

Teaching Handwriting Reading And Spelling Skills


THE THRASS INSTHUTE
(Australasia \& Ganada)

## AN INTEGRATED PHONOGRAPHIC TOOL FOR TEACHING THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF LITERACY

## READING

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## READING

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## READING SECTION

Note: Phonemes are indicated by brackets ( ) and letter names by apostrophes, ' '. Although we recognise the importance of IPA, we have not used its symbols to denote phonemes, as many people will not be familiar with these. Instead we have used common graphemes (spelling choices).

The READING SECTION introduces the 44 phoneme-boxes and 120 THRASSWORDS from the THRASSCHART.

- Spoken English has 44 phonemes.
- There are not 44 letters in the alphabet to represent each of these phonemes. Therefore since there cannot always be a one-to-one correspondence between phonemes and letters, it is important to think of the 26 letters of the alphabet as only a resource from which letters are selected and combined, according to convention, to represent the different phonemes.

The THRASS PICTURECHART shows the 44 phoneme-boxes with some of their graphemes.


READING - Involves changing graphemes to phonemes.
GRAPH - one letter representing one phoneme
DIGRAPH - two letters representing one phoneme
TRIGRAPH - three letters representing one phoneme QUADGRAPH - four letters representing one phoneme

DIPHONE - one letter representing two phonemes
GRAPHEMES - graph, digraph trigraph, quadgraph
PHONOGRAPHIC - the relationship between phonemes and graphemes

## THE PHONOGRAPHIC RELATIONSHIP

- Consonant and vowel phonemes are used to make words. For example the word cow.
- Look at the consonant phoneme-box ck ck ch q*. Say the phoneme.
- Look at the phoneme-box ow ou $*$. Say the phoneme.
- The word cow has two phonemes: a consonant phoneme, represented by the graph ' $c$ ' and a vowel phoneme, represented by the digraph ' 0 ' ' $w$ '.
- The graph ' $\mathrm{c}^{\prime}$ was chosen from five possible graphemes. The digraph 'o' 'w' was chosen from two possible graphemes.
- It is understandable that in the absence of the learner not having a clear visual image for the word cow, spellings such as kow, ckow, chow, qow, cou, kou' are possible.

The vowel phoneme ( ow ) represented by the digraph 'o' 'w' in cow is only one of the 20 vowel phonemes of spoken English.

- Look at the graphemes on the vowel phoneme-boxes. Note that the graphemes, used to represent vowel phonemes, do not only use the letters ' $a$ ', ' $e$ ', ' $i$ ', ' $o$ ', ' $u$ ' - referred to by some people as 'vowel' letters. In fact the letter ' $y$ ' is a very common way to represent the vowel phoneme ( ee ) as heard at the end of the word pony. Similarly in the word cow the letter ' $w$ ' in combination with the ' o ', is representing a vowel phoneme ( ow ).
- As you can see from looking at other graphemes in the vowel phoneme-boxes, the letters ' $r$ ', ' $w$ ' and ' $y$ ' do not represent only consonant phonemes.
- It is, therefore, misleading to refer to letters as either 'vowel letters' or 'consonant letters', because this suggests that 'vowel letters' only represent vowel phonemes and that 'consonant letters' only represent consonant phonemes. They should be correctly referred to as 'vowel indicators' or 'consonant indicators'.
For example:
In the words persuade and language the letter ' $u$ ' represents the consonant phoneme ( w ) as in quilt.
In the words million and view the letter ' $i$ ' represents the consonant phoneme heard at the beginning
of the word yawn.
In the words horse and house the letter ' $e$ ' is part of the consonant digraph ' $s$ ' ' $e$ ', representing the phoneme ( $s$ ) as in horse.


## In this context then, it is important to think of the alphabet, as simply a resource of 'letters', that are used to represent phonemes.

Look at the phoneme-box j g ge dge * in the second row of consonant phoneme-boxes on the THRASSCHART. Play the Consonant Phoneme Sequence, from the THRASS Raps and Sequences CD, to hear the consonant phoneme that it represents.

When we write one letter to represent a phoneme it is called a graph. For example, the ' $\mathrm{j}^{\prime}$ in jam or the ' $g$ ' in giant. When we write two letters to represent a phoneme it is called a digraph. For example, the digraph ' $g$ ' ' $e$ ' in cage. When we write three letters to represent a phoneme it is called a trigraph. For example, the ' $d$ ' ' $g$ ' ' $e$ ' in bridge. These graphs, digraphs and trigraphs, are called graphemes (or as THRASS calls them, spelling choices).

Reading involves changing graphemes to phonemes. For example, when we read the letters ' $f$ ', ' $f$ ' ' $f$ ' and ' $p$ ' ' $h$ ' in the words fish, coffee and dolphin respectively, we say the same consonant phoneme.

Spelling involves changing phonemes to graphemes. When we spell the same consonant phoneme that was in fish, coffee and dolphin, we use the letters ' $f$ ', ' $f$ ' ' $f$ ' and ' $p$ ' $h$ ' respectively.

## SPLIT DIGRAPHS

In the word tape', the ' $a$ ' ' $e$ ' is a split digraph - the two letters represent one vowel phoneme. Split digraphs are also found in the words gate, kite and note, found on the THRASSCHART.

## DIPHONES

In the words box and mix the letter ' $x$ ' represents two consonant phonemes ( $k$ ) and (s). Therefore, for the letter ' $x$ ', learners will need to point underneath the phonemeboxes $c k$ ck ch $q^{*}$ and s ss se c ce $*$ and say the phonemes consecutively. In box and mix there are not three phonemes but four (b-o-k-s). The ' $x$ ' does not represent one phoneme - it is not a graph. In fact it represents two consonant phonemes (in this case a blend). When one letter such as the ' $x$ ' in box represents two phonemes, it is called a diphone. This is why, in ignorance of the correct sequence of letters, learners in their spelling of these words, may understandably allocate a grapheme to each phoneme in the word box, such as in the misspellings, boks and bocks and why the reverse is also possible - spelling such words as books and socks as boox and sox.


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In the words emu, music and tube the letter ' $u$ ' represents the consonant phoneme at the start of yawn, and the vowel phoneme in the middle of moon. Therefore, for the letter ' $u$ ', learners will need to point underneath the phoneme-boxes $y^{*}$ and $00 \mathrm{ew} u e *$ and say the phonemes consecutively. For example, in emu there are not three but four phonemes ( ee-m-y-oo). The ' $u$ ' does not represent a phoneme - it is not a graph. It actually represents two phonemes - one a consonant and the other a vowel.

The 120 THRASSWORDS may be introduced and revised in any order. You may wish to introduce them in the order given in this section, or choose to select words containing the graphemes and phonemes found in the names of people, places or particular words.

The most common graphemes have been selected for the THRASSCHART. Graphemes not on the chart are represented in the phoneme-boxes by an asterisk, referred to as a Grapheme Catch-All (GCA).

## Grapheme Catch-All (GCA)

## c k ck ch q *

## HOW TO USE THE READING SECTION

The READING SECTION is divided into five areas.

1. Phoneme Sheets
2. Say, Name and Overwrite Sheets and Say, Name and Write Sheets (and their combined versions)
3. Grapheme Group Words Sheet
4. Syllable Set Words Sheet
5. GCA Sheet

## 1. PHONEME SHEETS

Example. The first THRASSWORD is bird. It has three phonemes. The consonant phoneme ( $b$ ) is represented by the graph ' $b$ ', the vowel phoneme ( er) is represented by the digraph ' $i$ ' ' $r$ ' and the consonant phoneme ( $d$ ) by the graph ' $d$ '. Count the number of phonemes in each word by counting the number of phonemeboxes used. Then say the phonemes in the correct order to make the THRASSWORD.
bird $\quad \mathrm{b} \quad \mathrm{bb} * \quad$ er ir or ur $*$ d dd $*$


Instructions

1. Read the whole word.
2. Name and write over the large grey letter/s, (key grapheme), then write the whole word on the line underneath.
3. Count the number of phoneme-boxes on the chart and write how many in the 'number of phonemes' square.
4. When you can say all of the phonemes in the correct order tick the 'phoneme order' square.
5. Match the key grapheme with the small letter/s in the relevant phoneme-box. Consonant phonemes are located in boxes on the top half of the chart and vowel phonemes are found in the phoneme-boxes on the bottom half of the chart.
Write a ' $c$ ' or ' $v$ ' in the 'consonant or vowel' square to indicate whether the key grapheme represents a consonant or vowel phoneme.
6. Is the phoneme represented by one, two or three key letters? Write a ' $g^{\prime}$ ' ' $\mathrm{d}^{\prime}$, or ' t ' (graph, digraph or trigraph) in the square to show your choice.
7. Note: Phoneme-boxes that do not contain a grapheme used in the THRASSWORD are 'bricked-in'.

Note: The number of syllables in a word is determined by the number of vowel phonemes. For example the word tiger has two vowel phonemes therefore two syllables.

## 2. SAY, NAME \& OVERWRITE SHEETS and SAY, NAME \& WRITE SHEETS

- Important: Consonant and vowel phonemes are used to make the words of spoken English.
- Learners listen to the Consonant Phoneme Sequence or the Vowel Phoneme Sequence.

When they are familiar with the phoneme-boxes, they say a phoneme before naming and overwriting the grapheme/s in the appropriate box.

- These sheets can be used to idenify and to practise the location of
key phonemes,
key graphemes
and
key words.



## IMPORTANT

- In each phoneme-box there is a grapheme, or graphemes, illustrating how the phoneme may be represented.
- Phonemes may be represented by different graphemes and different numbers of graphemes.
- The Say, Name and Overwrite/Write Sheets are found in the READING SECTION, rather than the SPELLING SECTION, because the physical act of overwriting graphemes helps the learner to learn/recall and then pronounce the 44 phonemes when reading.

Phonemes and graphemes may be introduced and revised in any order. You may wish to introduce the phonemes and graphemes in the order given in the READING SECTION, or choose to select the phonemes and graphemes found in the names of people or places, or in words of your own choosing.

Graphemes that are not on the chart are represented in the phoneme-boxes by an asterisk, known as the Grapheme Catch-All (GCA).


## 3. GRAPHEME GROUP WORDS SHEET

- Learners are given a sheet for a specific grapheme (e.g. a GCA such as the trigraph ' $q$ ' 'u' 'e' for ( $k$ ) as in cheque).
- The grapheme is written in the large phoneme box.
- Identify the phoneme-box on the chart and write the grapheme.
Learners recall words, or find words in reading books, that contain graphemes representing the same phoneme.
- Learners build word banks for grapheme groups and keep these sheets for future reference.


Grapheme Group Words cheque plaque technique queue antique
$\underbrace{\square}_{\text {nease }}$

## 4. SYLLABLE SET WORDS SHEET

- Use the Syllable Set Sheet in a similar way to the Grapheme Group Words Sheet, to record syllables such as -tion as in station o -ttle (as in battle, bottle, little, rattle, wattle).


## 5. GCA SHEET

- Use the GCA Sheet to record some of the graphemes that appear in words that have not been selected as THRASSWORDS.

PHONEME SHEET - BLANK


PHONEME SHEET 1


## PHONEME SHEET 2

## kitten kitten



graph digraph trigraph
$\square$


PHONEME SHEET 3


PHONEME SHEET 4


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { fish is. } \\
& \text { fish }
\end{aligned}
$$


phoneme order ( $\checkmark$ ) $\square$
graph digraph trigraph

PHONEME SHEET 5


PHONEME SHEET 6


PHONEME SHEET 7


PHONEME SHEET 8


## PHONEME SHEET 9




[^0]PHONEME SHEET 10


PHONEME SHEET 11


| hippo |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| hippo |  |
|  | $\square$ |

PHONEME SHEET 12

number of

phonemes $\square \quad$\begin{tabular}{c}
$\operatorname{phoneme}$ <br>
$\operatorname{order}(\Omega)$

$\square$

consonant <br>
or <br>
vowel
\end{tabular}


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PHONEME SHEET 13


| number of phonemes | phoneme <br> $\operatorname{order}(\checkmark)$ | consonant or vowel | graph digraph trigraph |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



## dress <br>  dress




[^1]PHONEME SHEET 14


PHONEME SHEET 15

Chef

[^2]PHONEME SHEET 16


## PHONEME SHEET 17



PHONEME SHEET 18


PHONEME SHEET 19


PHONEME SHEET 20



PHONEME SHEET 21


| number of phonemes | phoneme <br> order ( $/$ ) | consonant or vowel | graph <br> digraph <br> trigraph |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { tape } \\
\text { tape }
\end{gathered}
$$


number of $\square$ phoneme $\square$ consonant phonemes
order ( $/$ ) or
vowel

PHONEME SHEET 22


PHONEME SHEET 23

phoneme consonant
or
vowel


[^3]PHONEME SHEET 24


| number of |
| :---: |
| phonemes |$\square$| phoneme |
| :---: |
| order $(/)$ |$\square$| consonant |
| :---: |
| or |
| vowel |$\quad \square \square$| graph |
| :--- |
| digraph |
| trigraph |$\square$



[^4]PHONEME SHEET 25



PHONEME SHEET 26


PHONEME SHEET 27


PHONEME SHEET 28


PHONEME SHEET 29

phoneme
consonant
or
vowel


PHONEME SHEET 30


## worm



## worm

number of
phonemes

$\square$

phoneme

$\operatorname{order}(\checkmark)$$\square$| consonant |
| :---: |
| or |
| vowel |$\quad \square \square$| graph |
| :--- |
| digraph |
| trigraph |$\square \square$

PHONEME SHEET 31


| number of <br> phonemes$\square \quad$phoneme <br> order $(~$ <br> or$\square$consonant <br> or <br> vowel |
| :---: | | graph |
| :--- |
| digraph |
| trigraph |$\square$


tin
number of

phonemes $\square$\begin{tabular}{c}
phoneme <br>
order $(\checkmark)$

$\square$

consonant <br>
or <br>
vowel

$\square \square \square$

graph <br>
digraph <br>
trigraph
\end{tabular}$\square$



PHONEME SHEET 32


PHONEME SHEET 33

SWON

[^5]PHONEME SHEET 34


PHONEME SHEET 35


PHONEME SHEET 36



PHONEME SHEET 37


PHONEME SHEET 38



[^6]PHONEME SHEET 39


## PHONEME SHEET 40



| menes |  | giop |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| o glove |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| glove |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

[^7]

In the word box the letter ' $x$ ' represents two phonemes (diphone).
box
box


In the word emu, the letter 'u' represent two phonemes (diphone).

## emu

## emu

number of

phonemes $\quad \square$\begin{tabular}{c}
phoneme <br>
order $(\checkmark)$

$\square$

consonant <br>
or <br>
vowel
\end{tabular}$\quad \mathbf{c + v}$







Say the consonant phoneme.
Name and write the graphemes.
5
0
0
0
0

-






Can you find a GCA for each of the 44 phonemes?
Add the GCA to the phoneme-box and write an example word.

| b bb | y |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| c k ck ch q | z zz ze s se |  |
| ch tch | a |  |
| d dd | a a-e ai ay |  |
| f ff ph | air are |  |
| 999 | ar a |  |
| h | e ea |  |
| j g ge dge | $e$ ea ee ey $y$ |  |
| l ll | ear eer |  |
| mmm mb | er ar or ure a e | - u |
| $n \mathrm{nn}$ kn | er ir or ur |  |
| ng n | i y |  |
| P pp | i i-e igh $y$ |  |
| r rr wr | o a |  |
| S ss se c ce | o oa o-e ow |  |
| s | oi oy |  |
| sh ti ch | 00 u |  |
| t tt | oo ew ue |  |
| th | ure |  |
| th | or a au aw oor |  |
| v ve | ow ou |  |
| w wh u | u o |  |

Grapheme Group


## Grapheme Group Words

## Syllable Set



Use this sheet for words that have the same syllable.
e.g. 'tion' as in station

Syllable Set Words


[^0]:    THRASS ${ }^{\circledR}$

[^1]:    THRASS ${ }^{\circledR}$

[^2]:    THRASS ${ }^{\circ}$

[^3]:    THRASS ${ }^{\circledR}$

[^4]:    THRASS ${ }^{\circledR}$

[^5]:    THRASS ${ }^{\circledR}$

[^6]:    tHRASS ${ }^{\circledR}$

[^7]:    THRASS ${ }^{\circledR}$

