

# SMART™ Lesson

## Learning to Read: Word Sounds (Phonemes)

Welcome to our lesson on word sounds, or phonemes! Phonemes are the individual speech sounds that make up words.

### Identifying Phonemes

To become good readers, it is important to be able to recognize the individual phonemes in words. The English language has a total of 44 different phonemes, which are represented by letters or groups of letters. For example:

- The letter "a" can represent different phonemes. In the word "cat," "a" represents the short "a" sound, but in the word "cake," "a" represents the long "a" sound.
- The letters "ch" represent a single phoneme in the word "church."
- The letters "th" represent a single phoneme in the word "thank."

Here are some more examples of words broken down into their individual phonemes:

- "Dog" is made up of the phonemes /d/ /o/ /g/.
- "Ship" is made up of the phonemes /sh/ /i/ /p/.
- "Green" is made up of the phonemes /g/ /r/ /ee/ /n/.

### Practice Exercises

Now, let's practice identifying phonemes in words! For each word, write down the individual phonemes it is made up of:

1. cat:
2. cake:
3. thick:
4. train:
5. hope:

### Conclusion

Great job learning about phonemes! Remember, being able to recognize phonemes is a crucial step in learning to read. Keep practicing!