Tip Sheet

Phoneme Grapheme Mapping

Phoneme: a single speech sound.   **Grapheme:** the letter/s used to represent a phoneme.
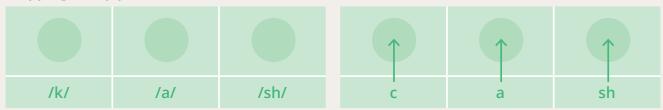
A simple grid (see over the page) can be used to demonstrate the representational function of letters. Each box in the grid is used to represent one phoneme in a word. Students begin the process of phoneme-grapheme mapping (PGM) by orally segmenting a word into its constituent sounds and moving tokens representing each phoneme into a box on the grid. They then progress to placing a grapheme (or grapheme card) in each box - again to represent each phoneme. Finally, they progress to writing graphemes in each box to represent individual phonemes. The student learns that the sound they say (phoneme) is represented by the letter/s they write (grapheme).

PGM Procedure

- Always use one sound per box
- At first, choose words with conventional spelling patterns (simple phoneme-grapheme correspondences)
- Students have grid paper, tokens and a pencil. In large groups, teachers use a whiteboard, interactive whiteboard or an overhead projector, tokens and a marker
- Say the whole word aloud then help students to lay out tokens for each phoneme as they orally segment the word
- Then, box-by-box, write in graphemes with students, naming each letter aloud
- Ask students: *"What sounds do you hear?"*, then *"How do we write those sounds down?"*
- As they name the letter/s for each sound, they write them in each box

For example: 'cash'

Mapping tricky patterns

/k/	/a/	/sh/		c	a	sh

Using PGM to identify spelling patterns

Digraphs (one box)	Adjacent consonants (two boxes)	'qu' (two boxes, letters close together)		'x' (across two boxes representing the phonemes /k/s/)	Split vowel/ magic 'e'
th i n ch ee k	c l a p	qu i t		f o x	b i ke

ai	ay	a-e
r ai n	p l ay	c a ke

Auspeld
Learning for all

Tip Sheet

Phoneme Grapheme Mapping (continued)

- Use this grid to map phonemes to graphemes
- Each square is one phoneme

Auspeld
Learning for all