

What Is Phonemic Awareness?

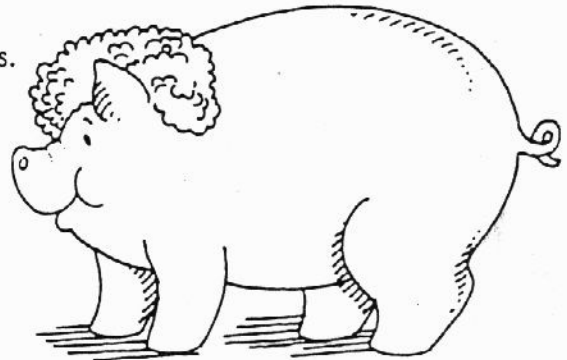
Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate individual sound units (phonemes) in spoken language: to examine language independent of meaning, to see relationships between sounds in words, and to rearrange sounds to create new words. For example, the word *chick* is made up of three phonemes (/ch/ /i/ /k/); it can be changed to the word *pick* by replacing /ch/ with /p/.

Students who are phonemically aware are able to master the following tasks:

Rhyming—The ability to identify and form rhyming words.

Example: Do these words rhyme?

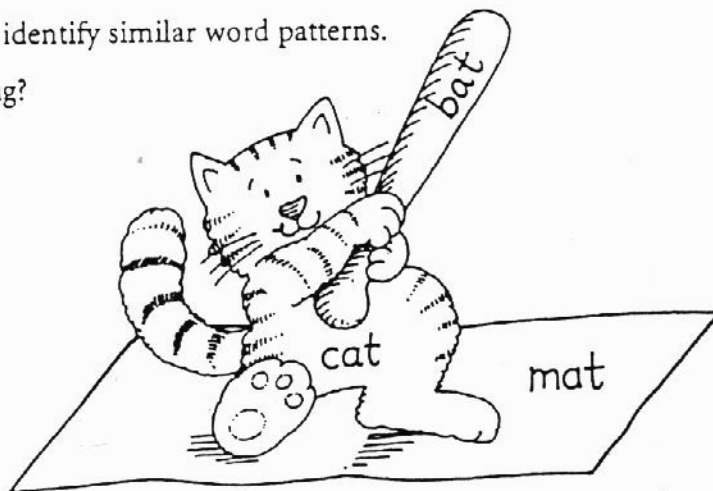
fun—fan	no
pig—wig	yes
cheer—year	yes
bread—seed	no



Sound Matching—The ability to hear and identify similar word patterns.

Example: Which word does not belong?

sun, sad, sip, tub	tub
mat, bat, hop, cat	hop
bee, meat, sea, fee	meat

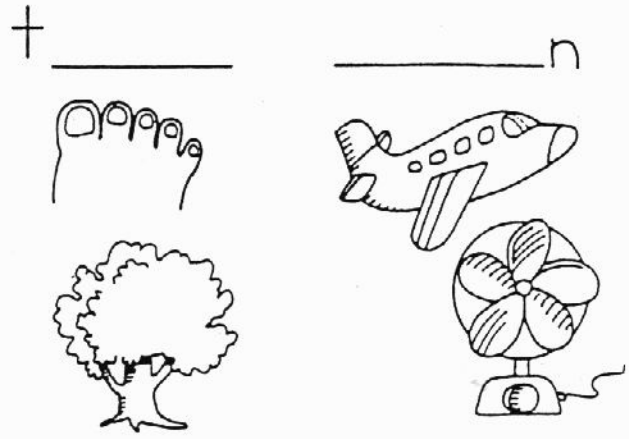


* When letters appear between slash marks (such as /k/), the sound rather than the letter name is represented.

Phoneme Isolation—The ability to identify the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in a word.

Examples:

- What's the beginning sound in *toe*? /t/
- What's the middle sound in *big*? /i/
- What's the ending sound in *plane*? /n/



Phoneme Counting—The ability to count the number of phonemes in a word.

Example: How many sounds do you hear in these words?

- at 2
- lake 3
- paint 4
- tent 4

Phoneme Segmentation—The ability to break apart a word into individual sounds.

Example: Which sounds do you hear in these words?

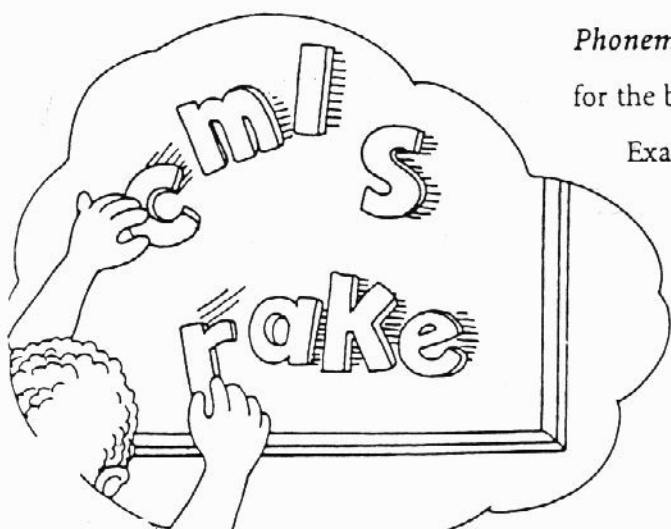
- mud /m/ /u/ /d/
- play /p/ /l/ /a/
- strike /s/ /t/ /r/ /i/ /k/



Phoneme Substitution—The ability to substitute a new sound for the beginning, middle, or ending sound of a word.

Examples:

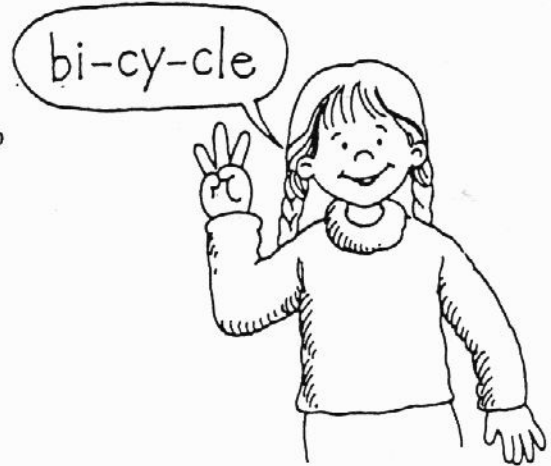
- What word would you have if you changed the /b/ in *ball* to a /t/? tall
- What word would you have if you changed the /o/ in *hot* to an /a/? hat
- What word would you have if you changed the /p/ in *map* to a /d/? mad



Syllable Counting—The ability to identify the number of syllables in spoken words.

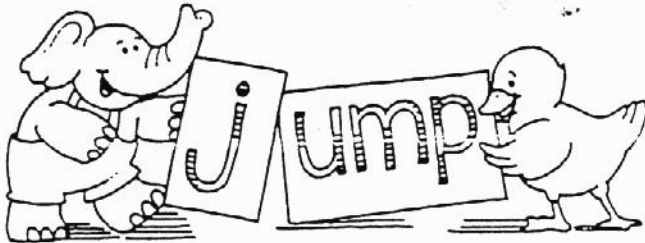
Example: How many syllables do you hear in these words?

ticket	2
dog	1
bicycle	3
pencil	2



Syllable Splitting—The ability to identify onsets and rimes.

Example: What word do you have when you join these sounds together?



j-ump	jump
t-an	tan
cl-imb	climb
str-eeet	street

Phoneme Blending—The ability to orally blend individual sounds to form a word.

Example: What word do you have when you join these sounds together?

/m/ /a/ /p/	map
/j/ /a/ /k/	jack
/ch/ /ee/ /p/	cheap
/b/ /r/ /o/ /k/	broke

