

Year 1 phonics screening check 2012 scoring guidance

**Standards and
Testing Agency**

An executive agency of the
Department for Education

Threshold mark

The threshold mark for the test is **32 marks** out of 40.

Children who score between 32 and 40 marks have met the expected standard in phonic decoding.

Children who score between 0 and 31 marks have not met the expected standard in phonic decoding.

If children do not meet the expected standard, schools must determine the most appropriate support for each child to help them catch up. These children must be considered for a re-take of the phonics screening check in the June of Year 2.

Pronunciation of pseudo-words

Some of the graphemes used in the Year 1 phonics screening check represent a number of different phonemes. When decoding a real word in the screening check, the child has to select the correct phoneme for the word, for example the 'ow' in 'blow' should not be pronounced as the 'ow' in 'cow'. However, when decoding a pseudo-word in the screening check, all plausible alternative pronunciations are acceptable.

The tables on the next page provide guidance to teachers scoring the screening check on acceptable pronunciations of the pseudo-words in the screening check.

Contact details

For more information about the phonics screening check, please contact the National Curriculum assessments helpline on 0300 303 3013 or email assessments@education.gov.uk.

Section 1

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciations	Phonemic representation
pib	This item uses the 'p' from 'pig' and rhymes with 'nib'	/pɪb/
vus	This item uses the 'v' from 'van' and rhymes with 'bus' All regional pronunciations of the 'u' are acceptable	/vʌs/ or /vʊs/
yop	This item uses the 'y' from 'yes' and rhymes with 'hop'	/jɒp/
elt	This item uses the 'e' from 'elk' and rhymes with 'felt'	/ɛlt/
desh	This item uses these 'd' from 'desk' and rhymes with 'mesh'	/dɛʃ/
chab	This item uses the 'ch' from 'change' and rhymes with 'dab'	/tʃæb/
poil	This item uses the 'p' from 'point' and rhymes with 'foil'	/pɔɪl/
queep	This item uses the 'qu' from 'queen' and rhymes with 'creep'	/kwi:p/
stin	This item uses the 'st' from 'still' and rhymes with 'tin'	/stɪn/
proom	This item uses the 'pr' from 'proof' and rhymes with 'broom' All regional pronunciations of the 'oo' are acceptable	/pru:m/ or /prʊm/
sarps	This item uses the 's' from 'sardine' and rhymes with 'harps'	/sɑ:ps/
thend	This item uses either the 'th' from 'this' or the 'th' from 'thin' and rhymes with 'bend'	/ðɛnd/ or /θɛnd/

Section 2

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciations	Phonemic representation
kigh	This item uses the 'k' from 'kick' and rhymes with 'high'	/kaɪ/
girst	This item uses the 'g' from 'girl' and rhymes with 'first'	/gɜ:st/
baim	This item uses the 'b' from 'bait' and rhymes with 'aim'	/beɪm/
yune	This item uses the 'y' from 'yule' and rhymes with 'June'	/ju:n/
flods	This item uses the 'fl' from 'flog' and rhymes with 'pods'	/flɒds/
groiks	This item uses the 'gr' from 'groin' and rhymes with 'oiks'	/grɔɪks/
strom	This item uses the 'str' from 'strong' and rhymes with 'prom'	/strɒm/
splaw	This item uses the 'spl' from 'split' and rhymes with 'saw'	/splɔ:/