

Reading Terms and Definitions

***Alphabetic Principle:** the principle that letters are used to represent individual phonemes (sounds) in the spoken word.

***Alphabetic Writing System:** a system of symbols that represent each consonant and vowel sound in a language.

***Base word/ Root Word:** the smallest meaningful word to which prefixes &/or suffixes may be added.

Blends: two consonants, but each makes its own sounds (sp-, cr-, str-...)

***Blending:** puts together individual sounds to make a word.

***Chunk:** a group of letters, processed as a unit, that corresponds to a piece of a word. These may be a consonant cluster (str, ph, ch...), rime pattern (-at, -op...), a syllable, or a morpheme.

***Consonant:** a phoneme or speech sound that is not a vowel. English has 25 consonant phonemes.

***Context:** the language that surrounds a given word or phrase. The meaningful associations that surround a given word or phrase.

***Decoding:** the act of deciphering a new word by sounding it out.

Digraph: a new sound is produced when two letters are together (ch, wh, ph, sh, ng, th). These sounds must be memorized.

Diphthong: a vowel combination that when put together, they record a new single sound and require a change of mouth to say it. There are only four: -ow, -ou, -oy, and -oi.

***Inflection:** a grammatical ending that does not change the part of speech of a word but that marks its tense, number or degree in English (ex: -ed, -s, -ing)

***Listening Development:** A child must be able to discriminate sounds for phonics. Listening involves thinking and is a receptive area. Listening builds memory and must be taught.

***Long Term Memory:** the memory system that stores information beyond 24 hours.

Morpheme: the smallest meaning in a word (prefix, suffix) that carries meaning.

***Narrative:** text that tells about sequences of events, usually with the structure of a fiction or nonfiction story.

Onset/Rime: Onset is the beginning sound of a word. Rime is the ending sounds in a word after the beginning sound is taken off.

***Phoneme:** a speech sound that combines with others in a language system to make words.

***Phonics:** the study of relationships between letters and the sounds they represent.

***Phonological awareness:** having awareness of all levels of the speech sound system, including word boundaries, stress patterns, syllables, onset-rime units, and phonemes.

Prefix: a morpheme added to the beginning of a word that has meaning (re- means do again, mis- means not).

***Reading Fluency:** the speed of reading; the ability to read text with sufficient speed to understand what you are reading.

Rhyme: a poem, verse, or ballad.

Root Words: It stands alone and bears the meaning of the word.

Segments: separates words into individual sounds.

Suffix: a morpheme added to the end of a word that has meaning (-ful means full of, -ly means in a certain way).

Syllable: It has one sounded vowel and can stand alone.

Vowel: a, e, i, o, u and sometimes y are vowels. Every word must have at least one vowel.

***Word Recognition:** the instant recognition of a whole word in print. The word is read instantly, without any sounding out of its parts.

*Word definitions are from LETRS, Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, SOPRIS WEST educational Services