

prefix	A prefix is added at the beginning of a word in order to turn it into another word. Contrast suffix.
root word	Morphology breaks words down into root words, which can stand alone, and suffixes or prefixes which can't. For example, <i>help</i> is the root word for other words in its word family such as <i>helpful</i> and <i>helpless</i> , and also for its inflections such as <i>helping</i> . Compound words (e.g. <i>help-desk</i>) contain two or more root words. When looking in a dictionary, we sometimes have to look for the root word (or words) of the word we are interested in.
suffix	A suffix is an 'ending', used at the end of one word to turn it into another word. Unlike root words, suffixes cannot stand on their own as a complete word. Contrast prefix.
syllable	A syllable sounds like a beat in a word. Syllables consist of at least one vowel, and possibly one or more consonants.
trigraph	A type of grapheme where three letters represent one phoneme.
word family	The words in a word family are normally related to each other by a combination of morphology, grammar and meaning.



Spelling Glossary

This booklet is to support the teaching of spelling at Bartley C of E Junior School. The words and definitions included in this booklet are taken from the 2014 National Curriculum.

Term	Guidance
digraph	A type of grapheme where two letters represent one phoneme. Sometimes these two letters are not next to one another; this is called a split di-
etymology	A word's etymology is its history: its origins in earlier forms of English or other languages, and how its form and meaning have changed. Many words in English have come from Greek, Latin or French.
grapheme	A letter, or combination of letters, that corresponds to a single phoneme within a word.
grapheme-phoneme correspondences	The links between letters, or combinations of letters (graphemes) and the speech sounds (phonemes) that they represent. In the English writing system, graphemes may correspond to different phonemes in different words.

homonym	Two different words are homonyms if they both look exactly the same when written, and sound exactly the same when pronounced.
homophone	Two different words are homophones if they sound exactly the same when pronounced.
morphology	A word's morphology is its internal make-up in terms of root words and suffixes or prefixes, as well as other kinds of change such as the change of <i>mouse</i> to <i>mice</i> . Morphology may be used to produce different inflections of the same word (e.g. <i>boy</i> – <i>boys</i>), or entirely new words (e.g. <i>boy</i> – <i>boyish</i>) belonging to the same word family. A word that contains two or more root words is a compound (e.g. <i>news+paper</i> , <i>ice+cream</i>).
phoneme	A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound that signals a distinct, contrasting meaning. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ /t/ contrasts with /k/ to signal the difference between <i>tap</i> and <i>cap</i> ▪ /t/ contrasts with /l/ to signal the difference between <i>bought</i> and <i>ball</i>. It is this contrast in meaning that tells us there are two distinct phonemes at work. There are around 44 phonemes in English; the exact number depends on regional accents. A single phoneme may be represented in writing by one, two, three or four letters constituting a single grapheme.