

# SquareTales: Glossary



**Letter sounds:** the sound that each letter makes i.e. what each letter 'says'. So, A says 'ah', B says 'buh', C says 'cuh' - this means the letter sound of A is 'ah', B is 'buh' and so on.

**Blending:** when you merge the letter sounds of two or more letters to make a new, mixed sound e.g. puh (letter sound of P) + luh (the letter sound of L) = pluh (combined sound equal to PL). This new sound could also be a word e.g. ih (letter sound of I) + nuh (letter sounds of N) = in (IN). Similarly, puh (P) + ah (A) + nuh (N) = Pan (pan). This means that you need to know the letter sounds of letters first, to be able to blend. This is a specific skill that is necessary for reading.

**Digital literacy:** the ability to intuitively use a digital device (tablet, phone etc.) with a sense of knowing how to start it, switch it off, find what you want to on the device and navigate your way around it with ease.

**CVC words:** three letter words that are in the following order: consonant-vowel-consonant (e.g. 'cap', 'mat' etc.).

**Sight words:** words that cannot be read by blending their letter sounds so you just have to memorise the whole word at once. This could be because the word occurs so frequently in text that it's just easier to memorise it, or because it has irregular spelling.

**Irregular spelling:** words where one or more letters don't make the correct letter sound that is expected from them. For example, S says 'sss', right? So, the letter sound of S is 'sss'. However, in the word 'is', S makes more of a 'zzz' sound - say it and see! As a result, 'is' is a sight word due to irregular spelling. (If it still doesn't make sense, think of it this way - how would you pronounce 'iz'? Now how would you pronounce 'is'? What's the difference?). Another example is 'to'. O is supposed to say 'oh' but in this word, it says 'oo'. So it has irregular spelling. Similarly, 'the' and 'a' also have irregular spellings - can you spot why?

**Neuroscience:** the scientific study of the nervous system and the brain.

**Story retell:** the ability to read/listen to a story and then explain what happened in the story, in your own words.

**Story sequencing:** the ability to put the parts of a story in the right order, after listening to/reading the story.

