

Phonological Awareness Terms

Phonological Awareness	Phonological awareness is a broad term that includes identifying and manipulating larger parts of spoken language, such as words, syllables, and onsets and rimes – as well as phonemes.	Examples: syllable - <i>cowboy</i> = /cow/ /boy/ onset and rime - <i>sun</i> = /s/ /un/ phoneme - <i>man</i> = /m/ /ă/ /n/
Phoneme	A phoneme is the smallest segment of spoken language that makes a difference in the meaning of words	Examples: the /c/ sound in the spoken word <i>cat</i> the /sh/ sound in the spoken word <i>fish</i>
Phonemic Awareness	Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate the individual sounds in spoken words.	Examples: <i>bat</i> = /b/ /ă/ /t/ change the /b/ in <i>bat</i> to /c/ = <i>cat</i>
Phonological Processor	The phonological processor is a neural network in the brain that is specialized for speech-sound perception.	Example: When students hear the spoken word <i>dog</i> , the phonological processor is activated, and they are able to segment the phonemes in the word <i>dog</i> - /d/ /ŏ/ /g/.
Syllable	A syllable is a unit of spoken language organized around a single vowel sound that may or may not have consonants before or after the vowel.	Examples: <i>footprint</i> = /foot/ /print/ /a/ /round/ = <i>around</i>
Onset	The onset is the initial consonant, blend, or digraph in a syllable. Not all words or syllables have onsets (at, in, oar).	Examples: /m/ /at/ /bl/ /ack/ /str/ /ap/
Rime	The rime is the first vowel sound and any other letters that follow it in a syllable.	Examples: /c/ /at/ /ch/ /ip/ /tr/ /eat/
Phoneme Isolation	Phoneme isolation involves the ability to isolate the phoneme in the initial, final, or medial position.	Examples: Initial - <i>man</i> - /m/ Final - <i>hat</i> - /t/ Medial - <i>fun</i> - /ŭ/
Phoneme Identity	Phoneme identify involves the ability to recognize the same sounds in different words in the initial, final, or medial position.	Examples: Initial - <i>mix</i> , <i>map</i> , <i>met</i> Final - <i>sun</i> , <i>ten</i> , <i>man</i> Medial - <i>cap</i> , <i>mat</i> , <i>fan</i>
Phoneme Categorization	Phoneme Categorization involves the ability to recognize the word in a set of three or four words that has the “odd” sound in the initial, medial, or final position.	Examples: Initial - <i>bus</i> , <i>big</i> , <i>rat</i> Final - <i>sun</i> , <i>cat</i> , <i>man</i> Medial - <i>bed</i> , <i>hat</i> , <i>fan</i>
Phoneme Blending	Phoneme Blending involves saying individual phonemes in a word, then putting the sounds together to say the whole word.	Examples: /l/ /i/ /t/ = <i>light</i> /b/ /l/ /ŏ/ /k/ = <i>block</i>
Phoneme Segmenting	Phoneme Segmenting involves Identifying the individual phonemes in a spoken word.	Examples: <i>wish</i> - /w/ /i/ /sh/ <i>fetch</i> - /f/ /ĕ/ /ch/
Phoneme Manipulation	Phoneme Manipulation involves the ability to change a spoken word by adding, deleting, or substituting an individual phoneme.	Examples: Add - Add /f/ to /it/ = <i>fit</i> Delete - Say <i>cup</i> without /c/ = <i>up</i> Substitute - Say <i>bug</i> and change /b/ to /n/ = <i>bun</i>
Stops	Stops must be pronounced with one short push of breath. Tip: Avoid adding the “schwa” (-uh) to stops!	Examples: /b/, /p/, /t/, /d/
Continuants	Continuants can be spoken continuously until you run out of breath.	Examples: /f/, /m/, /v/, /z/ all vowels are continuants
Voiced	Voiced phonemes are spoken with the voice box turned on.	Examples: /d/, /g/, /l/, /w/ all vowels are voiced
Unvoiced	Unvoiced phonemes are spoken with the voice box turned off.	Examples: /k/, /t/, /h/, /p/