

## Resource #3: Phonological Awareness Definitions

**Continuous sound:** A sound that can be prolonged (stretched out) without distortion (e.g., r, s, a, m).

**Onset-Rime:** The onset is the part of the word before the vowel; not all words have onsets. The rime is the part of the word including the vowel and what follows it.

**Phoneme:** A phoneme is a speech sound. It is the smallest unit of language and has no inherent meaning.

**Phoneme blending:** The blending of phonemes into a word.

**Phoneme segmentation:** The separation of words into phonemes.

**Phonemic awareness:** The ability to hear and manipulate the sounds in spoken words, and the understanding that spoken words and syllables are made up of sequences of speech sounds (Yopp 1992). Phonemic awareness involves hearing language at the phoneme level.

**Phonics (Alphabetic Principle):** Use of the code (sound-symbol relationships) to recognize words.

**Phonological awareness:** The ability to hear and manipulate the sound structure of language. This is an encompassing term that involves working with the sounds of language at the word, syllable, and phoneme level.

**Stop sound:** A sound that cannot be prolonged (stretched out) without distortion (e.g., t, p, d, b, c).

# Phonological Awareness Definitions

*Read the examples and definitions below. Find the idea that matches the definition or example from the word bank. Write it in the box next to the definition or example.*

Word	Definition or Example
A.	A. / t /
B.	B. / r /- / ipp /
C.	C. Mapping sounds to print
D.	D. The smallest unit of sound
E.	E. Taking a word apart into all of its sounds
F.	F. / mmm /
G.	G. The understanding that words are composed of sounds, and the ability to hear and manipulate those sounds
H.	H. The awareness of the individual sounds that comprise words
I.	I. Putting sounds together to make a word

### Word Bank

1. Continuous sound
2. Stop sound
3. Onset-Rime
4. Phoneme
5. Phoneme segmentation
6. Phoneme blending
7. Phonemic Awareness
8. Phonics
9. Phonological Awareness

## Answer Key:

Word	Definition or Example
A. Stop sound	A. / t /
B. Onset-rhyme	B. / r / - / ipple /
C. Phonics	C. Mapping sounds to print
D. Phoneme	D. The smallest unit of sound
E. Phoneme segmentation	E. Taking a word apart into all of it's sounds
F. Continuous sound	F. / mmm /
G. Phonological awareness	G. The understanding that words are composed of sounds, and the ability to hear and manipulate those sounds
H. Phonemic awareness	H. The awareness of the individual sounds that comprise words
I. Phoneme blending	I. Putting sounds together to make a word