

Shapeys Teaching English Phonics System (STEPS)

A structured three-step phonics system designed to introduce the top one hundred most used words of the English language.

What is STEPS?

STEPS is organised into three progressive stages. Each stage combines the introduction of sounds and words with ready-to-use teaching materials, lesson plans, assessment and home-learning support.

STEP 1 — Basic Letter Sounds

- Introduces the sounds for the 26 letters of the English alphabet.
- Introduces the first 33 words of the top one hundred most used words in English.
- Introduces 600 new English words that use only the basic letter sounds, printed onto colour-coded flashcards.
- Lesson plans ready to use, including many physical activities and games.
- Introduction cards and flashcards for each letter.
- A weekly assessment sheet and an exercise book for each student.
- A weekly 'Take Home' sheet for each child.

STEP 2 — Double Letter Sounds

- Introduces the sounds for 23 double letter sounds.
- Introduces the next 17 words of the top one hundred most used words in English and 239 new English words using double letter sounds.
- Lesson plans ready to use, including fun physical games.
- Story cards and flashcards for each letter.
- A weekly assessment sheet and an exercise book for each student.
- A weekly 'Take Home' sheet for each child.
- Introduces the English Alphabet.
- Introduces all 26 Letter Names.

The Three-Step Progression

STEPS progresses from basic letter sounds, through double letter sounds, to words that cannot be sounded using the single or double letter sounds introduced in the earlier stages.

STEP 3 — Tricky Words & Early Writing Conventions

- Introduces words that cannot be sounded using single or double letter sounds, known as 'tricky words'.
- Introduces the remaining 50 words of the top one hundred most used words in English.
- Has many lesson plans ready to use, including fun games and activities.
- A weekly assessment sheet and an exercise book for each student.
- A weekly 'Take Home' sheet for each child.
- Introduces Capital Letters.
- Introduces Simple Punctuation.

Resource	Purpose / Contents
3 Teaching Guides	Including hundreds of lesson plans
Weekly Assessment Sheets	For each student
Weekly Take Home Sheets	For each child
49 Introduction Cards	Supporting the introduction of sounds
100's of Flashcards	Including sound and word resources
Picture Cards	Visual teaching support
Wall Charts	Classroom display and reinforcement
940 Word Cards	A substantial word-card resource

STEPS at a glance

3 progressive teaching steps • 100 high-frequency words introduced across the system • 26 letter sounds • 23 double letter sounds • 940 word cards • comprehensive teaching resources

This overview is based on the Shapeys Teaching English Phonics System (STEPS) source overview supplied for this document.