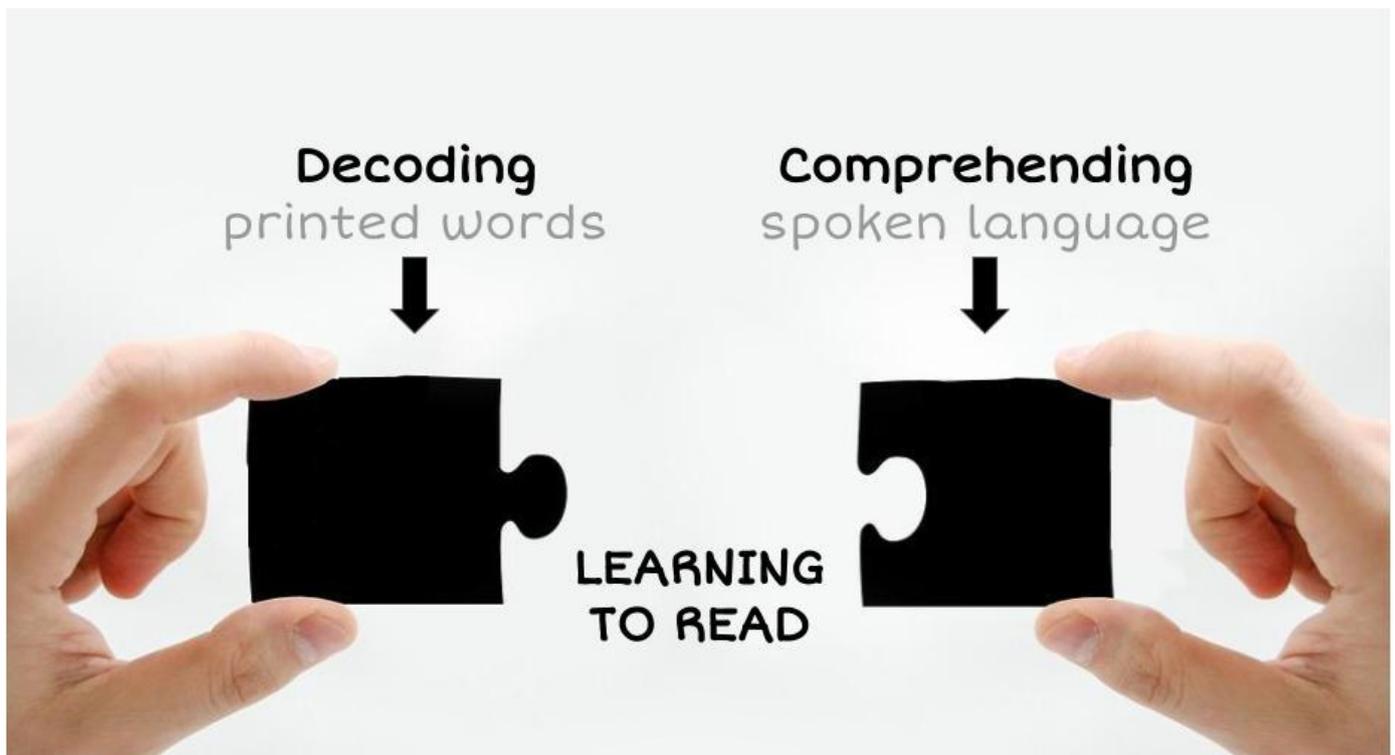




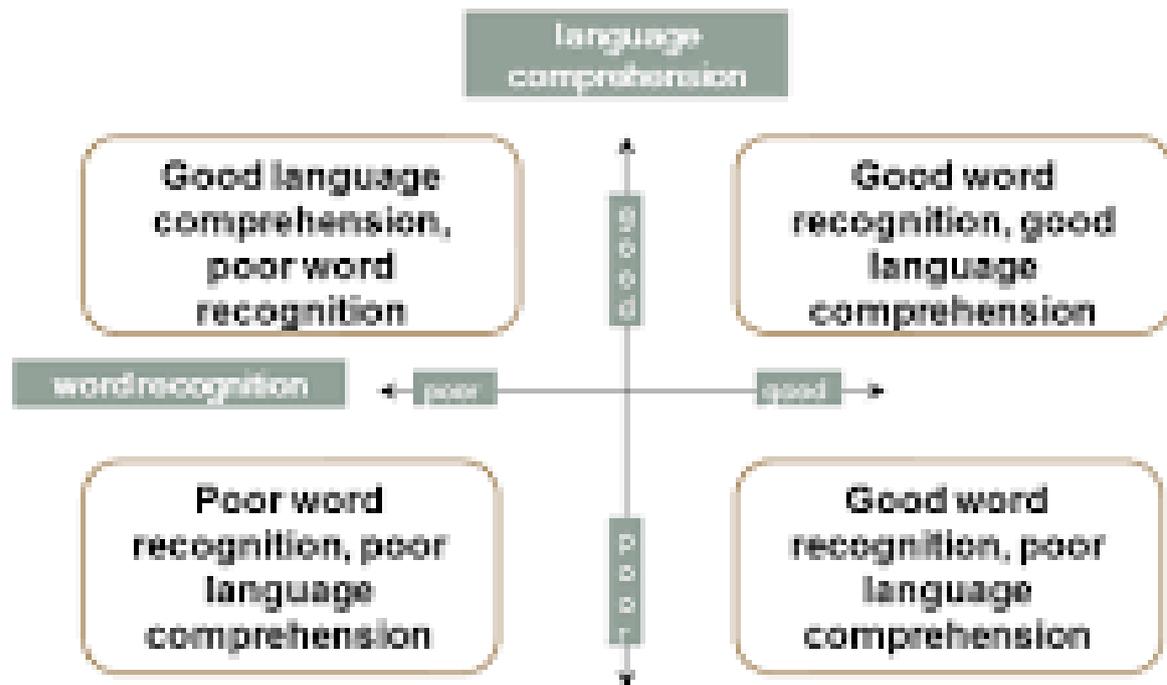
What is reading?

A parent's guide



Reading is a multifaceted process involving word recognition, comprehension, fluency, language comprehension and motivation. All these skills and strands are tightly interwoven.

Word recognition is the ability to read and understand the words on a page, and language comprehension is the ability to make sense of the language we hear and the language we read.



In school, reading sessions focus on a balance between developing these different skills. These sessions can be 1:1, small group or whole class.

Word decoding

Children initially use what they know about letters and sounds to decode new words. As their decoding skills develop, they will begin to use alternative strategies such as looking for known spelling patterns, recognising known words and using clues from the sentence to predict what the word could be. With developing readers, spend time before reading the book to look for words that they already know. This can help boost confidence and prevent "over decoding".

Reading comprehension

As children become more proficient decoders, greater emphasis is placed upon developing their reading comprehension.

Explain

Can the child explain what a word means or what is happening in a text? Questions such as "What does that word mean?" or "Tell me what happened at the beginning of the story." Support this element.

Retrieve

Can the child go back to the text to retrieve some information? This requires understanding and memory of what they have just read. Here's an example from the 2018 End of key stage 1 SATs Reading 1 booklet.

But Bryn hadn't finished. He started to sort out his books and put all the ones about animals together and all the ones about trucks together. He wondered if Clare would like different kinds of books, as she was a girl, but he couldn't imagine anyone not liking animals and trucks. After all, his mother was always driving big tractors on the farm.



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Which **two** topics did Bryn sort his books into?

1. _____

2. _____

Inference

Inference is the child's ability to infer meaning and "read between the lines". This is based upon robust language comprehension and their own life experiences. Here's two examples from the 2018 End of key stage 1 SATs Reading 1 booklet.

Apple juice

In spring, the apple trees in the orchard are full of flowers. In summer, tiny apple buds grow from each flower stalk. The buds keep growing and, by autumn, the trees are full of ripe, sweet fruit ready to be picked.



Machines cut down the apples, or groups of pickers reach into the trees and fill their boxes with fruit.



16 Find and **copy one** word that makes the apples sound tasty.

5 ...*tried to peep around her legs...*

What does this tell you about Bryn?

Tick **one**.

He did not want to see his cousin.

He was angry about the visit.

He was nervous about meeting Clare.

He did not like his cousin Clare.

Choice

This element explores why words and language have been used and the impact this has on the reader. It may be linked to vocabulary, such as why a specific word is used rather than an alternative. Other times it may be why the author chose to create the text.