



# English Vocabulary Dictionary For EYFS/KS1 Parents



**Lea Endowed C of E Primary School**

The following words are all linked to early vocabulary and the acquisition of phonics. When your child starts school, they will be introduced to this terminology during daily phonics sessions.



- **Blending sounds**

**Blending sounds** means looking at a word and, rather than saying the separate sounds that make it up, linking the sounds together and saying the whole word in one go. Blending is an essential phonics skill which children are taught as part of learning to read.

- **Consonant and consonant cluster**

The alphabet is made up of 26 letters, 5 of which are vowels (a, e, i, o, u) and the rest of which are **consonants**.

- **CVC / CCVC / CVCC words**

A **CVC word** is a word that is made up of a **consonant, vowel and consonant**. Eg **dog**  
**CCVC words** are made up of a **consonant, a consonant, a vowel and a consonant**. Eg **crab**

In **CVCC words** the sequence is: **consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant**. Eg **duck**

- **Decoding**

**Decoding** is the process of seeing written words on a page and being able to say them out loud.

- **Digraph**

A **digraph** is two letters that make one sound. Digraphs can be made up of vowels or consonants. (an example of a digraph is 'ai' or 'oa')

- **Exception words**

**Exception words** are words in which the English spelling code works in an unusual or uncommon way. Children learn to read and spell common exception words throughout their time in primary school, particularly in Reception, Y1 and Y2.

- **Grapheme**

A **grapheme** is a **written** symbol that represents a sound (a phoneme). This can be a single letter, or could be a sequence of letters (**ai, sh, igh, tch, for example**).



- **High-frequency words**

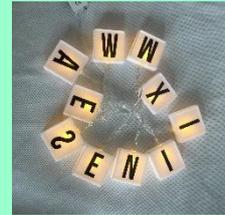
**High-frequency words** are some of the most common words in the English language. A number of them don't follow phonetic rules, so they must be learned individually by heart. Children start to learn to read and write high-frequency words in Reception, and are given more words to memorise in KS1 and KS2.

- **Letter sound**

A **letter sound** is literally the sound we make when we are reading a written letter of the alphabet.

- **Letter string**

A **letter string** is a group of letters that appear in a word. For example, the letter string **str** is contained in each of these words: **string**, **straight**, **strike**, **strain**.



- **Phoneme**

A **phoneme** is the smallest unit of sound.

- **Phonics**

**Phonics** is a method of teaching children to read by linking sounds (phonemes) and the symbols that represent them (graphemes, or letters). Phonics is the method used in primary schools in the UK today to teach children to read.

- **Split digraph**

A digraph is two vowels which together make one sound (as in the words tail, boat, found or read). When a digraph is split by a consonant it becomes a **split digraph**, sometimes known as 'magic e'. **tube**, **cake**, **cope**, **line** are all examples of split digraphs

- **Trigraph**

A **trigraph** is a single sound that is represented by three letters, for example tch, igh in fight or ear in bear.

The following vocabulary is used in both EYFS and KS1.

## Adjective

An **adjective** is a word used to describe and give more information about a noun, which could be a person, place or object. (Eg **beautiful**, **wrinkly**, **shimmering**)



## Adverb

An **adverb** is a word which modifies a verb, which means that it tells you how, when, where or why something is being done. (Eg The man walked **casually** down the street.)

## Alliteration

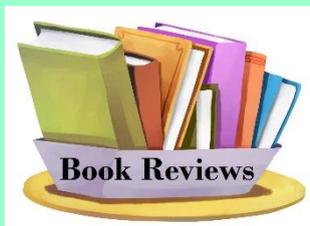
Often used in poetry, **alliteration** is the repetition of an initial letter or sound in closely connected words. (Eg **b**rown, **b**ouncy **b**all)

## Antonym

**Antonyms** are words with opposite meanings (love and hate, for example). Words with similar meanings are **synonyms**. (Eg **walk** and **march**)

## Apostrophe

**Apostrophes** are punctuation marks used to show possession and to show contraction (Eg **can't**, **won't**, **I'll**, **we'll**)



## Book review

A **book report or review** is your child's written critique of a book. Book reports tend to focus on describing what the book is about, while reviews are more concerned with your child's opinion of the book.

## Brainstorming

**Brainstorming or thought shower** is a process in which a question or problem is posed, then a group of people give ideas which are noted by a person who writes them down on paper or a board for the group to see.

## Clause

**Clauses** are the building blocks of sentences, groups of words that contain a subject and a verb. Clauses can be main or subordinate.

## Comma

A **comma** is a punctuation mark that separates items in a list and marks the divisions within sentences.

## Conjunction

A **conjunction** is a type of **connective** ('connective' is an umbrella term for any word that connects bits of text). Co-ordinating connectives include the words **and**, **but** and **so**; subordinating connectives include the words **because**, **if** and **until**.

## Connective

A **connective** is a word that joins one part of a text to another. Connectives can be **conjunctions**, **prepositions** or **adverbs**.

## Contracted words or contractions

**Contracted words** are short words made by putting two words together. Letters are missed out in the contraction and replaced by an apostrophe (for example **I'm** (I am) or **it's** (it is)).

## Creative writing

Narrative or **creative writing** involves writing stories with a structure, using knowledge of grammar and punctuation to present them correctly.

## Direct speech

**Direct speech** is a sentence in which the exact words spoken are reproduced in speech marks (quotation marks or inverted commas).

## Exclamation mark

An **exclamation mark** is a punctuation mark which looks like a straight line with a dot underneath it. It is used to show that an exclamation, an interjection or a statement sentence has finished ( **! is an exclamation mark**)

## Exclamation sentence

An **exclamation** is forceful statement which expresses high levels of emotion or excitement. (eg **Stop! Help!**)

## Explanation text

An **explanation text** describes a process. These non-fiction texts are usually written in the present tense, with numbered points and diagrams or pictures to make the process clear.

## Extended writing

**Extended writing** is when children are given a set amount of time to produce a piece of writing unaided. An extended writing session often marks the end of a unit of literacy teaching.

## Fable

A **fable** is a story that features animals, plants or forces of nature that have been anthropomorphised (given human qualities) and ends with a 'moral'.

## Full stop

A **full stop** is a punctuation mark used to separate sentences.

## Guided reading

**Guided reading** is a regular, time-tabled session in which teachers work with a small number of children in the classroom to analyse a text in detail, making sure each child can read each word and discussing meaning of the text with them.

## Imperative verbs

**Imperative verbs** (also known as "bossy verbs") tell someone to do something. They are used in orders / commands and in instruction texts (**eg sit, mix, run**)

## Information text

An **information text** is a non-fiction text which gives information about a particular thing. Information texts are sometimes called non-chronological reports, because they are reporting information about something without mentioning the order of events.

## Instruction text

An **instruction text** is a non-fiction text such as a recipe or manual. Instruction texts include lists of items and numbered points detailing how to carry out a certain activity.

## Learning objective

A **learning objective** is what the teacher wants the children to have learnt or achieved by the end of the lesson. Learning objectives are sometimes referred to as WALT (stands for We Are Learning To).

## Look, Cover, Write, Check

**Look, Cover, Write, Check** is a strategy used to help children learn to spell. When learning a new word, children are asked to: look at it, cover it over with a piece of paper or their hand, write the spelling again next to the word and finally uncover the spelling to check if they have got it right.

## Non-chronological report

A **non-chronological report** is a non-fiction report which is not written in time order. Explanation texts, recounts and instruction texts are non-chronological reports.

## Non-fiction

Any text that is not a story is **non-fiction**. Non-fiction texts studied at primary school include instruction texts, recounts, information texts, explanation texts, persuasive texts, biography, journalistic writing and argument texts.

## Noun

A **noun** is a naming word. It is a thing, a person, an animal or a place. Nouns can be common, proper, abstract or collective.

## Paragraph

A **paragraph** is a section of writing consisting of one or more sentences grouped together and discussing one main subject.

## Phrase

A **phrase** is a small group of words that does not contain a **verb**.

## Play script

A **play script** is a piece of writing written for the stage. It is likely to include a list of characters, may be divided into acts (which are then divided into scenes) and contain dialogue and stage directions.

## Plural

A **plural** word indicates there is more than one noun.

## Prefix

A **prefix** is a string of letters that are added to the beginning of a root word, changing its meaning.

## Pronoun

A **pronoun** is a word used to replace a noun. Examples of pronouns are: he, she, it, they. Pronouns can be personal and possessive.

## Question

A **question mark** is a punctuation mark, or a symbol, that shows that a question has ended.

## Reading comprehension

**Reading comprehension** means understanding what is being read and being able to engage with a text on many levels, understanding its layers of meaning.

## Recount

A **recount** is a non-fiction piece of writing that gives details of an event that has happened. Diary entries, newspaper articles and letters are all forms of recounts,

## Root word

A **root word** is a basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it. By adding prefixes and suffixes to a root word we can change its meaning.

## Sentence

A **sentence** is one word or a group of words that makes sense by itself (a grammatical unit). Sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation point. Sentences usually contain a subject (doing something) and a verb (what is being done).

## Shared writing

A **simile** is a comparison phrase which finds similar characteristics in two objects and compares them, always by using the words 'like' or 'as'.

## Simple, compound and complex sentences

A **simple sentence** has a subject and one verb. A **compound sentence** is formed when you join two main clauses with a connective. A **complex sentence** is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause with a connective.

## Singular

When a noun is **singular**, it means there is only one person, place or object.

## Speech marks

Inverted commas (also known as **speech marks** and quotation marks) are punctuation marks that show us where **direct speech** starts and ends.

## Standard English

**Standard English** is the "correct" form of English, taught in schools and used in formal written communication.

## Statement

A **statement** is the most common type of sentence. Statements are sentences that express a fact, idea or opinion.

## Story map / Story mountain / Story flowchart

**Story maps, mountains and flowcharts** are diagrams used in the classroom to help children analyse the plot and the structure of a text.

## Story setting

A **story setting** is the location in which a story takes place. The setting could anywhere, from a park to a home to an alien planet.

## Success criteria

A **success criteria** is a list of features that a teacher wants the children to include in their work during the course of a lesson. It is sometimes known as the WILF (What I'm Looking For).

## Suffix

A **suffix** is a string of letters that go at the end of a word, changing or adding to its meaning. Suffixes can show if a word is a noun, an adjective, an adverb or a verb.

## Syllable

A **syllable** is a single, unbroken sound of a spoken (or written) word. Syllables are sometimes called the 'beats' of a word.

## Synonym

**Synonyms** are words with the same or similar meanings.

## Talk partner

**Time connectives** are words or phrases which tell the reader when something is happening. They can also be called temporal connectives.

## Traditional tale

A **traditional tale** is a fairy story or fairy tale, a story that has been told and re-told for many years and almost everyone knows. Examples of traditional tales are Cinderella, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood.

## Verbs and powerful verbs

A **verb** expresses a physical action, a mental action or a state of being. Powerful verbs are descriptive, rich words.

## Verb tense

**Verb tenses** tell us the time when an action took place, in the past, the present or the future.

## Vowel

The alphabet is made up of 26 letters, 5 of which are vowels (a, e, i, o, u) and the rest of which are consonants. A **vowel** is a sound that is made by allowing breath to flow out of the mouth, without closing any part of the mouth or throat.

## Word bank

**Word banks** are lists of words to support children with their writing. These will vary according to the age of the child and the task given.

## Word family

**Word families** are groups of words that have a common feature, pattern or meaning. They usually share a **root word**. Eg medic, medical, medicine, medicinal etc

## Writing frame

A **writing frame** is a blank diagram used to show children how to set out their writing and to remind them to include certain features.