

KEY STAGE

1

JUNE

2015

# Phonics screening check 2015 scoring guidance



Standards  
& Testing  
Agency

## Pronunciation of real words and pseudo-words

Some of the graphemes used in the check represent a number of different phonemes. When decoding a real word in the check, the pupil has to select the correct phoneme for the word, for example the 'ow' in 'blow' should not be pronounced as the 'ow' in 'cow'. However, when decoding a pseudo-word, all plausible alternative pronunciations are acceptable.

The tables on the next page provide guidance to teachers scoring the check on acceptable pronunciations of the pseudo-words in the check.

## Regional pronunciations

Some of the pseudo-words in the screening check contain vowel digraphs that end with 'r', such as 'ur'. In a small number of regional dialects, the 'r' in words with these vowel digraphs is voiced and pupils who speak with these dialects will be known to their teachers. For these pupils, pseudo-words with a vowel digraph ending in 'r', such as 'nurt' may be pronounced as /nɜ:rt/ instead of /nɜ:t/. These pronunciations are acceptable alternatives in the relevant pseudo-words.

### Contact details

For more information about the phonics screening check, please contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email [assessments@education.gov.uk](mailto:assessments@education.gov.uk).

## Section 1

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciations	Phonemic representation
<b>fip</b>	This item uses the 'f' from 'fan' and rhymes with 'pip'.	/fɪp/
<b>pon</b>	This item uses the 'p' from 'pet' and rhymes with 'con'.	/pɒn/
<b>hab</b>	This item uses the 'h' from 'hit' and rhymes with 'dab'.	/hæb/
<b>ulb</b>	This item uses the 'u' from 'us' and rhymes with 'bulb'. All regional pronunciations of the 'u' are acceptable.	/ʊlb/ or /ʌlb/
<b>dack</b>	This item uses the 'd' from 'deck' and rhymes with 'sack'.	/dæk/
<b>chob</b>	This item uses the 'ch' from 'chip' and rhymes with 'blob'.	/tʃɒb/
<b>nurt</b>	This item uses the 'n' from 'nail' and rhymes with 'curt'.	/nɜ:t/
<b>queet</b>	This item uses the 'qu' from 'quiet' and rhymes with 'greet'.	/kwi:t/
<b>plap</b>	This item uses the 'pl' from 'plot' and rhymes with 'wrap'.	/plæp/
<b>froin</b>	This item uses the 'fr' from 'freed' and rhymes with 'coin'.	/frɔɪn/
<b>melp</b>	This item uses the 'm' from 'milk' and rhymes with 'help'.	/mɛlp/
<b>heent</b>	This item combines the 'hee' from 'heel' and the 'nt' from 'blunt'.	/hi:nt/

## Section 2

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciations	Phonemic representation
<b>yair</b>	This item uses the 'y' from 'yoke' and rhymes with 'hair'.	/jɛə/
<b>blies</b>	This item combines the 'bl' from 'black' and the 'ies' from 'tries' or 'carries'.	/blɪz/ or /blaɪz/
<b>keam</b>	This item uses the 'k' from 'keep' and rhymes with 'beam'.	/ki:m/
<b>whape</b>	This item uses the 'wh' from 'while' and rhymes with 'grape'.	/weɪp/
<b>braft</b>	This item uses the 'br' from 'brick' and rhymes with 'craft'. All regional pronunciations of the 'a' are acceptable.	/bræft/ or /brɑ:ft/
<b>thrant</b>	This item uses the 'thr' from 'throw' and rhymes with 'plant'.	/ðrænt/ or /θrænt/ or /ðrɑ:nt/ or /θrɑ:nt/
<b>sprop</b>	This item uses the 'spr' from 'spray' and rhymes with 'drop'.	/sprop/
<b>strow</b>	This item uses the 'str' from 'stray' and rhymes with 'grow' or 'brow'.	/straʊ/ or /strəʊ/