

Year 1 Phonics Check and the Australian Curriculum

This document explains how the 40 test items on the Year 1 Phonics Check align with the Australian Curriculum.

The Year 1 Phonics Check is a screening tool that assesses students' decoding skills across words of increasing complexity. The skills required for the Year 1 Phonics Check relate to the Literacy strand of the [F-10 Australian Curriculum: English](#), specifically the Phonic and word knowledge sub-strand.

In the table below, each word type from the Year 1 Phonics Check is matched with the relevant Australian Curriculum V9 references. These word types refer to the phonics code included in the word, or the phonemic complexity of the word.

The Word and code complexity continuum tools for analysing Year 1 Phonics Check results provide further information about how the words from the Year 1 Phonics Check fit within the word type categories. These resources can be found here:

- [Year 1 Phonics Check: Analysing individual reports using the word and code complexity continuum](#)
- [Year 1 Phonics Check: Analysing group reports using the word and code complexity continuum](#)

Word types included in the Year 1 Phonics Check	Australian Curriculum: English
Consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) pattern words	Achievement standard: Foundation They read words including consonant-vowel-consonant words and some high-frequency words. AC9EFLY12 write consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words by representing sounds with the appropriate letters, and blend sounds associated with letters when reading CVC words
Simple words with adjacent consonants (VCC, CVCC, CCVC)	Achievement standard: Year 1 They blend short vowels, common long vowels, consonants and digraphs to read one-syllable words. They read one- and two-syllable words with common letter patterns, and an increasing number of high-frequency words. AC9E1LY11 use short vowels, common long vowels, consonant blends and digraphs to write words, and blend these to read one- and two-syllable words

Word types included in the Year 1 Phonics Check (cont.)	Australian Curriculum: English (cont.)
Words with consonant digraphs	Achievement standard: Year 1 They blend short vowels, common long vowels, consonants and digraphs to read one-syllable words. They read one- and two-syllable words with common letter patterns, and an increasing number of high-frequency words. AC9E1LY11 use short vowels, common long vowels, consonant blends and digraphs to write words, and blend these to read one- and two-syllable words
Words with split vowel digraphs	Achievement standard: Year 1 They blend short vowels, common long vowels, consonants and digraphs to read one-syllable words. They read one- and two-syllable words with common letter patterns, and an increasing number of high-frequency words. AC9E1LY11 use short vowels, common long vowels, consonant blends and digraphs to write words, and blend these to read one- and two-syllable words
Complex words with adjacent consonants	Achievement standard: Year 1 They blend short vowels, common long vowels, consonants and digraphs to read one-syllable words. They read one- and two-syllable words with common letter patterns, and an increasing number of high-frequency words. AC9E1LY11 use short vowels, common long vowels, consonant blends and digraphs to write words, and blend these to read one- and two-syllable words Achievement standard: Year 2 They use phonic and morphemic knowledge, and grammatical patterns to read unfamiliar words and most high-frequency words. AC9E2LY10 use phoneme-grapheme (sound-letter/s) matches, including vowel digraphs, less common long vowel patterns, consonant clusters and silent letters when reading and writing words of one or more syllables, including compound words

Word types included in the Year 1 Phonics Check (cont.)	Australian Curriculum: English (cont.)
Words with vowel digraphs	Achievement standard: Year 1 They blend short vowels, common long vowels, consonants and digraphs to read one-syllable words. They read one- and two-syllable words with common letter patterns, and an increasing number of high-frequency words. AC9E1LY11 use short vowels, common long vowels, consonant blends and digraphs to write words, and blend these to read one- and two-syllable words Achievement standard: Year 2 They use phonic and morphemic knowledge, and grammatical patterns to read unfamiliar words and most high-frequency words. AC9E2LY10 use phoneme-grapheme (sound-letter/s) matches, including vowel digraphs, less common long vowel patterns, consonant clusters and silent letters when reading and writing words of one or more syllables, including compound words
Words with trigraphs	Achievement standard: Year 1 They blend short vowels, common long vowels, consonants and digraphs to read one-syllable words. They read one- and two-syllable words with common letter patterns, and an increasing number of high-frequency words. AC9E1LY11 use short vowels, common long vowels, consonant blends and digraphs to write words, and blend these to read one- and two-syllable words
Words including a suffix (morphology)	Achievement standard: Year 1 They blend short vowels, common long vowels, consonants and digraphs to read one-syllable words. They read one- and two-syllable words with common letter patterns, and an increasing number of high-frequency words. AC9E1LY15 recognise and know how to use grammatical morphemes to create word families Achievement standard: Year 2 They use phonic and morphemic knowledge, and grammatical patterns to read unfamiliar words and most high-frequency words. AC9E2LY11 use knowledge of spelling patterns and morphemes to read and write words whose spelling is not completely predictable from their sounds, including high-frequency words

Word types included in the Year 1 Phonics Check (cont.)	Australian Curriculum: English (cont.)
Words with r-controlled vowels	Achievement standard: Year 2 They use phonic and morphemic knowledge, and grammatical patterns to read unfamiliar words and most high-frequency words. AC9E2LY10 use phoneme-grapheme (sound-letter/s) matches, including vowel digraphs, less common long vowel patterns, consonant clusters and silent letters when reading and writing words of one or more syllables, including compound words
Words with multiple syllables	Achievement standard: Year 1 They blend short vowels, common long vowels, consonants and digraphs to read one-syllable words. They read one- and two-syllable words with common letter patterns, and an increasing number of high-frequency words. AC9E1LY11 use short vowels, common long vowels, consonant blends and digraphs to write words, and blend these to read one- and two-syllable words Achievement standard: Year 2 They use phonic and morphemic knowledge, and grammatical patterns to read unfamiliar words and most high-frequency words. AC9E2LY10 use phoneme-grapheme (sound-letter/s) matches, including vowel digraphs, less common long vowel patterns, consonant clusters and silent letters when reading and writing words of one or more syllables, including compound words

For further advice and tools about the Phonics Check, see the Phonics Check [analyse and respond](#) section of the Literacy Hub.