

Phase 1

Pre-Alphabetic

Beginners remember how to read sight words by forming connections between the visual attributes of words and their pronunciations or meaning and store them in memory. Letter-sound relationships are not involved in this process. Think environmental print!



Phase 2

Partial Alphabetic

Children remember how to read sight words by forming partial connections between some of the letters in written words and the sounds in their pronunciation. At this stage, children often rely on the first or last letters of the word as phonetic cues.



Phase 3

Fully Alphabetic

Learners remember how to read sight words by forming complete connections between letters in the written forms of words and the phonemes in their pronunciations. At this point in the child's developing reading ability, they understand letter-sound relationships and can decode most words with ease.



Phase 4

Consolidated Alphabetic

Readers retain complete information about the spellings of sight words in memory. This allows their print lexicons to grow rapidly as they encounter many different words. As an example of the level of sophistication the child reaches at this point is their ability to create larger units of words to reduce memory load.

