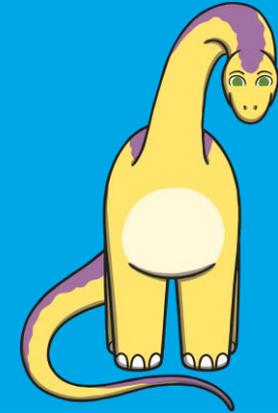
# Level 1



Level 1 is taught in Nursery/Preschool.

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

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



These learning opportunities are presented through 7 Aspects.

# Level 2



Level 2 is taught in Reception.

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

## Level 2 Coverage

In Level 2, children will learn the first 24 GPCs (19 letters, 4 digraphs and an alternative pronunciation) and the first 5 tricky words for reading.

Teaching Week	GPCs	Tricky Words for Reading
1	s a t p	
2	i n m d	
3	g o c k	
4	ck e ur	to, the
5	h, b, f, l	no, go, l
6	ff, ll, ss, 's' saying /z/	all level 2 tricky words
7	Recap of all Level 2 sounds	all level 2 tricky words

- 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);
- read the tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out): the, to, l, no, go.



# Level 2 Actions and Mnemonics

<p><b>s</b></p>  <p>Make a snake's head with your hands and wiggle your body like a snake!</p>	<p><b>a</b></p>  <p>Pretend to bite into a crunchy apple.</p>	<p><b>t</b></p>  <p>Pretend to stir a teaspoon around a teacup.</p>	<p><b>p</b></p>  <p>Make one hand into a puppy's head and pat it with your other hand.</p>	<p><b>i</b></p>  <p>Flap your hands like an insect's wings.</p>	<p><b>n</b></p>  <p>Make your fist into a nut and tap it.</p>
<p><b>m</b></p>  <p>Yummy! Rub your tummy.</p>	<p><b>d</b></p>  <p>Pretend to play your drum kit.</p>	<p><b>g</b></p>  <p>Pretend to wrap your scarf like Gabi.</p>	<p><b>o</b></p>  <p>Pretend to squeeze a juicy orange.</p>	<p><b>c</b></p>  <p>Wiggle your finger like a caterpillar.</p>	<p><b>k</b></p>  <p>Pretend to spread your hand like a kite and fly it in the air.</p>
<p><b>ck</b></p>  <p>Make a duck's beak with your hands and pretend to pick up sticks.</p>	<p><b>e</b></p>  <p>Make an egg with one hand and tap it with the other.</p>	<p><b>u</b></p>  <p>Make one hand into an umbrella and sprinkle rain on it.</p>	<p><b>r</b></p>  <p>Move your arms like a robot.</p>	<p><b>h</b></p>  <p>Pretend to open the door of the house.</p>	<p><b>b</b></p>  <p>Pretend to throw and catch a ball.</p>
<p><b>f</b></p>  <p>Pretend to wave a magic wand.</p>	<p><b>l</b></p>  <p>Pretend to lick an ice lolly.</p>	<p><b>ff</b></p>  <p>Pretend to switch off the light.</p>	<p><b>ll</b></p>  <p>Pretend to ring a bell.</p>	<p><b>ss</b></p>  <p>Blow a kiss.</p>	

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



Level 3 is taught in Reception.

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

- say the phoneme when shown all or most Level 2 and Level 3 graphemes;
- find all or most Level 2 and Level 3 graphemes, from a display, when given the phoneme;
- 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.



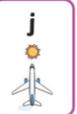
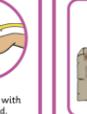
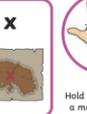
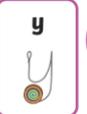
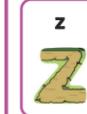
## Level 3 Coverage

In Level 3, children continue to learn 28 new GPCs (6 letters, 17 digraphs, 3 trigraphs and 2 alternative pronunciations) and 12 tricky words for reading. They also learn the spelling of the Level 2 tricky words.

Teaching Week	GPCs	Tricky Words for Reading	Tricky Words for Spelling
1	j, v, w, x	all level 2 tricky words	
2	y, z, zz, qu, ch	he, she	the, to
3	sh, th, th, ng	we, me, be	
4	ai, ee, igh, oa	was	no, go, I
5	oo, oo, ar, or	my	
6	ur, ow, oi, ear	you	
7	air, ure, er	they	
8	all level 3 GPCs	here	
9	all level 3 GPCs	all, are	
10	trigraphs and consonant digraphs	was, my (recap)	
11	recap j, v, w, x and vowel digraphs	we, they (recap)	
12	all level 3 GPCs	all level 3 tricky words	the, to, no, go, I



# Level 3 Actions and Mnemonics

<p><b>j</b></p>  <p>Sweep your hand up like a jumbo jet taking off.</p>	<p><b>v</b></p>  <p>Draw a v shape on your chest to show the V-neck of the vest.</p>	<p><b>w</b></p>  <p>Make waves with your hand.</p>	<p><b>x</b></p>  <p>Hold one hand like a map and draw an x on it.</p>	<p><b>y</b></p>  <p>Pretend to raise and lower a yoyo.</p>	<p><b>z</b></p>  <p>Draw the zigzag path in the air.</p>
<p><b>qu</b></p>  <p>Give a royal wave.</p>	<p><b>ch</b></p>  <p>Use your thumb and forefinger to make a chick's beak.</p>	<p><b>sh</b></p>  <p>Put a finger to your lips.</p>	<p><b>th</b></p>  <p>Put your forefingers on your head and wiggle your moth's feelers.</p>	<p><b>th</b></p>  <p>Stroke your hand on your cheek like a soft feather.</p>	<p><b>ng</b></p>  <p>Tap your ring finger.</p>
<p><b>ai</b></p>  <p>Draw a spiral snail's shell.</p>	<p><b>ee</b></p>  <p>Make mouse whiskers.</p>	<p><b>igh</b></p>  <p>Hold one arm across your body as if holding a shield and pat it with your other hand.</p>	<p><b>oa</b></p>  <p>Pretend to row your boat.</p>	<p><b>oo</b></p>  <p>Point at the moon.</p>	<p><b>oo</b></p>  <p>Pretend to open a book.</p>
<p><b>ar</b></p>  <p>Make twinkling star fingers.</p>	<p><b>or</b></p>  <p>Pretend to press a car horn.</p>	<p><b>ur</b></p>  <p>Pretend to open a purse.</p>	<p><b>ow</b></p>  <p>Pretend to squeeze the squirly flower on your coat.</p>	<p><b>oi</b></p>  <p>Flick your thumb as if tossing a coin.</p>	<p><b>ear</b></p>  <p>Cup your hand around your ear.</p>
<p><b>air</b></p>  <p>Hold a chair, move it in and out from a desk.</p>	<p><b>ure</b></p>  <p>Swing your arm like a pirate.</p>	<p><b>er</b></p>  <p>Pretend to sneeze!</p>			

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.

# Level 4



Level 4 is taught in Reception.

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

- give the phoneme when shown any Level 2 or Level 3 grapheme;
- 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.

## Level 4 Coverage

In Level 4, children are introduced to adjacent consonants, 14 new tricky words for reading and the Level 3 tricky words for spelling.

Teaching Week	GPCs	Tricky Words for Reading	Tricky Words for Spelling
1	CVCC Words	said, so	he, be, we, she, me
2	CVCC Words	have, like, come, some	was, you
3	Adjacent Consonants	were, there, little, one	they, are, all
4	Adjacent Consonants	do, when, out, what	my, here
5	three-letter adjacent consonants	all level 4 words	all level 4 words

Use Level 4 to consolidate Level 3 sounds, especially recognising and using digraphs and trigraphs.

No new sounds are taught in Level 4.



# 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](#)

If a child has not reached the expected standard, schools must give additional support to help the child to make progress in year 2.

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



# How You Can Help Your Child at Home

Read to and with your child **every day**. Your child's reading book will be closely matched to their Phonics learning. Reading this at least three times a week will have a huge impact on the speed your child learns and retains phonemes.

Re-reading the same book a number of times is a fantastic way of helping the children to recognise graphemes and words and become more fluent readers.

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

Practise segmenting and blending words. A video of how to do this is on the school website.



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.

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.

This week, we have been learning to read and spell words containing **dge** and **ge** saying /j/.



Level 6

## The /j/ Sound Family

**dge** This spelling is used when the /j/ sound comes at the end of a word and after a short vowel sound. (Short vowels are spoken as a pure sound).

**badge**  
**bridge**

**ge** This spelling is used when the /j/ sound comes at the end of a word and after a long vowel sound, a vowel digraph or a consonant. (Long vowels are spoken like letter names.)

**huge**  
**barge**  
**orange**  
**challenge**

**g** This spelling is sometimes used when the /j/ sound is followed by e, i or y.

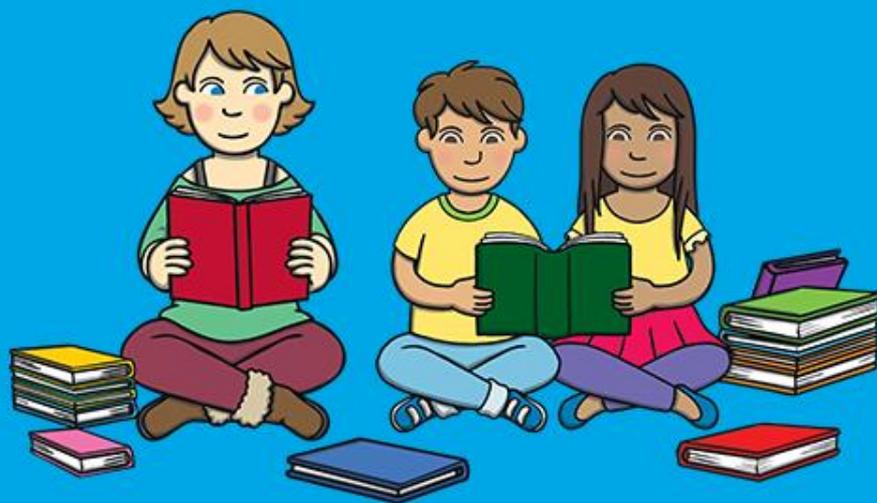
**gem**  
**gymnast**  
**giant**

**j** This spelling is used when the /j/ sound is at the start or in the middle of words.

**jump**  
**jelly**  
**injury**

# Any Questions?





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