

GLOSSARY

academic vocabulary	Terms associated with a specific content area or topic; language used across content areas to teach and learn skills and concepts.
activating background knowledge	Connecting prior knowledge to what is being taught.
affix	A prefix or suffix added to a base word or root that changes the word's meaning or function. Examples: review , renting .
automaticity	The ability to recognize sounds, letters, and words quickly, accurately, and effortlessly.
base word	A word to which affixes are added to change its meaning or function. Examples: peaceful , disagree .
blending	The process of combining individual sounds to decode or say a word.
breve	The diacritical mark that represents a short vowel's sound. Example: căt .
choral response	Students answering a question or responding to a prompt in unison.
click and clunk strategy	A strategy used in Collaborative Strategic Reading in which students monitor their comprehension during reading and implement strategies to fix "clunks," or areas in which their comprehension breaks down.

closed syllable	A syllable that ends in only one vowel and a consonant.
cloze (activity)	An activity in which a word is left out of a sentence and the student supplies the missing word.
compound word	A word composed of two or more smaller words. Frequently, the meaning of the compound word can be derived from the smaller words. Examples: football, birthday.
comprehension	The ability to understand and gain meaning from reading a passage or listening to a passage being read.
consonant blend	Two or more adjacent consonants in a word, each representing a distinct sound. Examples: jump , stay .
consonant digraph	Two adjacent letters that represent one sound. Examples: ship , bunch .
consonant- le syllable	A syllable that consists of a consonant followed by the letters l and e . Examples: apple , table .
context clue	A hint to the meaning of a word or phrase that is derived from text that surrounds the unknown word or phrase.
continuous consonant sound	A consonant sound that can be sustained without distortion. Examples: /l/, /m/, /s/. Nonexamples: /p/, /d/, /k/.
contraction	A word formed by combining two words and replacing one or more letters with an apostrophe. A contraction is a shortened way of saying the two separate words. Examples: wouldn't = would not; you're = you are.
decodable text	Text in which most words follow the letter-sound relationships that the reader has learned.
decoding	To read a word by sounding it out; the process of converting printed words to spoken words by applying knowledge of letter-sound relationships.
encode	To spell a word; the process of converting spoken words to printed words by applying knowledge of letter-sound relationships.

expository text	Text that presents factual information.
fluency	The ability to read quickly, accurately, smoothly, and with expression.
generalize	To apply a specific learned skill to a broader situation.
genre	A category of literature with unique characteristics. Examples: poetry, mystery, science fiction, biography, fantasy.
gist	The main idea of a section of text.
graphic organizer	A visual representation of the relationship between words, concepts, or events that is intended to enhance understanding. Examples: Venn diagram, flow chart, word web.
high-frequency word	A word that appears frequently in text and spoken language.
high-utility word	A content-specific word that is useful to know because it occurs frequently and is essential to understanding text.
homophone	A word that sounds the same as another word but has a different meaning and spelling. Examples: made and maid, past and passed.
irregular word	A word whose letters do not follow their most common sounds. Examples: of, they , said .
letter-sound correspondence	The ability to identify the letters of the alphabet and the sounds associated with them.
long vowel sound	A vowel sound that is the same as the name of the vowel. Examples: ma de, Pete , ri de, ho me, cu be.
macron	The diacritical mark that represents a long vowel's sound. Example: /ā/.
morpheme	The smallest unit of meaning of language. Example: The ed in rented indicates past tense.

multisyllabic	Containing more than one syllable.
narrative	A type of text that tells a story or sequence of events.
nonsense word	Nonwords that students use their phonic knowledge to decode and encode accurately. Examples: trum, ribfot.
open syllable	A syllable containing only one vowel and ending in a vowel sound; the vowel sound usually is long. Examples: hi, music .
past tense	A verb tense that indicates action that took place in the past. Examples: looked, ran.
predict	To anticipate what will be learned or what will happen in a text, based on background knowledge or previewing.
prefix	A word part added to the beginning of a root or base word that changes the word's meaning. Examples: un load, trans port.
preview	A strategy in which a reader scans a text before reading to activate background knowledge and form a prediction.
prior knowledge	Knowledge gained from previous experience and learning.
prosody	Reading with appropriate expression, rhythm, and intonation.
<i>r</i> -controlled vowel	A vowel whose sound is influenced by an <i>r</i> that immediately follows it. Example: harm vs. ham .
root	A Greek or Latin unit of meaning to which affixes are added to form words. A root differs from a base word in that it is not a word on its own. Examples: dem (from the Greek demos , which means "people"): dem ocracy, epidem ic; pac (from the Latin pax , which means "peace"): pac ify, pac ifist.
scaffold	A temporary support that allows a student to accomplish a task that he or she otherwise would not be able to accomplish; scaffolding is gradually reduced as a student gains mastery. Examples: modeling and guided practice.

schwa	The vowel sound that often occurs in unstressed syllables and that often is represented by the following symbol: ə.
segmenting	To break apart words into individual sounds or word parts.
short vowel sounds	The initial vowel sounds heard in the following examples: a nt, e ducation, i ch, o ctopus, u p.
sight words	A word that one is able to read instantly.
sound options	The sound differences that a letter combination represents in different words. Example: tr ou t vs so up.
spelling options	The spelling differences for the same sound in different words. Example: /ā/ in fla me, rai d, and spra y.
stop consonant	A consonant sound that is distorted if not said quickly. Examples: /t/, /g/, /b/ vs. /m/, /s/, /f/.
suffix	A word part added to the end of a root or base word that changes the word's meaning. Examples: livel ly , plant ed .
syllable	A unit of pronunciation containing one vowel sound. Examples: fan–tas–tic.
syllable stress (accent)	The emphasis put on a particular syllable in a word. Examples: ba con, ap artment, be gin.
syllable type	A category of syllables by predictable spelling patterns and pronunciation. Examples: consonant- le , vowel-consonant- e , open, and r -controlled.
synonym	A word whose meaning is similar to another word. Examples: messy, sloppy; try, attempt.
think-aloud	A technique in which the teacher verbalizes the thought process of a reader using instructional strategies. Example for previewing text: "The title of the section is Earthquakes , and there's a picture of a street with a huge crack in the middle. Once, on TV, I saw a building that crumbled during an earthquake. I think we are going to learn about what happens during an earthquake."

unvoiced sound	A sound whose production does not make the vocal cords vibrate. Examples: /s/, /f/.
vocabulary	The knowledge of words and word meanings; types of vocabulary include receptive (words we hear and read) and productive (words we say and write).
voiced sound	A sound whose production makes the vocal cords vibrate. Examples: /z/, /m/, /g/.
vowel	A sound that is produced with unobstructed air passing through the mouth.
vowel-consonant- e syllable	A syllable with a vowel followed by a consonant and a silent e ; the first vowel usually makes its long sound, and the final e is silent. Examples: flute , pine , ape.
whole word	A word that is formed when word parts are put together. Example: punish + ing = punishing .
word recognition	The ability to identify a word in print.
word sort	An activity in which words are categorized according to common features.
word study	A comprehensive approach to word-reading instruction in which the student learns the phonics, structure, spelling, and meaning of words.
word web	A graphic organizer that illustrates the relationship among words.

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