

**2023 national curriculum assessments**

# Key stage 1

**Standards  
& Testing  
Agency**

## Phonics screening check

### 2023 scoring guidance

#### **Pronunciation of real words and 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 child has to select the correct phoneme for the word, for example the 'ow' in 'blow' should not be pronounced as the 'ow' in 'cow'.

The tables on the next page provide guidance on some examples of common pronunciations of the pseudo-words in the check. When decoding a pseudo-word, all plausible alternative and regional pronunciations are acceptable.

#### **Contact details**

For more information about the phonics screening check, please contact the national curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email [assessments@education.gov.uk](mailto:assessments@education.gov.uk).

## Section 1

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciation	Phonemic representation
<b>fod</b>	This item uses the 'f' from 'fur' and rhymes with 'nod'.	/fɒd/
<b>bep</b>	This item uses the 'b' from 'big' and rhymes with 'step'.	/bɛp/
<b>zat</b>	This item uses the 'z' from 'zoo' and rhymes with 'cat'.	/zæt/
<b>ult</b>	This item uses the 'u' from 'umbrella' and rhymes with 'adult'.	/ʊlt/ or /ʌlt/
<b>heng</b>	This item combines the 'h' from 'hall' with the 'e' in 'step' and the 'ng' in 'sing'.	/hɛŋ/
<b>shob</b>	This item uses the 'sh' from 'show' and rhymes with 'blob'.	/ʃɒb/
<b>farn</b>	This item uses the 'f' from 'foil' and rhymes with 'barn'.	/fɑ:n/ or /farn/
<b>chesh</b>	This item uses the 'ch' from 'chess' and rhymes with 'fresh'.	/tʃɛʃ/
<b>trun</b>	This item uses the 'tr' from 'trap' and rhymes with 'spun'.	/trʌn/ or /trʊn/
<b>glork</b>	This item uses the 'gl' from 'gloom' and rhymes with 'fork'.	/glɔ:k/ or /glɔrk/
<b>remp</b>	This item combines the 'r' from 'rack' with the 'e' from 'belt' and the 'mp' from 'lamp'.	/rɛmp/
<b>deebz</b>	This item combines the 'd' from 'daily' with the 'ee' from 'beech' and the 'bz' from 'grabs'.	/di:bs/ or /di:bz/

## Section 2

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciation	Phonemic representation
<b>jer</b>	This item uses the 'j' from 'jaw' and rhymes with 'her'.	/dʒɜ:/ or /dʒɜr/
<b>drave</b>	This item uses the 'dr' from 'drone' and rhymes with 'shave'.	/dreɪv/
<b>teap</b>	This item uses the 't' from 'tail' and rhymes with 'heap'.	/ti:p/
<b>phibe</b>	This item uses the 'ph' from 'phone' and rhymes with 'tribe'.	/faɪb/
<b>slimp</b>	This item uses the 'sl' from 'slide' and rhymes with 'crimp'.	/slɪmp/
<b>craint</b>	This item uses the 'cr' from 'creep' and rhymes with 'paint'.	/kreɪnt/
<b>splet</b>	This item uses the 'spl' from 'splash' and rhymes with 'bet'.	/splɛt/
<b>strave</b>	This item uses the 'str' from 'string' and rhymes with 'crave'.	/streɪv/