Blending Pseudo Words – Content

Candidates will blend 20 pseudo words made up of grapheme-phoneme correspondences from Table 1.

This assessed section uses pseudo instead of real words because they can generate a genuine assessment of phonic blending ability - candidates can only decode using phonics and not rely on their visual memory of any known words.

- All letters/graphemes in the 'Saying Main English Sounds' and 'Blending Pseudo Words' sections will be in lower case.
- Only phonically decodable words have been used in the 'Blending Pseudo Words' section.
- Pseudo words will not contain homophones for real words, e.g., pseudo words like 'wigh' will not be used.
- No pseudo words will contain patterns that are unusual or not found in English, e.g., words will not begin with an 'x' or end with a 'v'. Refer to Appendix A for the full list of constrained unigrams (single letters) and bigrams (two letters in a row)[2].

Blending Pseudo Words - Structure

The 20 pseudo words will follow the structures below:

- Nine of them will be phonological **CVC** words from the following orthographical patterns[1]:

C	V	C	d	o	g
CC	V	C	ch	i	p
C	V	CC	d	i	sh
C	VV	C	s	ee	m
CC	V	CC	ch	i	ck
CC	VV	C	sh	or	t

- Three of them will be phonological **CCVC** words from the following orthographical patterns:

C	C	V	C	t	r	a	m
C	C	VV	C	b	l	ee	d
C	C	V	CC	c	r	u	sh
CC	C	V	CC	th	r	a	sh

- Three of them will be phonological **CVCC** words from the following orthographical patterns:

C	V	C	C	j	u	m	p
C	VV	C	C	r	oa	s	t
CC	V	C	C	sh	o	p	s
CC	VV	C	C	ch	ar	t	s

- Two of them will be phonological **CCVCC** words from the following orthographical patterns:

C	C	V	C	C	b	l	e	n	d
C	C	VV	C	C	f	l	ee	t	s
CC	C	V	C	C	th	r	u	s	t

- Three of them will be phonological **CV**, **VCC**, **CCCV**, **CCCVC** and/or **CCCVCC** words from the following orthographical patterns:

C	VV	p	ie
C	VVV	s	igh
CC	VVV	ch	air

V	C	C	a	p	t

C	C	C	VV		s	p	r	ee	
C	C	C	V	C	s	c	r	u	b
C	C	C	V	C	C	s	t	r	a	p	s

Notes:

[1] The TPhYL Blending Pseudo Words section uses pseudo phonological words ranging from two to six phonemes in different orthographical patterns. Please refer to the following table for symbols representing phonological and orthographical patterns as well as examples in real words:

phonological	orthographical	real word example
C for consonants	C for consonants	
single letter consonants	C	s in 'sat'
consonant digraphs [3]	CC	sh in 'shop'
V for vowels	V for vowels	
single letter vowels	V	a in 'sat'
vowel digraphs [4]	VV	ee in 'feet'
vowel trigraphs [5]	VVV	air in 'fair'

[2] List of constrained unigrams and bigrams
p.22-25 Assessment framework for the development of the Year 1 phonics screening check. For test developers. Standards & Testing Agency. Crown copyright 2017
Electronic version product code: STA/17/7947/e
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/
[3] Consonant digraphs are made up of two consonant letters to represent one single phoneme, e.g., 'sh' for the phoneme /sh/ or /ʃ/. Note: Although 'qu' uses two letters to represent two phonemes /k/ and /w/, 'qu' is considered a consonant digraph.
[4] Vowel digraphs are made up of two vowel letters, e.g., 'ai'. Vowel phonemes are made of up a vowel letter together with the letter 'r' are also considered as vowel digraphs, e.g., 'er', 'ur', 'ar', 'or'.
[5] Vowel trigraphs, denoted by the orthographical symbols VVV, consist of three letters to represent one single vowel phoneme. The only vowel trigraphs included 'air' for /eə/, 'ear' for /ɪə/, and 'igh' for /ɑɪ/.

Appendix A

Constrained unigrams

The following unigrams will not be used at the start of the pseudo words:

'x'

The following unigrams will not be used at the end of the pseudo words:

'c'	'j'	'q'	'v'	'y'

Constrained bigrams

The following bigrams will not be used in the pseudo words:

aa	bh	bx	cm	cz	dl	dz	fg
ae	bj	by	cn	db	dm	ei	fh
aj	bk	bz	cp	dc	dn	ej	fj
ao	bm	cb	cq	dd	dp	eo	fk
aq	bn	cc	cs	df	dq	eq	fm
bc	bp	cd	cv	dg	dt	ey	fn
bd	bq	cf	cw	dh	dv	fb	fp
bf	bv	cg	cx	dj	dx	fc	fq
bg	bw	cj	cy	dk	dy	fd	fv
fw	hl	jw	lr	nj	py	rh	tn
fx	hm	jx	lv	nl	pz	rj	tp
fy	hn	jy	lw	nm	qa	rl	tq
fz	hp	jz	lx	nn	qb	rq	tv
gb	hq	kb	ly	np	qc	rv	tx
gc	hs	kc	lz	nq	qd	rw	ty
gd	hv	kd	mb	nr	qe	rx	tz
gf	hw	kf	mc	nv	qf	ry	uh
gg	hx	kg	md	nw	qg	rz	uj
gj	hy	kh	mf	nx	qh	sb	uq
gk	hz	kj	mg	ny	qi	sd	uu
gm	jb	kk	mh	nz	qj	sf	uy
gn	jc	kl	mj	oj	qk	sg	vb
gp	jd	km	mk	oq	ql	sj	vc
gq	jf	kn	ml	pb	qm	sr	vd
gt	jg	kp	mn	pc	qn	sv	vf
gv	jh	kq	mq	pd	qo	sx	vg
gw	jj	kt	mr	pf	qp	sy	vh
gx	jk	kv	mt	pg	qq	sz	vj
gz	jl	kw	mv	pj	qr	tb	vk
hb	jm	kx	mw	pk	qs	tc	vl
hc	jn	ky	mx	pm	qt	td	vm
hd	jp	kz	my	pn	qv	tf	vn
hf	jq	lc	mz	pp	qw	tg	vp
hg	jr	lg	nb	pq	qx	tj	vq
hh	js	lj	nc	pv	qy	tk	vr

hj	jt	ln	nf	pw	qz	tl	vs
hk	jv	lq	nh	px	rf	tm	vt
vv	wm	xc	xo	yb	yq	zf	zt
vw	wp	xd	xp	yc	yr	zg	zv
vx	wq	xe	xq	yd	ys	zh	zw
vy	wr	xf	xr	yf	yt	zj	zx
vz	wt	xg	xs	yg	yv	zk	zy
wb	wv	xh	xt	yh	yw	zl	
wc	ww	xi	xu	yj	yx	zm	
wf	wx	xj	xv	yk	yy	zn	
wg	wy	xk	xw	yl	yz	zp	
wj	wz	xl	xx	ym	zb	zq	
wk	xa	xm	xy	yn	zc	zr	
wl	xb	xn	xz	yp	zd	zs	

The following bigrams will not be used at the start of the pseudo words:

bb	ks	mp	rg
ck	lb	ms	rk
cs	ld	nd	rm
ct	lf	ng	rn
ds	lk	nk	rp
ff	ll	ns	rr
fs	lm	nt	rs
ft	lp	pt	rt
gh	ls	rb	ss
gs	lt	rc	ts
ht	mm	rd	ws

The following bigrams will not be used at the end of the pseudo words:

qu	wh

The following will be the only three-consonant strings including a consonant digraph in the pseudo words (orthographical - CCC):

shr	thr

The following will be the only three-consonant strings including three consonants in the pseudo words (orthographical - CCC):

scr	spl	spr	str

Constrained unigrams and bigrams derived from p.22-25 Assessment framework for the development of the Year 1 phonics screening check. For test developers. Standards & Testing Agency. Crown copyright 2017 Electronic version product code: STA/17/7947/e
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/