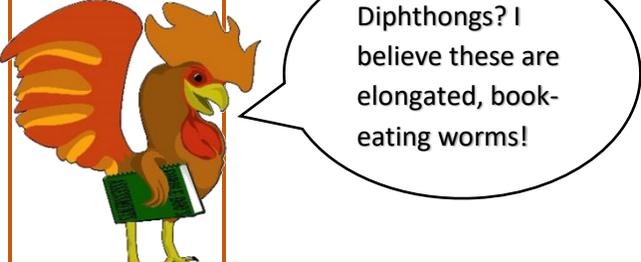


Phonics Terms

Terms	Consonants (C)	Vowels (V)
Consonants & Vowels	<p>B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, X, Y, Z</p> <p>Children hear consonant sounds in words before vowel sounds. Consonants are quite reliable (say the sound we expect).</p>	<p>Short vowels A - for apple E - for elephant I - for igloo O - for octopus U - for umbrella</p> <p>Short vowels are more difficult to learn and discriminate (harder to hear). They should be taught within word families (c-at) so that their sounds remain consistent across multiple words. Short vowels should be introduced when children are developmentally ready to learn them.</p> <p>Long vowels say their name, such as the e in tree.</p>
Blends	<p>Blends are consonant pairs, such as the bl- and -nd in the word blends. Some common blends are bl, sm, gr, st, sl, scr, etc. You can hear the letters as you blend or say them!</p>	<p>Most literacy experts refer to blends as consonant blends. When vowels pair or slide together, they are termed diphthongs (see below).</p>
Digraphs & Trigraphs	<p>Two (di) or three (tri) letters that come together to represent a single or new sound that does not correspond to the written letters.</p> <p>Digraphs: ch, ph, sh, wh, ng, and so on</p> <p>Trigraphs: nth, sch, scr, shr, and so on</p>	<p>Vowel <u>digraphs</u>: ai, ay, oa, ee, ea, etc.</p> <p>Vowel <u>trigraphs</u>: <i>eau</i> as in <i>beautiful</i></p>

<p>Diphthongs</p> 	<p>Diphthongs? I believe these are elongated, book-eating worms!</p>	<p>A diphthong is a sound made by combining two vowels, specifically when it starts as one vowel sound slides on over to the other vowel, such as in the word <i>boy</i> or in the word <i>oil</i>. Diphthong comes from the Greek word <i>diphthongos</i> which means "having two sounds."</p>
<p>Silent e</p>		<p>When a short word ends in an "e", the first vowel typically makes its sound (long). The e is silent at the end of the word (e.g., make, stripe, note). Although not always accurate, a common jingle is sometimes used to remind young students of the silent e rule: <i>When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking and the second one does the walking.</i></p>
<p>Irregularities & other oddities</p>	<p>Hard and soft sounds, for example the hard c is the sound of /k/. Can you think of more?</p>	<p>Vowels are sneaky. They sound different in accented and unaccented syllables. For example, the word <i>handle</i> has two syllables—the first syllable is accented/spoken louder and the second is unaccented/spoken softer.</p> <p>Y sometimes functions as a vowel such as in the word <i>very</i>. When <i>very</i> is divided into syllables <i>ver</i> + <i>y</i>, it becomes evident that the <i>y</i> is a vowel (each syllable must contain at least one vowel.)</p> <p>R-controlled vowel such as in <i>car</i>, for or <i>bird</i>. The <i>r</i> is quite bossy and wants all the credit!</p> <p>Schwa is an unstressed vowel sound that makes lazy "a" sound (or <i>ah</i> sound). The word <i>around</i>, the <i>a</i> is a schwa or the <i>o</i> in the word <i>custom</i>. It is represented by the symbol (ə) in the International Phonetic Alphabet.</p>

Adapted from Yaeger, J. (2014). *Wisconsin foundations of reading study guide* (p. 26-27).