

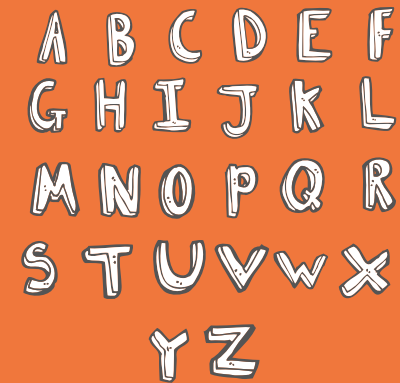
Sounds, Letters, and Words



Sounds (also called phonemes) are the smallest units of language.

For example, /g/, /s/, and /ch/ are all single sounds that cannot be split apart. Keep in mind that if you say "luh" instead of /l/, you are actually saying two sounds: /l/ and /ü/.

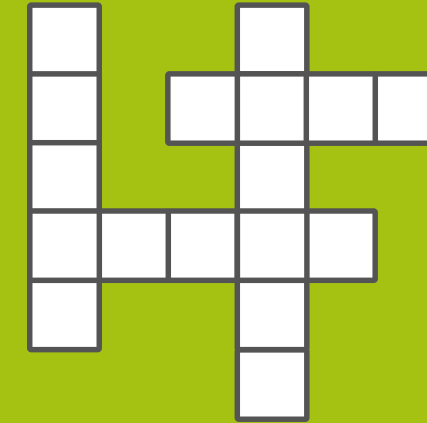
- There are three sounds in "match."
 - /m/.../ă/.../ch/
- There are two sounds in "the."
 - /th/.../ü/



Letters represent sounds.

Letters like F, M, and P are straightforward: one letter represents one sound. Letter combinations like CK, TCH, and WH aren't as simple because multiple letters represent one single sound.

- There are five letters in "match."
 - TCH represents one sound: /ch/
- There are three letters in "cat."
 - One letter for each sound



Written words are formed by combining letters.

Most words in the lessons can be decoded by identifying the letters and their sounds. Some words are known as sight words because they must be memorized.

- The word "match" is decodable.
- The word "the" is a sight word.
 - The letter E does not follow the rules. It sounds like /ü/, not /ě/.