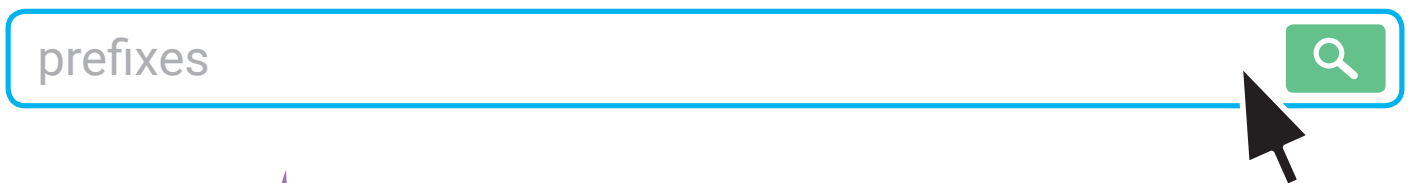


Phase 6 Phonics: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to phase 6 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 learning new spelling patterns for adding prefixes or they are creating contracted forms of words (for example, the contraction of I am is I'm), you will find a step that matches where your child is at and have ideas for 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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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 6 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 be moving away from learning sounds (phonemes) and letters (graphemes), focusing more on applying their phonetic knowledge to blending, segmenting and reading. They may also begin to learn new spelling rules for adding suffixes, prefixes and creating contracted forms of words.

What Previous Phonics Language Do I Need to Know?

The language of phonics is very specific and involves more than just phonemes (sounds that make up whole words) and graphemes (the written letters that represent those sounds) learnt in previous phases. Sounds represented by two letters are called digraphs (for example, the sound 'ai') and sounds represented by three letters are called trigraphs (for example, the sound 'ear').

You may also come across CVC, CCVC and CVCC words, where C means consonant and V means vowel. These are basic words that children meet in previous phases to practise blending.

Blending is the process of combining different sounds together to read words. Your child identifies the individual sounds within a word and combines these together to read the word. For example, in the word 'replied', your child may identify the sounds r - e - p - l - ie - d in order to blend them together. Segmenting is the reverse of this process. Your child is given a full word and breaks it down to identify the sounds that are within it. Both these skills are important for using phonics to read and becoming fluent with them is vital for your child.

Which Elements of Phonics Are Learnt in Phase 6?

Prefixes and suffixes are small groups of letters that are added to the beginning or end of words to change their meaning. Your child may begin to learn about spelling patterns for adding these prefixes and suffixes to words, meaning they can read them with more accuracy and fluency. They may also explore the meanings of these prefixes and suffixes and how they change the meaning of the words they are added to, e.g. un- means reverse or opposite of, so unhappy is the reverse or opposite of happy.

Your child may also start to read and recognise homophones. Homophones are words that have the same or very similar sound, but are spelt differently and have a different meaning. For example, be and bee, knight and night, or hear and here.

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



Phase 6 Phonics

As well as using the resources found in the Phase 6 Phonics category and the keyword searches suggested, this guide offers a few ideas for games and activities to help your child with exploring phonics.

Read, Read, Read

One of the best ways to explore phonics rules and practise using blending and segmenting is to read as many books as you can with your child. This can include not only your child reading books, but you sharing stories with them. As your child's reading skills improve, they will be able to explore stories in more detail. Don't be afraid to ask your child questions about the stories they are reading; you could ask them about the characters' feelings, events that have happened in the story and about their opinions of the story.

Tricky Word Spotter

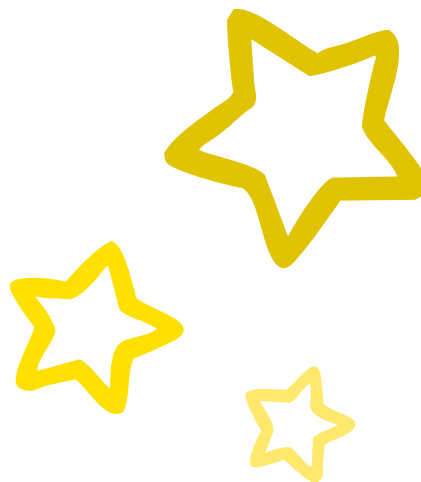
Choose a tricky word from the **High Frequency Word Mat**. On three strips of paper, write different versions of spelling the tricky word (one being the correct way, the others spelt incorrectly). Place them face down and have your child turn them over one at a time. Can your child identify the correct 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.

Rub out the Word

On a whiteboard or piece of paper, write down a selection of words containing the sounds your child has been learning (including digraphs and trigraphs). To play, say one of the words out loud. Your child has to find the word as quickly as they can, read it and rub (or cross) it out. Repeat for different words until they are all gone. If you want to do this activity outside, you could use chalk to write on the pavement and a dustpan brush to rub away.

Suffix Endings

If you are doing this activity indoors, use a piece of paper; if you are doing it outdoors, you could use chalk on the floor. Give your child the suffixes -ed, -ful, -ly and -est. Using the paper or chalk, get your child to write as many words that contain each of these suffixes they can think of.



Step 1

Prefixes

Prefixes are small groups of letters that are placed at the beginning of words to change their meaning. At this stage, your child will probably begin to recognise different spelling patterns for adding these prefixes to words. This will help them read these words more fluently. They may also begin to identify the meaning of these and recognise how they change the meaning of the words they are added to. For example, dis- means 'not or reverse of', so disappear means the reverse of appear. Prefix worksheets are a nice way for your child to explore the meanings of prefixes and practise how to use them in words, helping your child to recognise and read these words more easily.



Suffixes

Suffixes are small groups of letters that are added to the end of words to change their meaning, such as -ful, -ness or -ly. During this step, your child may learn all about the spelling patterns for how to add these to words and begin to explore the meaning of each. Using this information, your child will hopefully begin to read these words more accurately and understand how the suffix changes the meaning of the word. To help your child develop their vocabulary and think of more words that contain suffixes, try using a suffix word list as a visual reminder.

Step 2



Step 3

Contractions

Contractions are shortened forms of words. Your child will learn to use an apostrophe as a replacement for a letter when combining two words into a contracted form. For example, I am becomes 'I'm' and you are becomes 'you're'. Being able to recognise how these words are formed and what they actually mean may help your child to read them more accurately. Matching card games are a great way for your child to practise joining the separate words to the contracted form.



Step 4

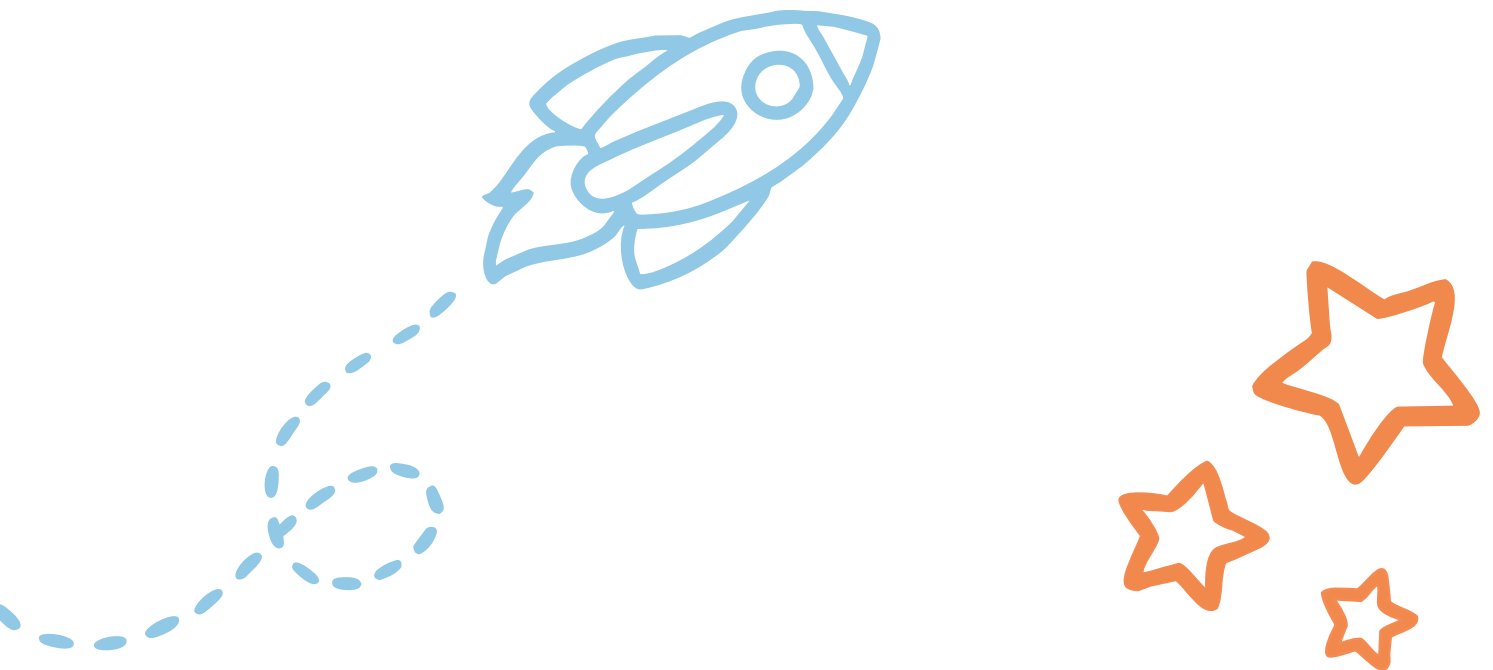
Homophones

Homophones are words that have the same or very similar sound but a different spelling and meaning, e.g. here and hear, night and knight or see and sea. Your child will need to use and apply their knowledge of alternative spellings of sounds in order to read these words accurately. Homophone PowerPoints are a great way for your child to practise recognising and reading different homophones; this one contains visual reminders for the meanings of different homophones.

High Frequency Words

High frequency words are the words that appear most often in the English language and are words that your child will encounter most often when reading a variety of books. Therefore, it's important to learn to read these words quickly and accurately. Perhaps you could use this word mat of 200 high frequency words to practise reading on sight; can you turn it into a game? How many can your child read in a minute? Can they beat their score next time?

Step 5



Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



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Book Club

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

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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KIDS' TV

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!