

Definitions to Support Home Learning in Year 2

Each word includes a simple definition, some synonyms (words that mean the same), and an example sentence.

Phoneme

Definition: A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word. For example, the word "cat" has three phonemes: /k/, /æ/, and /t/.

Synonyms: Sound unit

Example Sentence: The word "dog" has three phonemes: /d/, /ɒ/, and /g/.

Grapheme

Definition: A grapheme is a letter or a group of letters that represent a phoneme. For example, the phoneme /k/ can be written as 'k', 'c', or 'ck'.

Example: The grapheme 'sh' makes the sound /ʃ/ as in the word "ship".

Consonants

Definition: Consonants are letters in the alphabet that are not vowels. They include sounds like /b/, /c/, /d/, and others.

Example: The word "ball" starts with the consonant /b/.

Vowels

Definition: Vowels are the letters A, E, I, O, and U in the alphabet.

Example: In the word "cake", the vowels are A and E.

Digraph

Definition: A digraph is a pair of letters that make one sound, such as 'ch' in "chat".

Example: The digraph 'th' can be heard in the word "think".

Trigraph

Definition: A trigraph is a group of three letters that make one sound, like 'igh' in "high".

Example: The trigraph 'ear' is found in the word "hear".

Split Digraph

Definition: A split digraph is when two vowels are separated by a consonant but still make one sound, like the 'a-e' in "cake".

Example: In the word "same", the split digraph is 'a-e'.

Syllable

Definition: A syllable is a part of a word that has one vowel sound. For example, "apple" has two syllables: ap-ple.

Example: The word "banana" has three syllables: ba-na-na.

Tip: hold your hand under your chin as you say the word. The number of syllables is how many times your jaw drops and touches your hand!

Adjacent Consonants

Definition: Adjacent consonants are two consonant sounds that are next to each other in a word, like the 'st' in "best".

Example: The word "sand" has the adjacent consonants 'nd' at the end.

Segment

Definition: To segment means to break a word down into its individual sounds or phonemes.

Example: We will segment the word "stop" into four phonemes: /s/, /t/, /ɒ/, and /p/.

Tricky Words

Definition: Tricky words are words that do not follow regular phonetic rules and are hard to spell.

Example: The word "said" is a tricky word because it is not sounded out as you might expect.

High-Frequency Words

Definition: High-frequency words are words that are used very often in reading and writing.

Example: The words "the" and "and" are high-frequency words that we see all the time.

Noun

Definition: A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea, like "teacher" or "park".

Example: 'Dog' is a noun because it names an animal.

Verb

Definition: A verb is a word that shows an action or state of being, like "run" or "is".

Example: 'Jump' is a verb that shows an action.

Adjective

Definition: An adjective is a word that describes a noun, like "blue" or "happy".

Example: The word 'bright' is an adjective that describes 'light'.

Adverb

Definition: An adverb is a word that describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, often ending in '-ly', like "quickly".

Example: In the sentence "She runs quickly," 'quickly' is an adverb describing how she runs.

Compound

Definition: A compound word is made when two words join together to make a new word, like "toothbrush".

Example: The word 'basketball' is a compound word made from 'basket' and 'ball'.

Suffix

Definition: A suffix is a group of letters added at the end of a word to change its meaning, like 'ness' in 'happiness'.

Example: In the word 'kindness', the suffix is 'ness', which shows a state of being kind.

Tense (Past/Present)

Definition: Tense refers to the time when an action takes place; past tense describes actions that have already happened, and present tense describes actions happening now.

Example: 'Walked' is the past tense of 'walk', while 'walking' is the present tense.

Apostrophe

Definition: An apostrophe is a punctuation mark used to show possession or to create contractions, such as in "Sarah's book" or "don't".

Example: In the phrase "Jack's toy", the apostrophe shows that the toy belongs to Jack.

Comma

Definition: A comma is a punctuation mark used to separate items in a list or to pause in a sentence.

Example: I bought apples, oranges, and bananas; the commas separate the items in the list.

Statement

Definition: A statement is a sentence that gives information or declares something.

Example: "The sky is blue" is a statement.

Question

Definition: A question is a sentence that asks for information and usually ends with a question mark.

Example: "What is your name?" is a question.

Command

Definition: A command is a sentence that tells someone to do something, often starting with a verb.

Example: "Close the door" is a command.

Explanation

Definition: An explanation is a sentence or set of sentences that make something clear or easy to understand.

Example: The teacher gave an explanation