

# PHONOGRAMS



A phonogram is a **letter** or **combination of letters** that represent a sound.

## For example

- **ck** is a phonogram that says /k/ as in **clock**.
- **s** is a phonogram that says /s/ as in **sat** or /z/ as in **has**.
- **oy** is a phonogram that says /oi/ as in **boy**.

Phonograms make learning to read and spell much easier and are the building blocks of almost every English word.

Take a look at the word 'past.' If you pronounce the word slowly to hear the individual sounds, you will hear four different sounds;

**/p/ - /a/ - /s/ - /t/**

For each sound, we can write down a phonogram

The same principle also applies to multisyllable words. For example; the word winter, even though there are six letters in this word, there are five separate speech sounds. That is;

## Winter

/w/ - /i/ - /n/ - /t/ - /er/

1    2    3    4    5

[The /er/ represent the single sound of /a/]

As you can see, the number of letters in a word doesn't necessarily correspond to the number of phonograms. Here are some other examples;

## High

This word has two phonograms (sounds), that is /h/ and /igh/.

## Sheep

This word has three phonograms (sounds), that is /sh/ - /ee/ and /p/.

## CHOOSE A SUITABLE WORD THAT IS SIMILAR IN SOUND TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES BELOW

- The man who died \_\_\_\_\_ about the pie that was tied to the tree. (*lied, laid*)
- The spy who flies in the skies, \_\_\_\_\_ his own pies and tries to be nice. (*draws, dries*)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ used a knife to shorten her life. (*wait, wife*)
- Mike likes to ride his \_\_\_\_\_ in the park. (*bark, bike*)
- The child used to be very \_\_\_\_\_ when he was much younger. (*wild, wide*)
- While Nile the carpenter was filing and tiling to make a \_\_\_\_\_ of bricks, there was a smile on his face. (*male, mile*)
- The kind \_\_\_\_\_ man's mind is very wise. (*blond, blind*)
- The hired officer discovered the \_\_\_\_\_ was the cause of the fire and not the fire. (*were, wire*)
- The writer said the white site was \_\_\_\_\_ good for kite-flying. (*quit, quite*)
- He stayed home during the crisis to \_\_\_\_\_ his drawing skills. (*horn, hone*)

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