

# What is a grapheme?

A grapheme is a **spelling** of a sound (phoneme) in a word. A grapheme can be spelled by 1- 4 letters.

**1-letter grapheme:** each sound is spelled by 1 letter:

**c - a - t**  
↓ ↓ ↓  
**/k/ /a/ /t/**

**2-letter grapheme:** a sound spelled by 2 letters:

**sh - o - p**  
↓ ↓ ↓  
**/sh/ /o/ /p/**

**3-letter grapheme:** a sound spelled by 3 letters:

**n - igh - t**  
↓ ↓ ↓  
**/n/ /ie/ /t/**

**4-letter grapheme:** a sound spelled by 4 letters:

**d - ough**  
↓ ↓  
**/d/ /oe/**