## Module Seven: Part 3

c) Saying the sounds identifiable in English speech
To know and say the vowel sounds and the consonant sounds in the English language as close as possible to the sounds in real speech - including the units of sound which are combined phonemes
(for example, /k+s/)

## Module Seven: Part 3 continued

c) Saying the sounds identifiable in English speech
To use a technique for oral segmenting of spoken words said as slowly and naturally as possible to help identify the sounds from beginning to end of the word ('all-through-the-spoken-word')

## Module Seven: Part 3 continued

c) Saying the sounds identifiable in English speech

To understand the notion of the schwa effect "uh" (unstressed syllables) with reference to:

- the tendency to add an "uh" sound to discrete consonant sounds: "suh" "buh"
- decoding - awareness of the need to modify pronunciation to natural speech as required
- orally segmenting words for spelling and commonly identifying "uh" - how is this spelt?


## Module Seven: Part 3 continued

d) Consistent and inconsistent aspects of phonics

To understand why and how Alphabetic Code Charts cannot be definitive and yet there are ways to address inconsistencies (for example, varied accents)

## Module Seven: Part 3 continued

d) Consistent and inconsistent aspects of phonics

To understand why a chart based on the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) lacks flexibility with regard to varied accents - and invariably neglects to address parts of the alphabetic code where letters and letter groups are based on units of sound consisting of combined phonemes
(such as /ks/ /gz/ /yoo/ /ul/ /kw/)

## Saying the sounds

## identifiable in English speech

## The vowel sounds in English:

 Can you confidently 'say these sounds'?/a/ /e/ /i/ /o/ /u/ /ai/ /ee/ /igh/ /oa/ short /oo/ long /oo/ /ar/ /or/ /er/ /air/ /eer/ /i-ee/ (as in sunny or movie) /oi/ /ou/ /oor/ /y+oo/ /y+oor/ combined sounds

The 'volume' in spoken words is provided by the 22 or so vowel phonemes - some are combined which makes further units of sounds.

## Let's orally segment the word 'soap'...

## Left hand, palm facing

- Listen for the difference between the individual sounds. Describe them - what provides the volume?
- Focus on your mouth movements. What are they like? Engage learners with this exploration.
- Compare the consonant sounds with the vowel sound! What do you notice? Pitch? Volume?


## Analysing the sounds in "soap"

- Say the word very slowly and naturally
S......oa......p
- Tally each sound to thumb and fingers

- Now say each sound discretely (separately)

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# Saying sounds separately 

Inadvisable when teaching and practising:

- To use a 'robot voice’
- To 'whisper' the sounds, then 'shout' the sounds
- To 'sing' the sounds

Why?

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# Saying sounds separately 

To perfect saying the sounds as close as possible to the sounds in real speech:

- Say a simple whole word with the focus sound
- Say the word as slowly and naturally as possible
- The individual sounds will 'pop out' - some more clearly than others
- Repeat this process routinely to refresh 'your sounds'
- Remember that children will approach their learning from words said naturally and with no prior knowledge of spelling - unlike literate adults

There are around 24 consonant phonemes some of which we combine to make further units of sound as if they are one unit of sound:

Say these sounds - avoid the "uh" !
/s/ /t/ /p/ /n/ /k/ /h/ /r/ /m/ /d/ /g/ /l/ /f/ /b/ /j/ /y/ /w/ /z/ /ng/ /v/ /ch/ /sh/ voiced /th/ unvoiced/th/ /zh/
/k+s/ /g+z/ /u+l/ /ng+k/
combined sounds /k+w/ /ch+u/


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## Alphabetic Codes

## English: Opaque code

44 smallest speech sounds (phonemes) But 50+ units of sound /k+s/ /kw/ /y+oo/ /ul/ 170+ spelling alternatives (graphemes) (double that for rare \& unique spellings)


## Spanish: Transparent code

24 phonemes 40 spelling alternatives

Fewer spelling alternatives in Spanish than there are sounds in English.

## Thoughts on pronouncing /w/ and /y/

## Some consonant sounds are challenging to say without an "uh" on the end.

There may be a tendency to say:

> "wuh" or "yuh"

## What sounds are letters $\mathbf{w}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ code for?

Letters $\mathbf{w}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ are sometimes described as vowel letters. They are associated with vowel sounds, in fact, their 'sounds' are very close to vowel sounds:
To illustrate, decode these (say the sounds):

## 00 et <br> ee e s

## What sounds are letters $\mathbf{w}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ code for?

## Did you discern these words ... ?

## " wet "

${ }^{1}$ yes ${ }^{11}$

## The letters $\mathbf{w}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ are commonly found

 in letter groups which are code for vowel sounds ...$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { li/ -y cymbals } \\
& \text { lai/ -ay tray -ey prey } \\
& \text { ligh/ -y fly } \\
& \text { leel -ey key }
\end{aligned}
$$

between li-eel -y sunny -ey monkey
loi/ -oy toy

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## The letters $\mathbf{w}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ are commonly found

 in letter groups which are code for vowel sounds ...loal ow bow
lorl (or/aw/) aw dawn

Wlong lool -ew crew
loul
ow owl
lyool -ew new

# The schwa effect "uh" Unstressed syllable when speaking: 

sctwa /er/
or /u/
mixer humour

## theatre

-Raise awareness of the schwa effect -Particularly important for spelling as so many words end with an "uh"
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## The schwa effect

## Unstressed syllable when speaking

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Spoken words with more than one syllable (beat) } \\
& \text { often have an unstressed syllable in which the } \\
& \text { vowel letter/s-sound correspondence is unclear. } \\
& \text { We have to note carefully which way the } \\
& \text { unstressed part is spelt in many words: } \\
& \text { pocket jacket } \\
& \text { carrot } \\
& \text { sailor about } \\
& \text { mixer collar } \\
& \text { banana } \\
& \text { village paina }
\end{aligned}
$$

National or regional accents may influence how people pronounce words differently - the stress and the sounds.

Say the words above aloud and think carefully to identify how you pronounce the graphemes (letters and letter groups) in red!

'Extras’ webpage

## Specify 'sounds' or 'letters'

Insufficient to talk about 'vowels' and 'consonants'

- you need to say 'vowel sounds' or 'vowel letters' and 'consonant sounds' or 'consonant letters'!

What do you notice?

## graphemes which are all code for vowel sounds ...

our ay ey eigh aigh ow ough igh y ey oar ore ough ar aw augh ough oul ew er our re or eer ear air are ere ier

## Code for the vowel sounds ...

Many graphemes which are code for the vowel sounds include BOTH vowel letters and consonant letters!

Graphemes which are code for the vowel sounds with letter 'r' = 'r controlled vowels' for example: or ar eer ear air er ir ur

## Alphabetic Code Quiz

## Look at your Table Top Phonics International Alphabetic Code Chart:


http://alphabeticcodecharts.com/DDD_parents_PI_TableTop.pdf

## Alphabetic Code Quiz

1) Which sound has the most spelling alternatives?
2) Which same grapheme occurs in five different sound rows?

## Alphabetic Code Quiz

1) Which sound has the most spelling alternatives? /or/
fork, oars, door, snore, four, wardrobe (quarter), water, dawn, sauce, chalk, caught, thought
2) Which same grapheme occurs in five different sound rows? 'ough'
thoroughfare, dough, thought, through, plough Segment these words to identify the sounds

## How many 'units of sound' are shown on your mini Phonics International Alphabetic Code Chart?

Count the units of sound in the slash marks ...
/s/

How many 'units of sound' are shown on your mini Phonics International Alphabetic Code Chart?

51 - because some units of sound are 'more than one phoneme'

$$
/ k+s / \quad x
$$

## Additional units of sound on the PI Alphabetic Code Chart

Units of sound Graphemes (spelling alternatives) which are code for the sounds

| /k+w/ | qu as in queen |
| :--- | :--- |
| $/ \mathrm{k}+\mathrm{s} /$ | x as in fox |
| /g+z/ | $\mathbf{x}$ as in exam |
| /y+oo/ | $\mathbf{u}$ as in unicorn, ue as in statue, ew as in new, $\mathbf{u}$-e as in tube |
| /ng+k/ | nk as in ink (consonant cluster - but works for young beginners) |
| /ch+u/ | ture as in picture |
| /u+l/ | le as in kettle, el as in camel, il as in pencil, al as in hospital |
| between /i- ee/ | $\mathbf{y}$ as in sunny, ey as in monkey, ie as in movie (raise awareness) |
| schwa /er/ or /u/ | er as in mixer, our as in humour, re as in theatre |

Some of the combined units of sound are necessary, some are simply 'practical'

> Accents: " In our county / region / area / country, we tend to say / pronounce that grapheme like this /......../"

## International Phonetic Alphabet

The International Phonetic Alphabet chart in the 'English programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2, National curriculum in England, September 2013' does not include all the necessary combined units of sound.

Compare these IPA charts:

www.alphabeticcodecharts.com
page 63 NC

## There are around 51 units of sound to

$$
\text { teach - not just } 44 \text { phoneme-units }
$$

Caution:
Generally no need to teach further multiplesound units such as the 76 'consonant clusters':
e.g. sp, cr, str, -lk, -nt

Or the huge numbers of 'onset and rime':
e.g. br -ick, sl -ack, tr -uck, cl -ock, p -eck

These add unnecessary 'units of sound' to the teaching.

## Muddling the units of sound



| clip | ship |
| :---: | :---: |
| drip | whip |
| lip | zip |



## Onset and rime

- Many phonics programmes and books are based on onset and rime phonics - not synthetic phonics
- Be aware of the differences - and that with synthetic phonics, the endings of words provided for blending and segmenting practice are not usually 'the same':
Not: dot jot not hot spot cot blot


## Synthetic phonics

- In Systematic Synthetic Phonics programmes, the cumulative words provided intentionally include words with varied letters and sounds that have been taught to date:
Not: dot jot not hot spot cot blot But instead: sit log jam coat rain duck

This ensures plenty of all-through-the-word blending and careful attention to the details of the words.

It is the core SKILLS of blending and segmenting
'all-through-the-word' that we need to emphasise and include many words with adjacent consonants (consonant 'blends' or 'clusters') from the outset of the synthetic phonics programme for reading and spelling:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { s-p-i-n not sp-in } \\
& \mathbf{m - i} \mathbf{- l}-\mathbf{k} \text { not } \mathbf{m - i} \mathbf{- l} \mathbf{k} \text { or mi-lk } \\
& \mathrm{t} \text { - } \mathrm{r} \text {-ee not? } \\
& \text { s-c-r-i-bb-le not? } \\
& \text { f-l-a-s-k not? }
\end{aligned}
$$

