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| **Term** | **Definition** | **Example(s)** |
| Phoneme | The sound you hear- The smallest units of sound that make up words. | s j w ay oa |
| Grapheme | The visual representation of a sound- A letter or a small number of letters that represent a sound. | s j w ay oa |
| Single-letter grapheme | A one letter grapheme – labeled with a single ‘sound button’. | b a f o g |
| Digraph | A two letter grapheme – labeled with a single, straight ‘sound line’ under both letters. Digraphs can sometimes make different sounds when used in different words (e.g. oo in *b­oot / book*). | ch sh th ee oo |
| Split digraph | (Magic e) A digraph where two vowels are separated by a single-letter consonant grapheme – labeled with a single, curved ‘sound line’ joining the two vowels. | a e as in madeo e as in note |
| Trigraph | A three letter grapheme – labeled with a single, straight ‘sound line’ under all three letters. | igh ear air |
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| Blending | The merging together of the separate sounds in a word. The separate sounds (phonemes) are spoken in order, all through the word, and are then merged together into the whole word - this is a vital skill for **reading**. |
| Segmenting | Breaking words down into phonemes to spell (so, the opposite process to blending). The whole word is spoken aloud and then broken up into its sounds (phonemes) in order, all through the word - this is a vital skill for **spelling**. |
| Examples of words labeled with ‘sound buttons’:c a t c a s h c a t c h c a k e |