

Phonics Actions

The phoneme is the sound and grapheme is the sound is written down.

Phase 2

Phoneme	Grapheme	Pronunciation	Action
/s/	s, ss*	sun, fuss	Weave your hand in an s shape, like a snake, and say 'ssssss'.
/a/	a	ant	Wiggle your fingers on your arm as if ants are crawling on you and say 'a'.
/t/	t	tap	Turn your head from side to side as if watching tennis and say 't'.
/p/	p	pan	Hold up your finger up like it is a candle, pretend to puff the candle out and say 'p'.
/i/	i	pig	Pretend to be a mouse by wriggling your fingers at end of nose like whiskers and squeak 'i'.
/n/	n	nut	Hold your arms out as if you are a plane and say 'nnnnnn'.
/m/	m	man	Rub your tummy as if seeing tasty food and say 'mmmmm'.
/d/	d	dog	Beat your hands up and down as if playing a drum and say 'd'.
/g/	g	got	Spiral your hand down, as if water going down the drain and say 'g'.
/o/	o	on	Pretend to turn a light switch on and off and say 'o'.
/c/	c, k, ck*	cat, king, sock	Raise your hands and snap your fingers as if playing castanets and say 'ck'.
/e/	e	peg	Pretend to tap on the side of a pan and crack it into the pan, saying 'e'.
/u/	u	hug	Pretend to be putting up an umbrella and say 'u'.
/r/	r	rat	Pretend to be a puppy holding a piece of rag in its mouth, shake your head from side to side and say 'rrrrr'.
/h/	h	hat	Hold your hand in front of mouth panting as if you are out of breath and say 'h'.
/b/	b	bun	Pretend to hit a tennis ball with a bat and say 'b'.
/f/	f, ff*	fan, puff	Let your hands gently come together as if you are deflating a toy and say 'ffffff'.
/l/	l, ll*	lit, fill	Pretend to lick a lollipop and say 'llllll'.

Phase 3

Phoneme	Grapheme	Pronunciation	Action
/j/	j	jam	Pretend to wobble a jelly on a plate with one hand and say 'j'.
/v/	v	vet	Pretend to be holding the steering wheel of a van and say 'vvvvv'.
/w/	w	wet	Blow onto one open hand, as if you are the wind, and say 'w'.
/x/	x	fox	Make an x with arms across your chest and say 'ks'.
/y/	y	yes	Pretend to be holding a spoon and eating a yogurt as say 'y'.
/z/	z, zz*	zebra, buzz	Put your arms out at your sides and pretend to be a bee, saying 'zzzzz'.
/qu/	qu	queen	Make a duck's beak with your two hands together and say 'qu'.
/ch/	ch	chip	Pretend to sneeze and say 'ch'.
/sh/	sh	ship	Place your index finger over your lips and say 'shhh'.

Phoneme	Grapheme	Pronunciation	Action
voiced /th/	th	this	Pretend to be rude clowns and stick out your tongue a little to say 'th' (like in <i>this</i>), <i>then</i> further out and say 'th' (as in <i>thin</i>). Alternate thumbs to the mouth for the short and long 'th'
unvoiced /th/	th	thin	
/ng/	ng	ring	Imagine you are a weightlifter, pretend to lift a heavy weight above your head and say 'ng'.
/ai/	ai	rain	Cup a hand over your ear and say 'ai'.
/ee/	ee	feet	Put hands on head as if they are ears on a donkey, flap them up saying 'ee' and down saying 'or'
/or/	or	for	
/igh/	igh	night	Sit up straight and salute, saying 'igh'.
/oa/	oa	goat	Bring your hand over your mouth as if you have done something wrong and say 'oh'
short /oo/	oo	book	Imagine being the cuckoo in a cuckoo clock, jutting your head backward and forwards between your open hands and saying 'oo' (as in <i>book</i>), 'oo' (as in <i>moon</i>).
long /oo/	oo	moon	
/ar/	ar	card	Slap your thigh like a pirate and say 'ar'.
/ur/	ur	burn	Roll your hands over each other like a mixer and say 'er'.
/ow/	ow	cow	Pretend your finger is a needle and prick thumb saying 'ow'
/oi/	oi	coin	Cup your hands around your mouth and shout 'oi!'
/ear/	ear	beard	Touch your ear and say 'ear'.
/air/	air	hair	Wiggle your fingers in the air and say 'air'
/ure/	ure	cure	Make a fist, turn your palm away from you and say 'your'
/er/	er	fern farmer	Roll your hands over each other like a mixer and say 'er'. <i>Some accents pronounce 'er' as an unstressed schwa sound when it is the end syllable in a word (e.g. farmer, sister), we do not have an action for this.</i>

* These digraphs ('two letters making one sound') are never at the beginning of a word and are usually at the end of short words. When f, s and l follow a single vowel at the end of a short word they are doubled, e.g. sniff, sock, dress, fuzz. **Exceptions:** if, pal, us, bus, yes.

Phase 5

Phoneme	Grapheme	Pronunciation	Action
/oo/ /(y)oo/	ue	glue, statue	Point one side say 'oo' as <i>lean forward</i> then point to the other side and say 'you'

Later GPCs use the same phonics actions based on how they are pronounced.