

Phonemic Awareness: The Building Blocks of Reading

Education · Answer Key · 21 Questions

1. What is phonemic awareness primarily described as in the text?

- A) A visual skill for recognizing letters
- B) An auditory skill for manipulating sounds**
- C) A kinesthetic skill for writing words
- D) A cognitive skill for memorizing vocabulary

2. Why is direct, systemic instruction in phonemic awareness especially important for emergent and at-risk readers?

- A) Because they are less likely to develop it naturally**
- B) Because it is a more advanced reading skill
- C) Because it only applies to complex texts
- D) Because it is a prerequisite for all other learning

3. What foundational reading skill does phonemic awareness lay the groundwork for?

- A) Reading comprehension
- B) Vocabulary development
- C) Phonics**
- D) Writing fluency

4. How does phonemic awareness aid in word decoding?

- A) By recognizing and manipulating individual sounds within words**
- B) By memorizing the entire word
- C) By guessing the meaning from context
- D) By sounding out letter combinations only

5. Which of the following is NOT listed as a benefit of phonemic awareness?

- A) Spelling and writing proficiency
- B) Enhanced vocabulary development
- C) Improved physical coordination**
- D) Support for reading comprehension

6. What does phonemic awareness enable students to do regarding the sounds within words?

- A) Ignore them to focus on meaning
- B) Recognize similarities and differences in word patterns**
- C) Only blend them together
- D) Segment them without blending

7. Phonemic awareness is described as a precursor to what?

- A) Advanced math skills
- B) Other literacy skills**
- C) Social emotional learning
- D) Creative arts

8. The text states that phonemic awareness is the understanding that words can be broken into what?

- A) Syllables
- B) Letters
- C) Individual phonemes (sounds)**
- D) Meaning units

9. Which of the following is an example of a phonemic awareness instructional strategy?

- A) Reading aloud entire stories
- B) Identifying rhyming words
- C) Sound isolation**
- D) Using flashcards for sight words

10. What is 'Robot Talk' an example of for teaching phonemic awareness?

- A) Sound manipulation
- B) Sound segmentation**
- C) Sound blending
- D) Sound isolation

11. Which instructional tool is mentioned for focusing on the last or middle box of sounds in a word?

- A) Picture cards
- B) Elkonin boxes**
- C) Sound walls
- D) Manipulatives

12. Auditory Blending, where sounds are said slowly and then blended, is a strategy for which phonemic awareness skill?

- A) Segmentation
- B) Isolation
- C) Manipulation
- D) Blending**

13. Using blocks or beads to represent each sound and pushing them together as they are blended is an example of:

- A) Visual segmentation
- B) Auditory discrimination
- C) Kinesthetic blending**
- D) Phoneme deletion

14. What is the purpose of using Elkonin boxes for sound counting in segmentation?

- A) To represent each sound in a word**
- B) To blend sounds together
- C) To isolate beginning sounds
- D) To substitute sounds

15. Tapping, clapping, or jumping for each sound in a word is a strategy for:

- A) Sound manipulation
- B) Sound blending
- C) Sound segmentation**
- D) Auditory blending

16. Phoneme deletion, like 'Say 'cat' without the /c/', is a part of which phonemic awareness skill?

- A) Sound isolation
- B) Sound segmentation
- C) Sound manipulation**
- D) Sound blending

17. What is an example of phoneme addition and substitution?

- A) Saying 'cat' without the /c/
- B) Breaking 'dog' into /d/ /o/ /g/
- C) Changing the /m/ in 'man' to /r/**
- D) Identifying the beginning sound of 'sun'

18. Integrating phonemic awareness with other literacy activities can involve:

- A) Only practicing isolated sounds
- B) Pointing out sound patterns in shared reading**
- C) Avoiding poetry and songs
- D) Focusing solely on writing

19. How can teachers differentiate instruction for phonemic awareness?

- A) By using only one strategy for all students
- B) By strategically differentiating content, process, and product**
- C) By ignoring students who struggle
- D) By focusing only on advanced learners

20. Alliteration, identifying words with similar beginning sounds, is a component of:

- A) Phonemic awareness only
- B) Phonological awareness
- C) Both phonemic and phonological awareness**
- D) Word decoding only

21. What does the continuum of phonological and phonemic awareness showcase?

- A) The shift from auditory to visual skills
- B) The progression from basic sound differentiation to advanced manipulation**
- C) The separation of phonics from sound awareness
- D) The decline of reading skills over time