

FOUNDATION STAGE

GRAMMAR GLOSSARY

Name	Definition
Alphabet	<p>The official names of the 26 letters.</p> <p><i>a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z</i></p>
Phoneme	<p>A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>hearing the sounds</i> <i>b-a-t</i> <i>or</i> <i>g-oo-t</i> <i>as individual sounds.</i></p>
Grapheme	<p>Graphemes are the written letters of the sounds in a word.</p>
Segmenting	<p>Segmenting is the process of breaking words into phonemes to spell them.</p> <p><i>Example: breaking down the word 'tip' into the individual sounds</i> <i>t-i-p.</i></p>
Blending	<p>Blending is the process of putting phonemes together to read the words.</p> <p><i>Example: putting the individual sounds t-i-p together to say the word, tip.</i></p>
Digraph	<p>A digraph is two letters that create one sound.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>s-ee-d, b-oo-t, f-or, c-ow, r-ai-n, l-oo-k, s-oo-n</i></p>
Trigraph	<p>A trigraph is three letters that create one sound.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>n-igh-t, f-air, c-ure, h-ear</i></p>
Word	<p>A word is a collection of letters that give meaning.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>hat</i></p>
Sentence	<p>A sentence is a collection of words that give meaning.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>I went to the park.</i></p>

Finger spaces	<p>The space between individual words in a sentence.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>The cat sat on the mat.</i> <i>Instead of: Thecatsatonthemat.</i></p>
Capital letters	<p>The uppercase version of the alphabet.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>A, B, C rather than a, b, c</i></p> <p>We use capital letters at the beginning of sentences and for the names of people, places and days of the week.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>On Thursday, John went to the shop.</i></p>
Full stop	<p>A full stop is the dot that sits on the line to signify the end of a sentence.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> <i>I like swimming.</i></p>