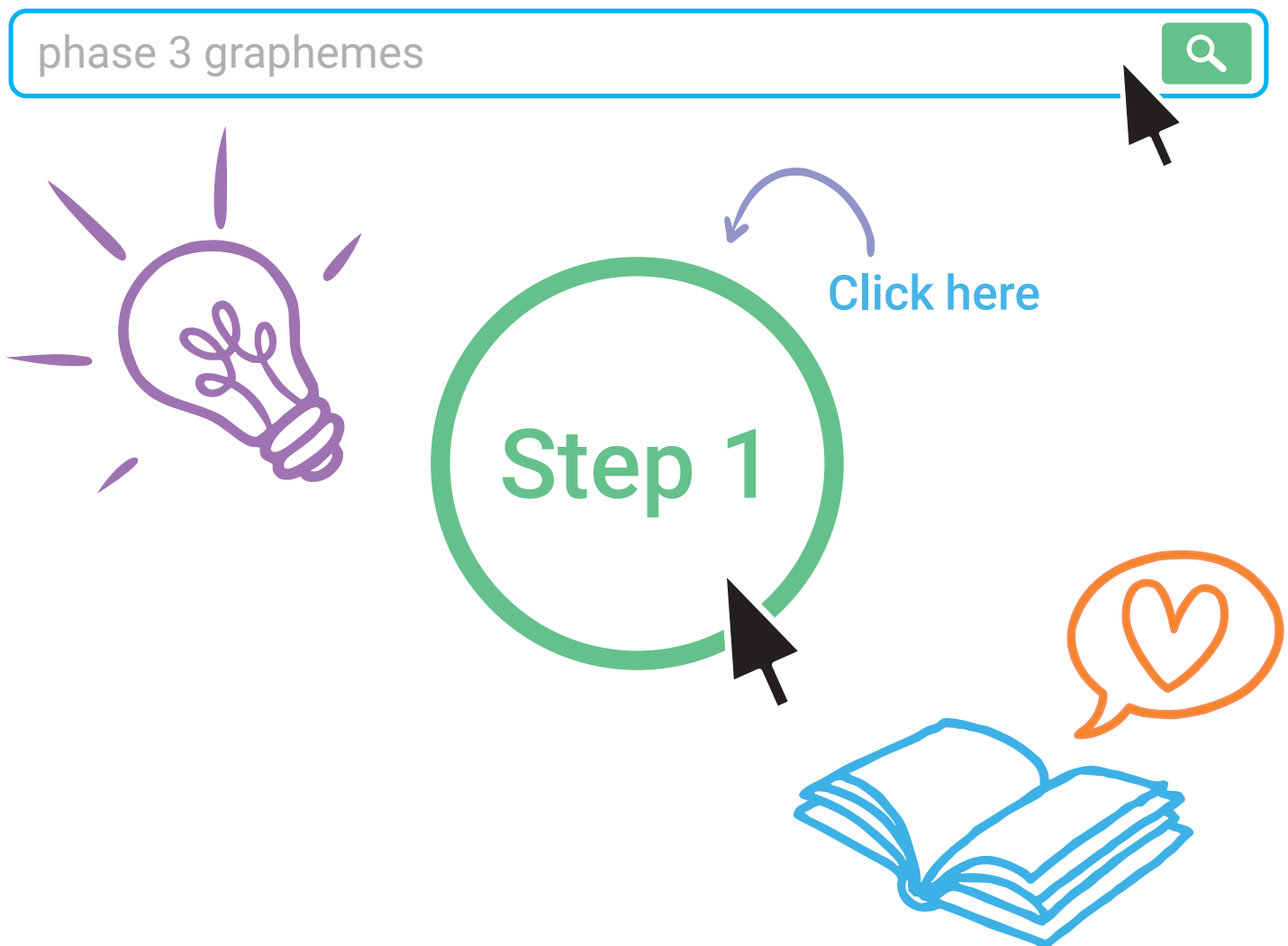


Phase 3 Phonics: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to phase 3 phonics can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring phonics together - either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is becoming more familiar with a variety of different sounds and graphemes (letters that represent a sound) or they are blending and segmenting CCVC (consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant, e.g. clap, drag or chip) words, you will find a step that matches where your child is currently working at and find some ideas of where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Phase 3 Phonics

What Is Phonics?

Phonics is the process of learning to read using sounds and symbols that combine to create a phonetic alphabet that can be used to blend words together. At this stage, your child will probably begin to explore a wider range of phonemes (sounds). This will include not only single letter phonemes but also some sounds that are represented by two or three letters (e.g. ch, sh, qu, ee, ai, igh, ear and air).

What Phonics Language Do I Need to Know?

The language of phonics is very specific and involves more than just phonemes (sounds in words) learnt in previous phases. Graphemes are the letters or groups of letters that represent a sound. Digraphs refer to the sounds represented by two letters combined; trigraphs are represented by three letters combined.

In previous phases, your child will most likely have been blending and segmenting CVC words or consonant-vowel-consonant words, such as d-o-g and t-i-n. In phase 3, this progresses to CCVC (consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant) words like c-l-a-p and d-r-a-g and CVCC (consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant) words like h-u-n-t and f-a-s-t.

Which Elements of Phonics Are Learnt in Phase 3?

When exploring blending, your child may begin to blend together more sounds to create increasingly complex words. This may include blending together CVCC words.

The reverse of blending is segmenting. Rather than taking separate sounds and combining them to form words, segmenting involves breaking down a word into the sounds that make it. This is a useful way for your child to begin exploring spelling patterns of simple words.

Songs and rhymes are a great way for your child to explore sounds. Repeating patterns and rhythms both help to give your child a regular sequence to follow and repeat while practising using and making different sounds.

In addition to exploring sounds and letters, your child will also be learning about past and present tense in their spoken language, reading and writing.

As well as using the resources found in the Phase 3 Phonics category and the keyword searches suggested, this guide offers a few ideas for games and activities to help your child with exploring phonics.

One Minute Word Builder Challenge

Using flashcards, sticky notes or small pieces of paper, gather a variety of phonics sounds from phase 3 (for example, s, a, t, ch, or, ear and air). Choose ten at random and place them down on a table or the floor. Using a timer, give your child a minute to build as many different words as they can using these sounds, e.g. s + or + t = sort. For an extra challenge, you could set your child further targets, such as the beginning of all the words they make has to be a digraph or every word they make has to contain one trigraph.

Tricky Word Spotter

Choose a tricky word from the **Phase 3 Word Mat**. On three/four strips of paper, write different versions of spelling the tricky word (one being the correct way, the others spelt incorrectly). Place them face down and have your child turn them over one at a time. Can your child identify the correct spelling? For an added challenge, you could do this activity with more than one tricky word at a time and have your child collect the ones that are correct.

Phoneme Word Flowers

Print out the **Phoneme Flower Pots** and get your child to choose a few at random. Using some coloured paper, your child can create a series of flowers coming out of the pots. On each flower, get your child to write different words that contain that phoneme sound (for example, if the pot has 'ai' on then the flowers could contain words like paint, chain and gain).

I Spy Phoneme Hunt

I Spy is a great game to play with your child when practising phonics. Rather than searching for words that begin with a certain letter, your child could try spotting words that contain a specific sound. For example, 'I spy with my little eye, something with the phoneme -ee.'

Step 1

Phase 3 Graphemes

Graphemes are the letter representations of phonemes, which are the sounds used in phonics to help your child learn to read. Specifically, graphemes refer to the written form of sounds represented by a single letter. By the end of phase 3, your child will have been introduced to all the graphemes and will be working on becoming more accurate when identifying them on sight. Flashcards are a great way to help your child practise identifying the phonemes and graphemes used in phase 3 phonics.



Phase 3 Digraphs

Not all phonetic sounds are represented by single letters. Some can be represented by two letters together, e.g. ee, ai, ch and sh. It is during phase 3 of phonics that your child will begin to be introduced to these digraphs (sounds with two graphemes). They will start to identify and say the sound that corresponds to each digraph, becoming more familiar with them as time progresses. Twinkl has a series of digraph workbooks full of activities to help your child practise using these letter pairs - why not start with the digraph 'ch' in this workbook?

Step 2



Phase 3 Trigraphs

As well as grapheme and digraph sounds, your child will also learn about trigraphs. Trigraphs are sounds that are represented by three written letters together, e.g. air, igh or ear. It is during this step that your child will begin to find out more about these increasingly complex sounds. 'Circle That Word' worksheets lead your child to identify the word that correctly matches a picture and are a good way to practise using these trigraphs. Your child will need to spot which trigraph has been used correctly in order to complete each question.

Step 3



Step 4

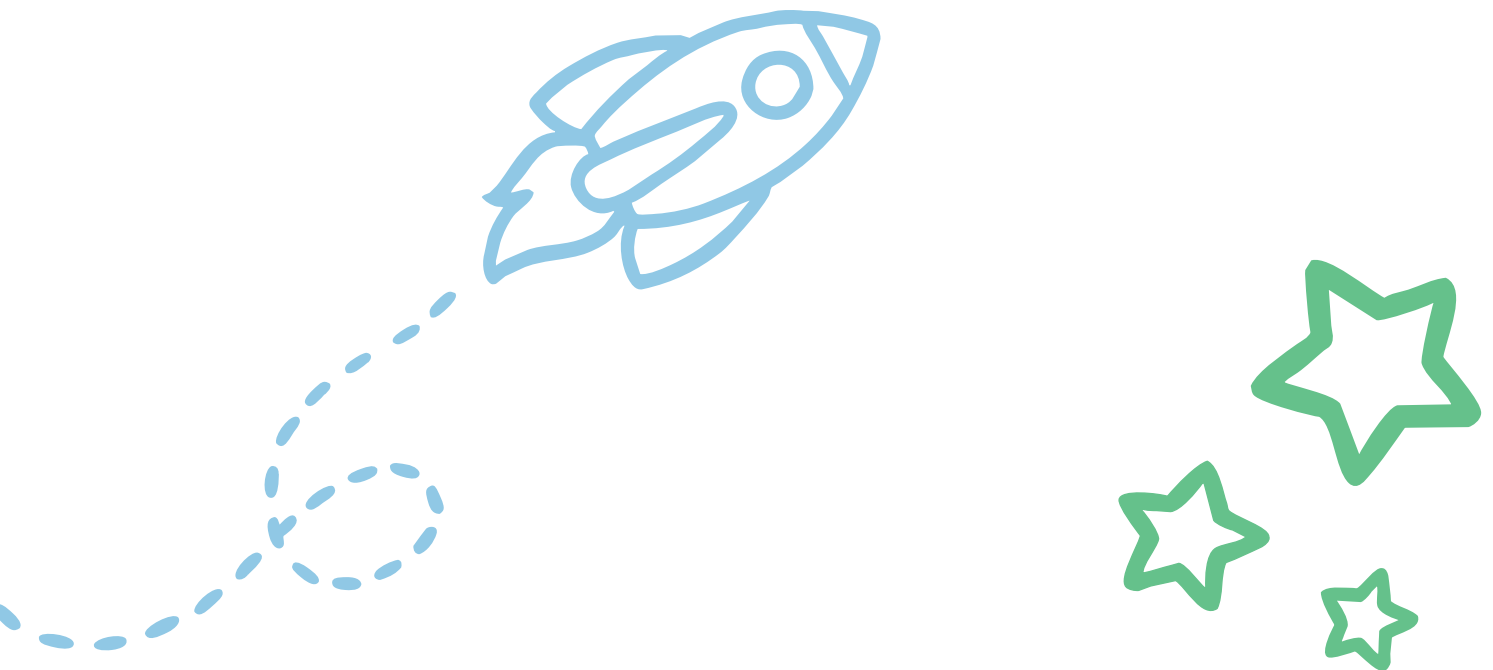
Phase 3 Blending and Segmenting

Blending is the process of combining letters together to form words. At this step, your child will probably be focussing on creating CVCC or CCVC words. By saying words out loud, your child may begin to blend sounds together, e.g. s-t-e-p becomes step and c-a-r-t is cart. Segmenting is the reverse of blending. In blending, your child combines sounds together to form words. With segmenting, your child hears a word and identifies the different sounds that make up that word. This roll and read mat encourages your child to segment words and is a good way for your child to practise not only the phonics sounds they have learnt so far but also to breakdown spelling patterns and rules.

Phase 3 Tricky Words

Tricky words are ones that don't necessarily follow the phonics rules but appear often in common sentences. They contain groups of letters that make unique or different sounds to the ones your child would expect if they were to use blending or segmenting. In phase 3, these tricky words include words like he, she, we, me, you, all and they. Using tricky word mats and flashcards gives your children the chance to see and practise recognising how these words appear and they can start to memorise them on sight.

Step 5

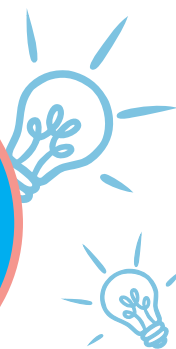


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Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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Boost



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Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!

