

Phonics Level 6 Parent Pack

What is phonics?

Phonics is the process of learning to read and spell using specific letters or sounds. These letters and sounds combine to create words that can be broken down or blended together in order to read or spell them.

Glossary

Within Twinkl Phonics, children will learn the correct phonics terminology. We recommend that children are exposed to this terminology as much as possible. It may be helpful for you to familiarise yourselves with these terms to use with your child.

Adjacent consonants	two consonants that are next to each other in a word, such as 'st' or 'ft' (sometimes referred to as 'consonant blends')
Blending	building up of words from individual phonemes for reading
CVC words	stands for consonant-vowel-consonant, e.g. 'cat'
CVCC words	stands for consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant, e.g. 'hand'
CCVC words	stands for consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant, e.g. 'stop'
CCVCC words	stands for consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant, e.g. 'stand'
CCCVC words	stands for consonant-consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant, e.g. 'strap'
CCCVCC words	stands for consonant-consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant, e.g. 'strong'
Digraph	when a single sound is represented by two written letters
GPC	stands for 'grapheme/phoneme correspondence' - the relationship between sounds and the letter or letters that represent that sound
Grapheme	the symbol (written letter) used to represent a sound
Mnemonic	an illustration that is designed to support children's recognition of GPCs
Phoneme	the shortest unit of sound in a word - usually represented by a single letter
Prefix	a string of letters that go at the beginning of a root word, changing or adding to its meaning, e.g. when the prefix '-un' is added to 'happy', it becomes 'unhappy'
Polysyllabic words	words that have more than one syllable, such as shampoo or children

Segmenting	breaking down words into individual phonemes for writing
Split digraph	a digraph that is split by a consonant. There are five split digraphs; a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, and u_e. When used in a word, they have a consonant in the middle, e.g. 'lane' or 'bone'
Suffix	a string of letters that go at the end of a root word, changing or adding to its meaning. e.g. if the suffix 'ly' is added to 'quick' it becomes 'quickly'
Tricky words (common exception words)	words that are not decodable at the child's current phonic level of understanding. Also called 'sight words' because children are taught to memorise them so they can be recognised by sight
Trigraph	when a single sound is represented by three written letters

What do children learn in Level 6?

By Level 6, children will have already learnt the most often used grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) in the English language. By this point, the main aim for children is to develop their fluency as a reader and increase their accuracy when spelling. They will do this by learning alternative spellings and pronunciations and recalling when to use different graphemes, prefixes and suffixes for spelling.

Within Level 6, some of the remaining GPCs are alternative spellings. Alternative spellings are phonemes that the children have learned in previous levels but they are spelt differently. For example, in Level 3, children have learned 'ear'. In Level 6, children will learn 'eer' which makes the same sound but is spelt differently. Children will recap the original grapheme and learn the new grapheme alongside it.

Children will also be introduced to some graphemes with silent letters, such as 'gn' and 'kn', as well as the remaining prefixes and suffixes.

Level 6 GPCs are taught in the following order:

'y' saying 'igh'	'a' or 'al' saying /or/
'dge' and 'ge' saying /j/	adding -ing and -ed to CVC and CCVC words
adding -es to words ending in 'y'	'o' saying /u/
'gn' saying /n/	'ey' saying /ee/
'kn' saying /n/	adding -er, -est and -y to CVC and CVCC words
adding -ed and -ing to words ending in 'y'	contractions
'wr' saying /r/	'war' saying /wor/
'le' saying /l/	'wor' saying /wur/
adding -er and -est to words ending in 'y'	adding -ment and -ness
'el' saying /l/	's' saying /zh/
'al' and 'il' saying /l/	'wa' saying /wo/
adding -ed and -er to words ending in 'e'	'qua' saying /quo/
'eer' saying /ear/	'tion' saying /shun/
'ture' saying /cher/	adding -ful, -less and -ly
adding -est and -y to words ending in 'e'	homophones and near homophones
'mb' saying /m/	adding dis-

Blending

By Level 6, children should be familiar with most common GPCs and they should be developing more fluency and accuracy within their reading. They may still blend words to read words containing new sounds, such as Level 6 graphemes or words containing new prefixes or suffixes.

Segmenting

By Level 6, children will need to recall spelling rules and patterns for spelling. By the end of Level 6, they will be familiar with all sound families and should be able to choose between different graphemes for spelling.

In Level 6, some of the suffixes and prefixes are repeated from Level 5 but will have different spelling patterns. For example, in Level 5, children will learn how to add the suffix 'ing' to a word, such as 'play' to spell 'playing'. In Level 6, children will learn how to add suffixes to words where the spelling may change, e.g. if they add 'es' to a word ending in 'y', they will have to change the 'y' to an 'i' and then add 'es'. By the end of Level 6, children should be familiar with the spelling rules and know how to add suffixes/prefixes to different words.

Tricky Words (Common Exception Words)

Tricky words or common exception words do not fit the regular spelling rules that have been taught, therefore children can not segment and spell them like regular words.

Children are taught to recognise and spell tricky words by sight (to memorise them) and to point out the tricky part of the word.

How can you help support your child at home?

To support your child at home, you can practise recognising Level 6 GPCs, by:

Identifying written graphemes by sight, e.g. pointing out suffixes within a word when you are reading or identifying an alternative spelling pattern.



Blending and reading words containing Level 6 GPCs - practise reading stories together containing Level 6 words or matching words with pictures.



Segmenting and spelling words containing Level 6 GPCs - practise spelling words in fun ways, such as using magnetic letters or writing words in foam or sand.



Practise reading and spelling Level 6 common exception words - hide the words on flashcards and make your own treasure hunt for children to find and read the tricky words.

