The English Alphabetic Code


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## The complexities of the English Alphabetic Code include:

1. one sound (phoneme) can be represented by one, two, three or four letters: e.g. k, sh, ng, igh, eigh
2. one sound can be represented by different spellings (graphemes): e.g. loal is represented by: o, oa, ow, oe, o-e, eau, ough
3. one spelling can represent multiple sounds: e.g. 'ough': /oa/ though, /or/ thought, /oo/ through, /ou/ plough, /u/thorough

Key to the 12 units of Debbie Hepplewhite's Phonics International online synthetic phonics programme:

| units1-5 | Mainly simple code with options to extend | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 11th |
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| 6-12 | /airl, leer/, Izh/, split digraphs, complex code | 6th | 7th | 8th | 9th | 10th | 12th |
| Debbie's programme introduces a simple code of at least one letter/s-sound correspondence for each of the 44+ sounds of speech of the English language. <br> The programme then expands to teach further spelling and pronunciation variations of the complex Alphabetic Code. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

