



Attachment 2

The structure of the Phonics Check

The Phonics Check is organised in two sections.

Section 1

- Simple word structures using single letters
- Some consonant digraphs and frequent and consistent vowel digraphs
- Twenty words in total – 12 pseudo words and 8 real words
- Checks the letter–sound relationships for the sounds: p, i, b, v, u, s, y, o, e, l, t, d, sh, ch, a, oi, qu, ee, n, r, oo, m, ar, th, j, zz, f, or, and ck.

Section 2

- More complex words, including two-syllable words
- Additional consonant digraphs
- Less frequent and consistent vowel/split digraphs and trigraphs
- Twenty words: 8 pseudo words and 12 real words
- Checks some of the previously checked phonic concepts and additional letter–sound relationships for the sounds: k, igh, g, ir, ai, y, u_e, f, aw, air, oa, i_e, c, o_e, x, ur, w, ng, and or.

The [Phonic Books](#)¹ website provides a freely downloadable version of a simple phonic code table for beginner readers, and a complex phonic code table for catch-up readers.

These tables are more complex than those produced by the Dyslexia-SPELD Foundation.

The tables on the following pages demonstrate the increasing complexity of the words checked in the Phonics Check, providing a summary of the letter–sounds checked, in the order of checking, and the breakdown of phonic elements. Each year a new set of words are used in the Phonics Check but they follow a similar pattern to the example that follows.

¹ <https://www.phonicbooks.co.uk/advice-and-resources/free-teaching-resources/phonics-code-table/>

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Summary of the letter-sounds checked

Section 1 of the Phonics Check: example

Item	Pattern of phonic elements	Consonant/vowel patterns (digraphs underlined)	Letter sounds checked
lig	3 phoneme string	CVC	l, i, g
mep	3 phoneme string	CVC	m, e, p
gax	3 phoneme string	CVC	g, a, x
emp	3 phoneme string	VCC	e, m, p
beff	2 phoneme string consonant digraph	<u>CVCC</u>	b, e, ff
shup	common consonant digraph 2 phoneme string	<u>CCVC</u>	sh, u, p
doil	single phoneme vowel digraph single phoneme	<u>CVVC</u>	d, oi, l
charb	common consonant digraph r-controlled vowel single phoneme	<u>CCVCC</u>	ch, ar, b
frex	4 phoneme string	CCVC	f, r, e, x
criff	3 phoneme string consonant digraph	<u>CCVCC</u>	c, r, i, ff
haps	4 phoneme string	CVCC	h, a, p, s
barst	single phoneme r-controlled vowel 2 phoneme string	<u>CVCCC</u>	b, ar, s, t
chin	common consonant digraph 2 phoneme string	<u>CCVC</u>	ch, i, n
deck	2 phoneme string consonant digraph	<u>CVCC</u>	d, e, ck

Item	Pattern of phonic elements	Consonant/vowel patterns (digraphs underlined)	Letter sounds checked
horn	single phoneme r-controlled vowel single phoneme	<u>CV</u> CC	h, or, n
queen	common consonant digraph vowel digraph single phoneme	<u>CVV</u> VC	qu, ee, n
tram	4 phoneme string	CCVC	t, r, a, m
press	3 phoneme string consonant digraph	CC <u>V</u> CC	p, r, e, ss
self	4 phoneme string	CVCC	s, e, l, f
keeps	single phoneme vowel digraph 2 phoneme string	<u>CV</u> VCC	k, ee, p, s

Section 2 of the Phonics Check: example

Item	Pattern of phonic elements	Consonant/vowel patterns (digraphs underlined)	Letter sounds checked
jigh	single phoneme trigraph	<u>CVCC</u>	j, igh
woats	single phoneme vowel digraph 2 phoneme string	<u>CVVCC</u>	w, oa, t, s
rird	single phoneme r-controlled vowel single phoneme	<u>CVCC</u>	r, ir, d
phope	consonant digraph split vowel digraph single phoneme	<u>CCVCV</u>	ph, o_e, p
glips	5 single phonemes	CCVCC	g, l, i, p, s
floost	2 phoneme string vowel digraph 2 phoneme string	CC <u>V</u> CC	f, l, oo, s, t
splam	5 phoneme string	CCCVC	s, p, l, a, m
strobe	3 phoneme string split vowel digraph single phoneme	CCC <u>V</u> CV	s, t, r, i_e, b
stair	2 phoneme string vowel digraph	CC <u>V</u> VC	s, t, air
haunt	single phoneme vowel digraph 2 phoneme string	<u>CVVCC</u>	h, au, n, t
lied	single phoneme vowel digraph single phoneme	<u>CVVC</u>	l, ie, d
wove	single phoneme split vowel digraph single phoneme	<u>CVCV</u>	w, o_e, v

Item	Pattern of phonic elements	Consonant/vowel patterns (digraphs underlined)	Letter sounds checked
drank	5 phoneme string	CCVCC	d, r, a, n, k
treats	2 phoneme string common vowel digraph 2 phoneme string	CC <u>V</u> VCC	t, r, ea, t, s
scram	5 phoneme string	CCCVC	s, c, r, a, m
stroke	3 phoneme string split vowel digraph single phoneme	CCC <u>V</u> C <u>V</u>	s, t, r, o_e, k
arrow	single phoneme consonant digraph diphthong	<u>VCCVC</u>	a, rr, ow
forest	6 phoneme string	CVCVCC	f, o, r, e, s, t
wishing	2 phoneme string consonant digraph single phoneme consonant digraph	CV <u>CC</u> <u>VCC</u>	w, i, sh, i, ng
brighter	2 phoneme string vowel trigraph single phoneme r-controlled vowel	CC <u>VCC</u> <u>VCC</u>	b, r, igh, t, er