

## 1.1 Alphabet pronunciation and sounds

### Definitions

**Phonics:** A method of teaching people to read and pronounce words by learning the sounds of letters, letter groups, and syllables.

**Consonants:** Letters of the alphabet that are not vowels. Examples: C, K, L, etc.

**Vowels:** Letters A,E,I,O,U are vowels. Vowels have long and short sounds.

**Long Vowel Sounds:** Vowel sounds that are similar to the letter names For example, the "A" in "ape".

**Short Vowel Sounds:** Vowel sounds that differ from the letter names. For example, the "a" in "apple".

**Syllables:** Units of pronunciation that form the "beats" of the word.

**Magic E (Silent E or Bossy E):** An 'e' added to the end of words that changes a short vowel sound into a long vowel sound For example, "hop" becomes "hope".

**Diphthongs:** when two vowels are combined in a single syllable, resulting in a new sound. Examples: "oi" in "boy" and "ou" in "house".

**Digraphs:** Two letters that come together to make a single sound Examples include "sh" in "ship" and "ch" in "cherry". We have letters for these in Hindi.

**Blends:** Combinations of two or more consonants where each consonant's sound is still heard within the blend. Examples include "bl" in "black" and "str" in "street". To understand better, imagine the half letters used in Hindi.