

# Phonics

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Today, we will cover:

- ▶ What is phonics?
- ▶ Why does phonics matter?
- ▶ How is phonics taught?
- ▶ How can we use phonics in the classroom?

# What is Phonics?

「Phonics is a method of teaching people to read English by connecting sounds with letters.」

**p h ph**



# What is Phonics?

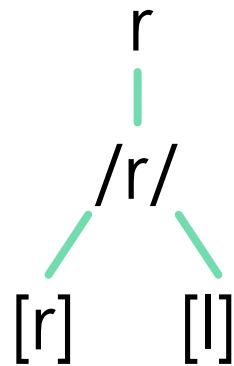
Three useful terms:

- ▶ Grapheme – the smallest written component that can distinguish one word from another
- ▶ Phoneme – the smallest unit of sound that can distinguish one word from another
- ▶ Allophone – individual sounds

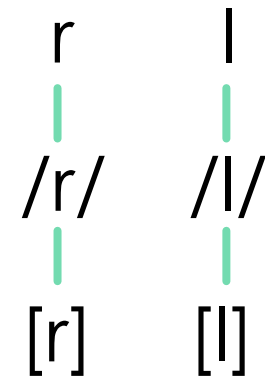


# What is Phonics?

Japanese



English



# What is Phonics?

What does it do?

- ▶ Phonics raises “phonemic awareness”
- ▶ Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate phonemes
- ▶ We do not need to introduce linguistic terms to students to do this

# Why is Phonics Important?

Some reasons:

- ▶ English has lots of sounds and very few letters
- ▶ This makes reading difficult without phonemic awareness
- ▶ The alternative is to memorize words by shape
- ▶ Phonics has been found to produce stronger readers



# Why is Phonics Important?

Additional benefits:

- ▶ Less focus on memorization
- ▶ Allows readers to decode unfamiliar words
- ▶ This also builds confidence

# Why is Phonics Important?

Additional benefits:

- ▶ Higher phonemic awareness helps students understand the English sound system
- ▶ This helps with pronunciation
- ▶ Understanding phonemes helps students move away from “Katakana English”

do•gu vs. dog

# Phonics in the Classroom

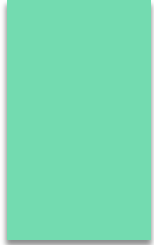
How to teach phonics:

- ▶ Phonics must be taught consistently
- ▶ Start with the alphabet
- ▶ Teach sounds/letters in groups of three
- ▶ Progress through sounds/letters from easy to difficult



Order  
of Letters  
by  
Difficulty

S,T,M,P	A
D,G	I
N,C,M,P	O
B,F,H	U
K,R	E
L	
V,W,Y	IE,AI,OI
J,Z	OO,EE
CH,TH,SH	
X	
QU	



# Phonics in the Classroom

- ▶ Word Blending
- ▶ Word Segmenting
- ▶ Fake Words
- ▶ Sound to letter dictation
- ▶ Letter to sound activities

# Phonics in the Classroom

## Resources:

- ▶ [getreadingright.com.au](http://getreadingright.com.au)
- ▶ [starfisheducation.com.au](http://starfisheducation.com.au)
- ▶ [teachyourmonstertoread.com](http://teachyourmonstertoread.com)
- ▶ [Funfonix.com](http://Funfonix.com)
- ▶ [Foxy Phonics](#)
- ▶ [readingbyphonics.com](http://readingbyphonics.com)
- ▶ [phonicsinternational.com](http://phonicsinternational.com)