



# WHAT ARE THE FIVE COMPONENTS OF READING?

## DEFINITIONS AND ASSESSMENT TIPS

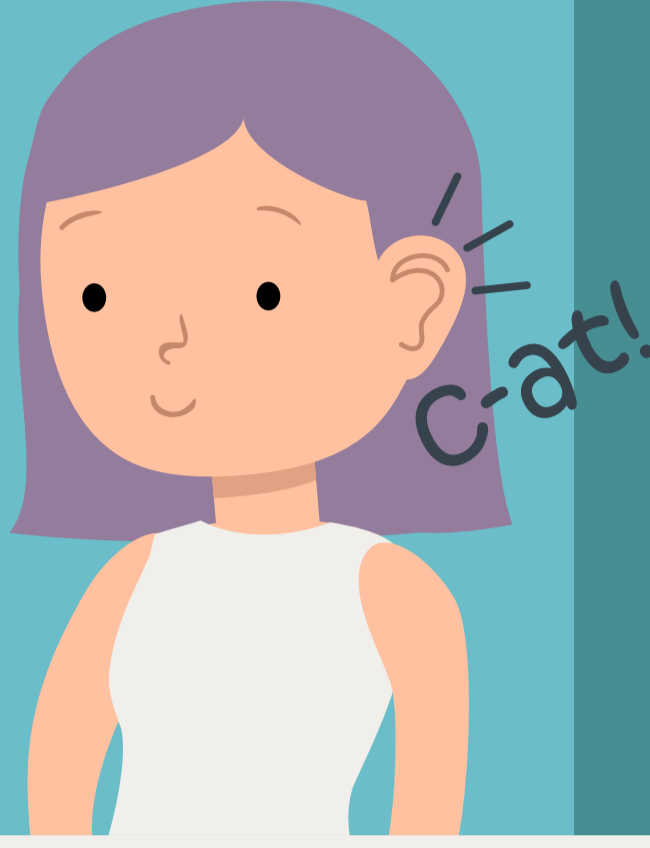
Reading isn't a single skill. It's a group of interconnected abilities that help us decode words and comprehend texts. When someone has difficulty with any of the five components of reading, it's harder to make sense of a book, homework, or test questions. We can measure students' abilities in each area and focus interventions to strengthen them.

### Reading Component 1: PHONEMIC AWARENESS

#### What Is It?

It's the ability to blend or separate the 44 sounds in the English language to make different words.

This includes rhyme, syllables, alliteration, and more.



#### Assessment Tip

Isolate sounds

1. What's the first sound in the word "cat"?
2. What's the last sound in the word "car"?

### Reading Component 2: PHONICS

#### What Is It?

It's the ability to pair sounds with letters in a written language.

Remembering letter-sound associations helps decode words quickly. The process is known as orthographic mapping.



#### Assessment Tip

Research shows that reading nonsense or pseudo-words may be a better way to assess decoding abilities.

Children with deficits in phonological awareness may still be able to identify sight words.

### Reading Component 3: FLUENCY

#### What Is It?

It incorporates speed, accuracy, automaticity, and prosody in reading.

Fluency also includes fluidity, pauses, and inflection.



#### Assessment Tip

Use rapid automatic naming tasks to measure speed and recognition.

Ask students to read sentences and passages aloud to assess comprehension and tone.

### Reading Component 4: VOCABULARY

#### What Is It?

It's the list of words a student recognizes and understands.

Vocabulary helps students build knowledge across subject areas.



#### Assessment Tip

Use curriculum-based measures and validated assessments to measure sight vocabulary, background knowledge, and understanding of word structures.

### Reading Component 5: COMPREHENSION

#### What Is It?

Word recognition x language comprehension = reading comprehension

It includes a student's understanding of what is explicitly stated, what can be inferred, and what conclusions are logical.



#### Assessment Tip

Ask students to read, then retell a story aloud, in order to assess their understanding of key ideas, details, and text structures.

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