

# Phonological Awareness Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. Which phrase refers to basic writing skills such as spelling, capitalization, punctuation, handwriting, and sentence structure?**
  - A. Basic Writing skills**
  - B. Listening vocabulary**
  - C. Reading vocabulary**
  - D. Writing vocabulary**
  
- 2. Which term describes two letters that together make one vowel sound?**
  - A. Digraph**
  - B. Grapheme**
  - C. Phoneme**
  - D. Vowel digraph**
  
- 3. Which term describes the ability to read a text accurately, quickly, and with expression?**
  - A. Phonological Awareness**
  - B. Phonemic Awareness**
  - C. Fluency**
  - D. Spelling**
  
- 4. Which term represents the most advanced level of phonological awareness, focusing on distinguishing and manipulating individual phonemes?**
  - A. Phonological Awareness**
  - B. Phonemic Awareness**
  - C. Fluency**
  - D. Spelling**
  
- 5. Which word has exactly four phonemes?**
  - A. Beat**
  - B. Street**
  - C. Pan**
  - D. Stop**

- 6. Which term describes the relationship between letters and phonemes in written language?**
- A. Phonological awareness**
  - B. Orthographic mapping**
  - C. Graphophonemic**
  - D. Semantic mapping**
- 7. During a shared reading with a big book, the teacher draws students' attention to the words and letters on the page. This activity is most likely aimed at developing which skill?**
- A. Phonological Awareness**
  - B. Phonics**
  - C. Fluency**
  - D. Vocabulary**
- 8. Which word has a consonant cluster in the initial position? "strike" or "orange"?**
- A. Strike**
  - B. Orange**
  - C. Both**
  - D. Neither**
- 9. Which pair rhymes with each other?**
- A. Sun and Stone**
  - B. Sun and Fun**
  - C. Fun and Stone**
  - D. Sun and Sun**
- 10. Which word has three syllables?**
- A. Cat**
  - B. Sun**
  - C. Banana**
  - D. Dog**

## Answers

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1. A
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. D
6. C
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. C

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which phrase refers to basic writing skills such as spelling, capitalization, punctuation, handwriting, and sentence structure?**

**A. Basic Writing skills**

**B. Listening vocabulary**

**C. Reading vocabulary**

**D. Writing vocabulary**

Understanding basic writing skills means recognizing the foundational mechanics that let you form clear text: spelling, capitalization, punctuation, handwriting, and how sentences are structured. These elements are the tools that make writing legible and well-formed, supporting meaning and communication. The other terms describe word knowledge in different modes—listening, reading, or writing vocabulary—rather than the actual mechanics of producing written text. So, the phrase that best matches the listed items is Basic Writing skills.

**2. Which term describes two letters that together make one vowel sound?**

**A. Digraph**

**B. Grapheme**

**C. Phoneme**

**D. Vowel digraph**

When two letters together produce a single vowel sound, that is a vowel digraph. This term specifically labels the situation where the vowel sound is created by a pair of letters working as one sound, as in “oa” in boat (the long o sound) or “ea” in bread (the vowel sound /ɛ/). The broader term digraph covers two letters that make one sound in general, but it isn’t limited to vowels—it also includes consonant pairs like “sh” or “ch.” A grapheme is the written symbol itself, which can be a single letter or a combination, but it doesn’t by itself specify that two letters share one vowel sound. A phoneme is the actual sound used in speech, not the written form. So the exact description for two letters forming one vowel sound is vowel digraph.

**3. Which term describes the ability to read a text accurately, quickly, and with expression?**

**A. Phonological Awareness**

**B. Phonemic Awareness**

**C. Fluency**

**D. Spelling**

Fluency describes the ability to read a text accurately, quickly, and with expression. When a reader is fluent, decoding is automatic, so accuracy comes without painstaking effort, the reading speed matches the text’s difficulty, and phrasing and intonation reflect meaning, making the text easier to understand. The other terms focus on different skills—phonological or phonemic awareness is about hearing and manipulating sounds, while spelling is about writing and letter-sound knowledge—not about how smoothly one reads aloud.

4. Which term represents the most advanced level of phonological awareness, focusing on distinguishing and manipulating individual phonemes?

A. Phonological Awareness

**B. Phonemic Awareness**

C. Fluency

D. Spelling

Distinguishing and manipulating individual phonemes is the hallmark of phonemic awareness, the most advanced skill within phonological awareness. This level goes beyond recognizing that words rhyme or have multiple syllables; it requires precise handling of the smallest sound units in speech. For example, blending separate sounds like /k/ /æ/ /t/ to make cat, segmenting a word into its individual phonemes, or changing one phoneme to form a new word all demonstrate this higher level of control. Fluency and spelling involve different skills—fluency concerns reading speed and flow, while spelling maps sounds to letters—so they don't focus on manipulating phonemes in spoken language.

5. Which word has exactly four phonemes?

A. Beat

B. Street

C. Pan

**D. Stop**

Phonemes are the smallest sound units in a word, and counting them means identifying each distinct sound in order. In Beat, there are three sounds: the /b/ sound, the long /i:/ vowel, and the /t/ sound. In Street, there are five sounds: /s/, /t/, /r/, the /i:/ vowel, and the final /t/. In Pan, there are three sounds: /p/, the /æ/ vowel, and /n/. In Stop, there are four sounds: /s/, /t/, the short /ɒ/ (or /ɑ:/) vowel, and /p/. Since Stop has exactly four phonemes, it is the word that matches the requirement.

6. Which term describes the relationship between letters and phonemes in written language?

A. Phonological awareness

B. Orthographic mapping

**C. Graphophonemic**

D. Semantic mapping

The key idea here is the link between written letters and the sounds they represent. This relationship is described by graphophonemic knowledge, which specifically covers how graphemes (letters or letter combos) map onto phonemes (speech sounds). This connection is essential for decoding and spelling, as readers figure out how to pronounce words by recognizing which letters produce which sounds. Phonological awareness, while related, focuses on sounds themselves in spoken language—rhymes, syllables, and blending sounds—without requiring letters. Orthographic mapping is about how readers store and recall the connections between spellings and pronunciations to recognize words quickly. Semantic mapping deals with how words relate to meanings. So graphophonemic best names the concrete link between letters and sounds.

7. During a shared reading with a big book, the teacher draws students' attention to the words and letters on the page. This activity is most likely aimed at developing which skill?

**A. Phonological Awareness**

**B. Phonics**

**C. Fluency**

**D. Vocabulary**

Phonological awareness focuses on recognizing and playing with the sounds of language. When the teacher draws attention to the words and letters on the page during shared reading, students begin to hear how spoken words are made up of smaller sound units and how those sounds map to written symbols. This helps them notice patterns like rhymes, initial sounds, and blending or segmenting sounds, which are the building blocks of understanding how spoken language connects to print. It's not primarily about decoding letter-to-sound rules (that's phonics), nor about reading smoothly (fluency) or recalling word meanings (vocabulary).

8. Which word has a consonant cluster in the initial position? "strike" or "orange"?

**A. Strike**

**B. Orange**

**C. Both**

**D. Neither**

Consonant clusters in the initial position happen when more than one consonant comes before the first vowel in a word. The word strike starts with the sequence s-t-r, three consonants in a row before the vowel, so it clearly has an initial consonant cluster. Orange begins with a vowel sound, so the first sound isn't a group of consonants; there's no initial consonant cluster there. Therefore, strike is the correct choice because it displays an initial consonant cluster, while orange does not. This kind of recognition helps with blending and segmenting sounds in phonemic awareness tasks.

9. Which pair rhymes with each other?

**A. Sun and Stone**

**B. Sun and Fun**

**C. Fun and Stone**

**D. Sun and Sun**

Rhyming happens when two words share the same ending sound. Sun and Fun both end with the -un sound: sun [sʌn] and fun [fʌn], so they rhyme. The starting sounds differ (s vs f), but that doesn't affect the rhyme—the ending part is what matters. Sun and Stone don't rhyme because sun ends with the -un sound, while stone ends with the -one sound (/stoʊn/), which is different. Fun and Stone also don't rhyme for the same reason—their endings are -un versus -one. Sun and Sun would rhyme, but typically a pair implies two different words, so Sun and Fun is the best match.

**10. Which word has three syllables?**

- A. Cat
- B. Sun
- C. Banana**
- D. Dog

Syllables are the beats or chunks of a word, usually tied to vowel sounds. A quick way to check is to clap or tap as you say the word. Banana breaks into ba-na-na, three distinct vowel sounds, so it has three syllables. The other words each have only one vowel sound, so they are single-syllable words. That's why banana is the word with three syllables.

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## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://phonologicalawareness.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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