



Wychwood Church of England
Primary School

Spelling Glossary

phoneme	individual speech sounds
grapheme	a letter or group of letters that represent a phoneme
vowel	sounds made without the teeth, lips or tongue (a, e, i, o, u)
short vowel	a as in cat , e as in bed , i as in bin , o as in hot , u as in bus
long vowel	longer vowel sounds such as in play , seat , light , boat , boot , fair , car , shout , boy , etc.
consonant	sounds made with the lips, teeth or tongue (e.g., b, d, f, th, l, m, p, sh , etc.)
digraph	a two-letter grapheme that makes one sound (e.g., ship , boot , tree , ball , etc.)
split digraph	a digraph that is split by a consonant – used to be known as the ‘magic e’ (late , bite , rule , etc.)
root word	a basic word with no affixes (e.g. lock)
affix	a group of letters added to a word to change its meaning (can be a prefix or a suffix)
prefix	an affix that is added to the beginning of a root word to change its meaning (e.g., un + lock = unlock)
suffix	an affix that is added to the end of a root word to change its meaning (e.g., lock + ed = locked)
noun	a naming word – e.g., a thing, person, animal, place (e.g., table , Mr. Rubba , horse , Oxford)
verb	an action or being word (e.g., dance , is , helped)
adjective	a word that describes a noun (e.g., red , old , happy)
adverb	a word that describes a verb (e.g. sadly , often)
plural	when a noun is plural it means there is more than one (e.g., schools , children , women)
synonym	a word that means the same as another word (e.g. big , huge , enormous , etc.)
antonym	a word that means the opposite of another word (e.g., like and dislike)
contraction	when two words a joined together with an apostrophe representing any missing letters (e.g., do + not = don’t)
possessive apostrophe	when an apostrophe is used to show that something belongs to someone or something (e.g., the child’s bag , the girls’ bikes)

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