



## Alliteration

Words are alliterative when they share a common onset, e.g. Lazy Lucy licks the lemon lollipop. Learners are sensitive to the alliteration in words that are close together when they have knowledge about onsets.

## Blending

Blending is putting together sounds in words, so that they become a blended unit, e.g. g, ia, n, t → giant.

## Chunking

Chunking is breaking up words according to the chunks of sounds or syllables, e.g. spiders → spi / ders.

## Consonant blend

A consonant blend refers to the blended sound represented by two or three consonant letters, e.g. blend, strong.

## Consonant digraph

A consonant digraph refers to a single sound which is represented by two consonant letters, e.g. through.

## Consonant letter

The 21 consonant letters in the English alphabet are “b”, “c”, “d”, “f”, “g”, “h”, “j”, “k”, “l”, “m”, “n”, “p”, “q”, “r”, “s”, “t”, “v”, “w”, “x”, “y” and “z”.

## Consonant sound

A consonant sound is a speech sound produced by a stoppage of breath, e.g. leave, sing.

## Consonant trigraph

A consonant trigraph refers to a single sound which is represented by three consonant letters, e.g. watch.

## Consonant-and-vowel digraph

A consonant-and-vowel digraph refers to a single sound which is represented by a consonant letter and a vowel letter, e.g. special, action.



## Consonant-and-vowel trigraph

A consonant-and-vowel trigraph refers to a single sound which is usually represented by a consonant letter and two vowel letters, e.g. cheque, dialogue.

## Haiku

Haiku is a Japanese lyric form that represents the poet's impression of a natural scene or object in 17 syllables in 3 lines. There are 5 syllables in the first and third lines; 7 in the second.

## Inflectional ending

An inflectional ending is a letter or group of letters attached to the end of a word to express grammatical contrasts. For example, “-s” or “-es” attached to a noun can express the grammatical contrast between singular and plural; “-ed” attached to a verb can express the grammatical contrast between the present tense and the past tense.

## Letter-sound relationship

Letter-sound relationship refers to the relationship between letters or combinations of letters and their sounds, e.g. the letter “a” is pronounced in different ways in “name” and “apple”, the combination of letters “ei” is pronounced in different ways in “weight” and “height”.

## Linking

Linking is a way of joining the pronunciation of two words so that they are easy to say and flow together smoothly. This usually occurs when the rime of the final syllable of the first word ends with a consonant letter sound and the second word begins with a vowel letter sound or a syllable without an onset, e.g. get on.

## Magic -e

The addition of a silent letter “e” after a vowel followed by a consonant changes a short vowel sound to a long vowel sound. It also makes the vowel letters “a”, “e”, “i”, “o” and “u” say their own names, e.g. rid → ride.

## Multi-syllabic word

A multi-syllabic word is a word consisting of more than one syllable, e.g. “fi/nish” includes two syllables; “e/le/phant” includes three syllables.



## Onset

An onset is the opening unit of a syllable that comes before the vowel sound, e.g. hit. Words with the same onset are alliterative.

## Phoneme

A phoneme is the smallest unit of speech sound that is represented by the letter or a combination of letters of the alphabet, e.g. f, or, m in “form”.

## Phonetics

Phonetics is the study of speech sounds.

## Phonics

Phonics includes the teaching of the basic letter-sound relationships and the application of such knowledge to facilitate reading and spelling.

## Phonological awareness

Phonological awareness is the understanding of the relationships between letters or combinations of letters and their sounds or sound units. It is the knowledge about phonemes, onsets and rimes, and syllables.

## Prefix

A prefix is a letter or group of letters attached to the beginning of a word to form a new word, e.g. “a-” + “shore” → ashore, “ab-” + “normal” → abnormal. It may or may not change the part of speech of the word it is attached to.

## Rhyme

Words rhyme when they share a common rime (i.e. the ending unit of a mono-syllabic word or the ending unit of the final syllable of a multi-syllabic word), e.g. day, delay, Malay. Learners are sensitive to the rhyme in words when they have knowledge about rimes.

## Rime

A rime is the ending unit of a syllable that includes the vowel and the following consonant sound(s), e.g. street. Words with the same rime rhyme.



### **Silent -e**

The silent -e always occurs at the end of a word and is not pronounced. Unlike the magic -e, the silent -e does not lengthen the short vowel that it follows to a long vowel sound, e.g. come, done, some.

### **Suffix**

A suffix is a letter or group of letters attached to the end of a word to form a new word, e.g. “enquire” + “-y” → enquiry, “govern” + “-ment” → government. It may or may not change the part of speech of the word it is attached to.

### **Syllable**

A syllable is a chunk of sounds. It contains a single vowel sound or a group of sounds with only one vowel sound. It can be part of a word that contains a single vowel sound that is pronounced as a unit, e.g. there is one syllable in “miss” and there are two syllables in “o/bese”.

### **Vowel letter**

The 5 vowel letters in the English alphabet are “a”, “e”, “i”, “o” and “u”.

### **Vowel sound**

A vowel sound is a speech sound made without audible stopping of the breath, e.g. not, fat.

