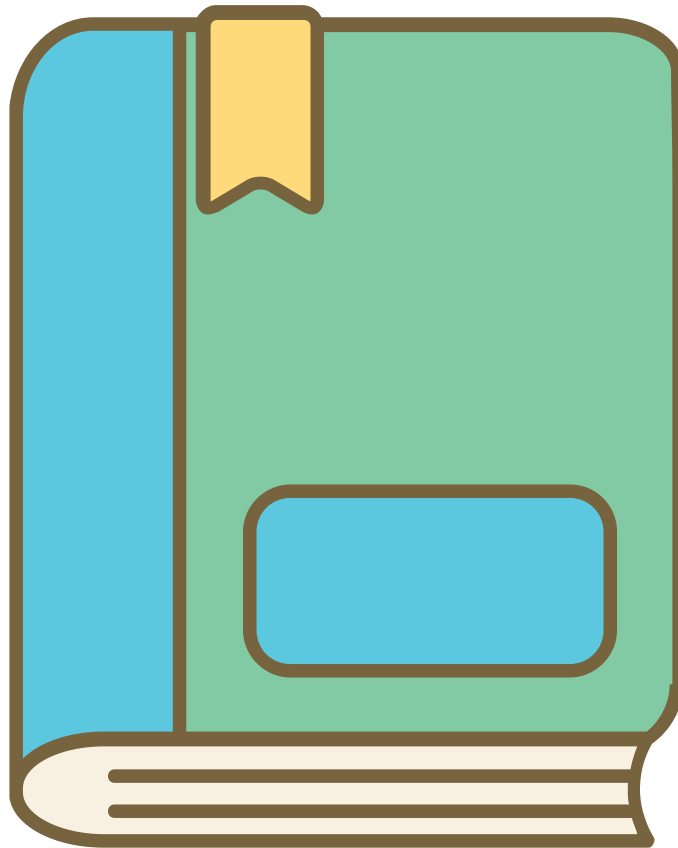




Revision Guides

Reading and Writing

Alphabet, vowels, blends, best friends



Hello

You're reading this because you are learning how to read and write.

Reading and writing isn't something you learn quickly. It takes time to learn how to read and write.

You can use this **guide** to help you.

Guide

A **guide** is a book that helps you do something.

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Alphabet

The alphabet is a collection of twenty-six letters that we use to spell words.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg
Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

The **big letters** are called capital letters. Some people call them upper case letters.

The small ones are sometimes called lower case letters.

Practice the Alphabet

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This sentence is very special. It contains every letter of the alphabet.

You're going to write it twice. Once in upper case, one in lower case.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.



THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER
THE LAZY DOG.



Did you know?

We call the big letters 'upper case' and the small letters 'lower case' because of something called a printing press.

A long time ago, books would be printed using a printing press.

A person would slide letter tiles into a big press, which would print words onto paper. Each tile was like a stamp that printed one letter. These tiles were kept in a case.

The small letters would be used more often than the big letters, so the person using the printing press needed the small letters to be close to them. They kept all of the small letters in the lower part of the case, which was closer to them.

The big letters were kept in an upper case, further away!

Vowels

Some letters of the alphabet are called **vowels**.

A B C D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z

The vowels are **A, E, I, O** and **U**.

The vowels are special for two reasons.

- 1) Every word we use has at least one vowel
- 2) You don't move your mouth when you say them

Vowels are like **Baking Powder**

When you bake a cake, you need to use baking powder. Otherwise, your cake won't work!

However, no one eats baking powder by itself - that would be awful!

Think of vowels like baking powder. By themselves, they don't do much. But, when you mix them with other letters, they make words!



Tall and short vowels

Some vowels are short. Some vowels are tall.

This has nothing to do with how big they are - it is actually to do with what sound they make.

Cat

This is a **short** vowel. It makes an 'ah' sound.

Late

This is a **tall** vowel. It makes an 'ay' sound.

The words on the left all use short vowel sounds. The words on the right use tall vowel sounds.

Cat

Late

Pet

Peter

Hit

Kite

Lot

Note

Nut

Flute

Can you circle the words that have tall vowel sounds in them? One has been done for you.

Mat

Plate

Slap

Sat

Slip

Mate

Lake

Pat

Cute

Hat

Think of short vowel sounds as lazy. Uhhh... ahhhh... ehhh....



a

e

i

o

u

ah

eh

ih

oh

uh

Think of tall vowel sounds as strong. Apart from U, they make the same sounds as they do in the alphabet.

A

E

I

O

U

ay

ee

eye

oh!

oo

Blends

Blending is when you mix things together. You make a milkshake by blending ingredients.

We can blend letters of the alphabet together to make new sounds.

Bus

Bus starts with the letter B.

Less

Less starts with the letter L.

B + L

If we put the letter B and the letter L together, we can blend them together so they make a new sound.

Bl

We call this a blend. We have blended two letters together.

Bless

Block

Blink

We can use this blend at the start of many words.

Bless

Slap

Clap

Stop

Snap

We can make blends using lots of letters.

Blends help us read words faster.

If you can remember what sounds blends make, we can read words a lot of quicker.

Cl

clap

Gl

glove

Fl

flip

Dr

drink

Gr

grow

Pr

print

St

stop

Sp

spill

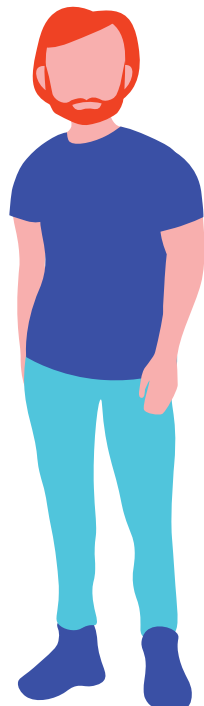
Cr

crew

Best Friends

I'd like for you to meet two of my friends.

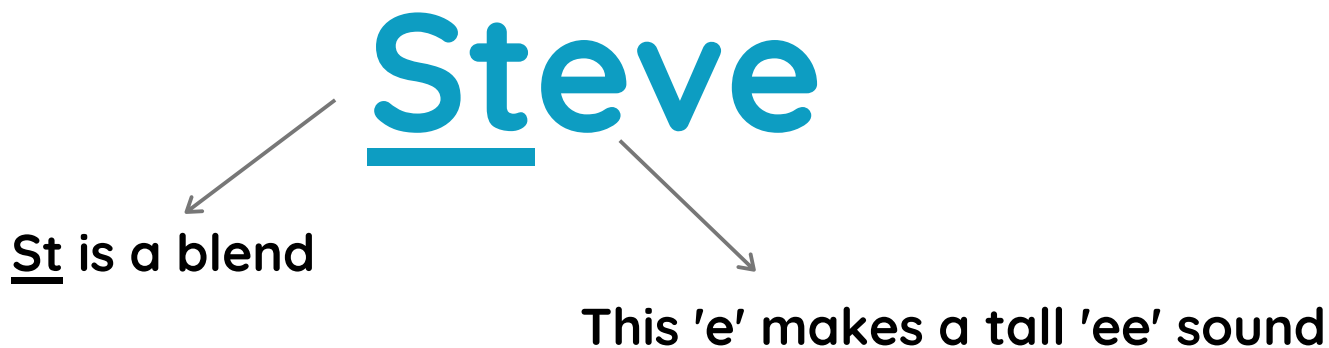
This is Steve.



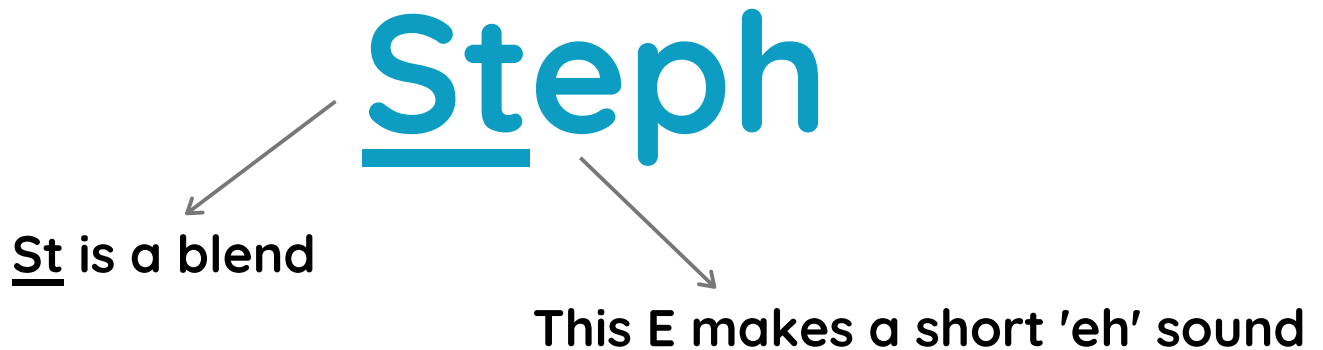
This is Steph.



Steve's name has a blend and a tall vowel in it.



Steph's name also has a blend, but the E makes a short vowel sound in her name.



But hang on, Steph's name has something new in it.

Her name ends in an 'eff' sound. It sounds like 'Steff'.

Why does it sound like this?

It's because the 'p' and the 'h' are best friends.

Ph

When the letter 'p' and 'h' are together, they make a new sound.

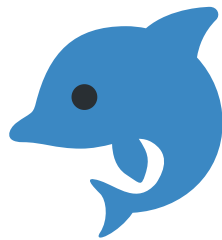
It's like a blend, but a completely new sound is made.

The proper name is diagraph, but we will call them best friends.

Because these letters are best friends, they make a new sound when they are together.

Ph sounds like **ff**

Phone



Dolphin

Phew!



It's important that you know what sound the best friends make.

It helps us read a lot quicker.

Remember that it takes time to learn. It won't feel quick to begin with.

ng

ring
king

qu

queen
quick

th

this
that

ch

chew
lunch

sh

sharp
push

ph

phone
dolphin



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