



Tricky Words

Words become 'tricky' when they can't be sounded out using normal phonic methods. E.g. the word 'dog' is not tricky, because it can be segmented into its phonic sounds d-o-g and then blended correctly into the word. However, if you try to sound out the word 'go', you would get 'g-o' which sounds like 'goh'. The crucial thing is that tricky words cannot be sounded out, but must be recognised as a whole word. That is why fun games to help this recognition process are so important.

How to introduce the 'tricky words'

An easy way to introduce 'tricky words' is to show the children the word, and then try to sound it out. By doing this you demonstrate why it is 'tricky' because it will make a silly word. They often find this bit quite funny! Then you tell them what the word really says, and then give them an example of how to use it. So, if the word was 'they', you would say. 'They all went to the park'. Then get the children to try to come up with a sentence with the word in.



High Frequency Words (HFW)

High frequency words are common words, words that appear very often in written texts. They are a mixture of **decodable words** (words that can be sounded out) and **tricky words** (words that cannot be sounded out).