

Letters, Sounds, and Words

Grade 1 Phonics and Word Recognition

What We Will Learn

- Letters make sounds
- Some letters are vowels, some are consonants
- Two letters can team up to make one sound
- We will read and write many words

How We Read a New Word

1

Look at the letters

Find each letter in the word, upper case or lower case

2

Say each sound

Match each letter or letter pair to its sound

3

Blend the sounds

Push the sounds together quickly and smoothly

4

Read the word

Say the whole word and check it makes sense

Tricky and Special Words

Sight words

Some words like 'the' cannot be sounded out, so we learn them by sight

125 words

We practice reading 125 high-frequency words fast and without help

Bossy r

The letter r can change a vowel sound, like in bird and turn

Silent letters

Some letters in words make no sound at all

Reading Smoothly and With Feeling

Accuracy and Speed

Good readers know letters fast. They blend sounds quickly and correctly. This helps them figure out new words without stopping.

Expression

Fluent readers pause at commas and stop at periods. Their voice goes up for a question mark and gets excited for an exclamation mark. This makes reading sound like real talking.

Sound Detectives, Every Day

We learned that letters stand for sounds, that some letters team up, and that blending sounds helps us read new words. We also learned that smooth, expressive reading helps us understand stories better.

Can you find a word at home with a letter team, like two letters making one sound?