Year 1 Phonics Check

Scoring guidance

Pronunciation of 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 student 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 Phonics 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 students who speak with these dialects will be known to their teachers. For these students, pseudo-words with a vowel digraph ending in 'r', such as 'murbs' may be pronounced as /mɜːrbs/ instead of /mɜːbs/. These pronunciations are acceptable alternatives in the relevant pseudo-words.

Contact details
For more information about the Year 1 Phonics Check, please contact the helpline on 1300 108 485 or email helpdesk@literacyhub.edu.au

Literacy Hub

Section 1

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciations	Phonemic representation
dat	This item uses the 'd' from 'dig' and rhymes with 'sat'.	/dæt/
cag	This item uses the 'c' from 'cot' and rhymes with 'sag'.	/kæg/
rin	This item uses the 'r' from 'rod' and rhymes with 'tin'.	/rɪn/
ept	This item combines the 'e' from 'ebb' and the 'pt' from 'apt'.	/ɛpt/
jash	This item uses the 'j' from 'just' and rhymes with 'dash'.	/dʒæʃ/
quib	This item uses the 'qu' from 'quit' and rhymes with 'glib'.	/kwɪb/
coid	This item uses the 'c' from 'cart' and rhymes with 'void'.	/kɔɪd/
quass	This item uses the 'qu' from 'quick' and rhymes with 'mass'. All regional pronunciations of the 'a' are acceptable.	/kwæs/
glog	This item uses the 'gl' from 'glue' and rhymes with 'frog'.	/glɒg/
blard	This item uses the 'bl' from 'bloom' and rhymes with 'guard'.	/blɑːd/ or /blɑːrd/
disp	This item uses the 'd' from 'defy' and rhymes with 'lisp'.	/dɪsp/
murbs	This item uses the 'm' from 'marks' and rhymes with 'curbs'.	/mɜːbs/ or /mɜːrbs/

Section 2

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciations	Phonemic representation
tay	This item uses the 't' from 'tie' and rhymes with 'pay'.	/teɪ/
sloam	This item uses the 'sl' from 'slime' and rhymes with 'roam'.	/sləʊm/
zued	This item uses the 'z' from 'zoom' and rhymes with 'cued'.	/zuːd/
meve	This item uses the 'm' from 'more' and rhymes with 'Steve'.	/miːv/
clend	This item uses the 'cl' from 'clamp' and rhymes with 'spend'.	/klɛnd/
braits	This item uses the 'br' from 'brick' and rhymes with 'straits'.	/breɪts/
scrug	This item uses the 'scr' from 'scrap' and rhymes with 'plug'. All regional pronunciations of the 'u' are acceptable.	/scrʌg/
splue	This item uses the 'spl' from 'split' and rhymes with 'glue'.	/spluː/