

What is Phonics?

Speech sounds are called **phonemes**. These are the smallest units of sounds within words.

The letters, or groups of letters which represent phonemes, are called **graphemes**.

Phonemes can be represented by **graphemes** of one, two or three letters:

sh (digraph) igh (trigraph)

ch th ck ng ll ss ff

Vowel digraphs are made up of two vowels or a vowel and a consonant that makes one sound

oa ow ou or ar er ue oi ai

Vowel trigraphs are made up of three vowels and consonants that make one sound

igh air ear