

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!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ugGQqMmvFA>

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 ea 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
ng ng	p p	qu qu	r r wr	s s ss c	sh sh ch	t t	th th	th th	v v
w w wh	x x	y y	z z zz s	zh s	tion tion	ture ture			

twinkl



Phonics Terminology

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

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



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.

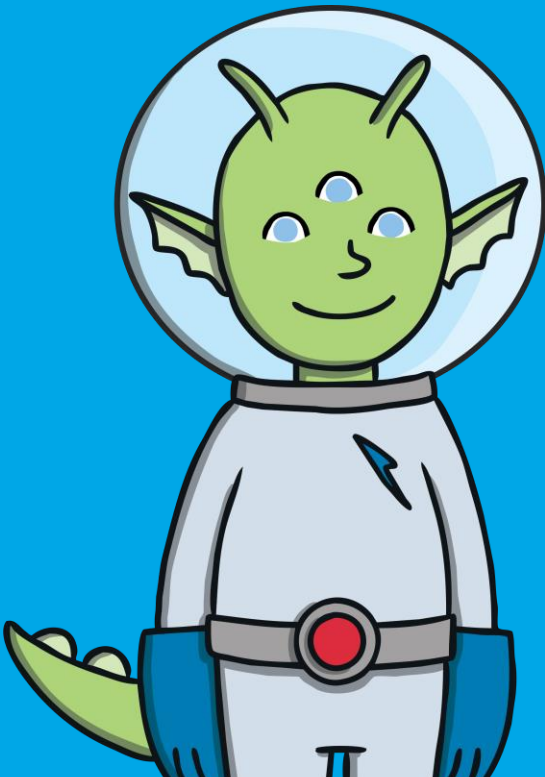
Level 5



Level 5 is taught in Year 1.

By the end of Level 5, children will have had the opportunities to:

- give the sound (phoneme), when shown any grapheme that has been taught;
- for any given phoneme, write the common graphemes;
- apply phonics knowledge and skills as the primary approach to reading and spelling unfamiliar words that are not completely decodable;
- read and spell phonically decodable two-syllable and three-syllable words such as 'dolphin' and 'parachute';
- read automatically all taught tricky and common exception words;
- accurately spell all the Level 2, 3 and 4 tricky words and most of the common exception words for reading;
- form each letter correctly;
- use alternative ways of pronouncing and representing the long vowel phonemes.



Level 5 Mnemonics

ay  pray	oy  boy	ie  tie	ea  leaf	a_e  cake	i_e  slide	o_e  bone	u_e  cube
u_e  flute	e_e  trapeze	ou  mouth	a  acorn	e  equal	i  lion	o  hotel	u  unicorn
ch  chef	ch  Christmas	ir  girl	ue  statue	ue  glue	ew  screw	ew  stew	y  sunny
aw  saw	au  autumn	ow  window	oe  toe	wh  wheel	c  city	g  gem	ph  dolphin
ea  bread	ie  shield	tch  witch	are  bare	ear  pear	ore  core		

The new sound is displayed within a word linked to the mnemonic for Level 5.



Level 5 Overview

Teaching Week	Focus	Common Exception Words for Reading	Common Exception Words for Spelling	Teaching Week	Focus	Common Exception Words for Reading	Common Exception Words for Spelling
1	'ay' saying /ai/	could, should	said, so	16	'ow'/'oe' saying /oa/	once, please	thought through
2	'oy' saying /oi/	would, want	have, like	17	'wh' saying /w/	live, coming	work house
3	'ie' saying /igh/	oh, their	some, come	18	'g' saying /j/ 'c' saying /s/	Monday, Tuesday	many laughed
4	'ea' saying /ee/	Mr, Mrs	were, there	19	'ph' saying /f/	Wednesday, brother	because different
5	'a_e' saying /ai/	love, your	little, one	20	'ea' saying /e/	more, before	any eye
6	'i_e' saying /igh/ 'o_e' saying /oa/	people, looked	do, when	21	'ie' saying /ee/	January, February	friend also
7	'u_e' saying /yoo/ and /oo/ 'oo' and /oo/ 'e_e' saying /ee/	called, asked	what, oh	22	adding -ed (root word unchanged)	April, July	once please
8	'ou' saying /ow/	water, where	could, should, would	23	adding -s and -es	scissors, castle	live coming
9	Long Vowel Sounds	who, why	want, their	24	adding -er and est (adj)	beautiful, treasure	Monday Tuesday
10	'ch' saying /c/ 'ch' saying /sh/	thought, through	Mr, Mrs	25	'tch' saying /ch/	door, floor	Wednesday brother
11	'ir' saying /ur/	work, house	love, your	26	adding -ing and -er (verbs)	bought, favourite	more before
12	'ue' saying /yoo/ and /oo/	many, laughed	people, looked	27	'are'/'ear' saying /air/	autumn, gone	January February
13	'ew' saying /yoo/ and /oo/	because, different	called, asked	28	unspoken 'e'	know, colour	April July
14	'y' saying /ee/	any, eye	water, where	29	'ore' saying /or/	other, does	scissors castle
15	'aw'/'au' saying /or/	friend, also	who, why	30	adding un-	talk, two	beautiful treasure



Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

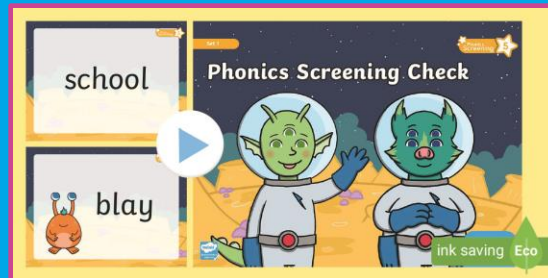
In June, all year 1 children are expected to complete the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.

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.



Guided Reading in Year 1

We are going to send home these Guided Reading books the week after we read them.

Please keep them in the book bag so they can be changed weekly.

Look at the cover and check that your child knows the new sound. If not try to spot it throughout the book before you start.

Use sound buttons with any unknown words and encourage them to split up longer words if they need to. Blend the sounds together.

The tricky words cannot be sounded out and their knowledge of these will be built upon each week. The new common exception words are in pink to further support them.



Please try to have fun together whilst reading. Enjoying sharing a story together is really powerful.

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.

Read to and with your child **every day**.

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



Made by teachers, perfect for parents

Free parent packs at [twinkl.co.uk/parents](https://www.twinkl.co.uk/parents)



How You Can Help Your Child at Home

If you would like to play some phonics games with your child there is a Twinkl phonics app that is available for you to download.

I will give you your child's individual username and password for you if you would like to have a look.



Twinkl Phonics App

Any Questions?





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