

Key terms for teaching Literacy

This is a list of some of the terms you may encounter in the Off2Class Foundational Literacy Lessons. Diving into the world of literacy instruction can be a challenge if you're new to teaching reading and writing skills. By familiarizing yourself with these concepts, you'll be better equipped to support your students and help them develop a strong foundation in English literacy. [Access more literacy training resources here.](#)

Phonemes	The smallest units of sound in a language that can change the meaning of a word.
Graphemes	The written symbols (letters or groups of letters) that represent phonemes.
Sound-out words (decodable words)	Words that can be read by sounding out each grapheme and blending the sounds together.
Sight words (undecodable words, heart words)	Words that don't follow regular spelling patterns and need to be memorized.
Articulators	The parts of the mouth and throat used to make speech sounds (lips, teeth, tongue, palate, vocal chords.).
Voiced sounds	Speech sounds made with the vocal cords vibrating.
Unvoiced sounds	Speech sounds made without the vocal cords vibrating.
Grapheme-phoneme correspondences	The relationships between written symbols (graphemes) and their corresponding sounds (phonemes).
Initial, medial, and final	The positions of a grapheme within a word. Initial refers to the beginning of the word, medial refers to the middle of the word, and final refers to the end of the word.