ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Phonics

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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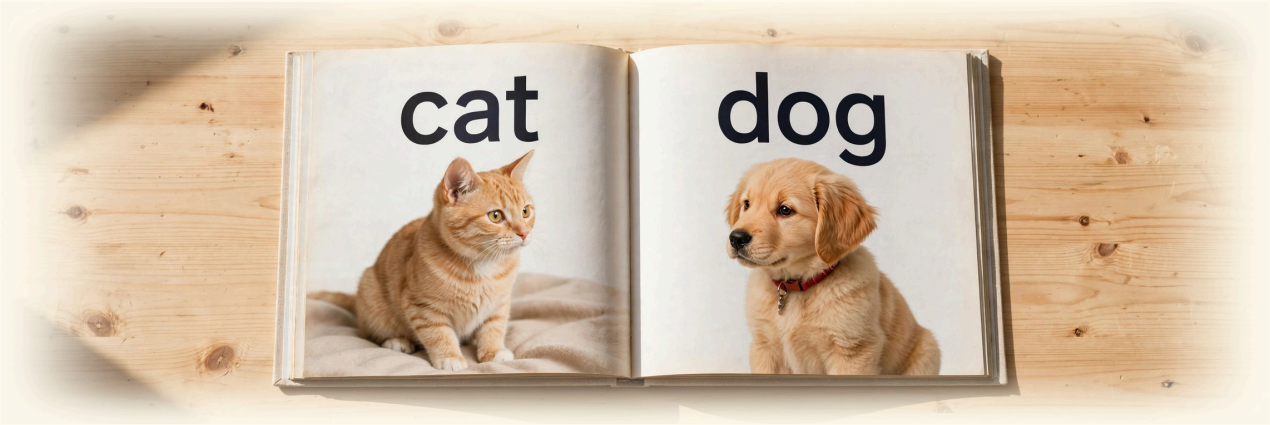
Overview of the concept

This is how you sound out a word you have never seen before, like reading a new name on a sign or a new word in a book. A child sounding out a street name and an adult sounding out a name on a work email are using the same skill. Letters make sounds, and those sounds join together into a word you can say even if you have never seen it written. It is the skill that turns a page full of strange words into something you can read out loud.



Rule

To read a word with phonics, match each letter to its sound, then blend the sounds in order, smoothly.

Say the letters in order and put the sounds together to make the word.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Read the word 'cat' using phonics

SOLUTION

Match each letter to its sound: c says kuh, a says ah, t says tuh.

Blend the sounds in order, smoothly: kuh-ah-tuh.

Say the blended word: cat.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Read the word 'pin' using phonics

SOLUTION

Match each letter to its sound: p says puh, i says ih, n says nnn.

Blend the sounds in order, smoothly: puh-ih-nnn.

Say the blended word: pin.

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Practice questions

1 Sound out the letters d-o-g, one at a time, then say them fast. What word do you get?

- **A** dog
- **B** log
- **C** fog
- **D** dig

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2 Blend the sounds s-u-n together. What word do you get?

- **A** sun
- **B** fun
- **C** run
- **D** bun

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3 Sound out the letters h-e-n. What word is it?

- A hen
- B pen
- C ten
- D men

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4 What word do the sounds c-u-p make when you blend them?

- A cup
- B pup
- C cap
- D cub

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5 **Sound out the letters b-e-d. What word is it?**

A bed

B red

C led

D bad

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6 **The sounds are p-i-g. Say them fast. What word is that?**

A pig

B big

C dig

D peg

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7 Sound out m-a-p, then say the word fast. What word is it?

- A map
- B cap
- C tap
- D mop

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8 Blend the sounds b-o-x together. What word do you get?

- A box
- B fox
- C six
- D wax

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9 What word do you get when you blend the sounds r-u-n?

- A run
- B sun
- C fun
- D ran

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10 Sound out the letters j-a-m. What word is it?

- A jam
- B ham
- C ram
- D job

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ANSWER KEY

1. dog
2. sun
3. hen
4. cup
5. bed
6. pig
7. map
8. box
9. run
10. jam

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