

## Spelling list: *ph* words - set 2

The /f/ sound is usually spelt with an *f* , or, if after a short vowel sound, the letters *ff* .

However, have you ever noticed that some words, like *phone* and *alphabet* , are pronounced with an *f* sound but are spelt with the letter combination *ph* ?

This unusual spelling can be traced back to origins in Ancient Greek, where the letter *phi* ( $\phi$ ) represented the *f* sound. Over time, this Ancient Greek influence found its way into the English language, giving us the *ph* spelling pattern.

As you become a more confident speller, you will begin to notice that this spelling pattern often appears in words which share the same Ancient Greek root, for example: *photograph* , *photocopy* , and *photosynthesis* all contain the root *photo* which is spelt using the letters *ph* .

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| alphabet   | There are 26 letters in the <b>alphabet</b> .                               |
| apostrophe | You can use an <b>apostrophe</b> to show that something belongs to someone. |
| hyphen     | A <b>hyphen</b> can be used to join two words: good-looking.                |
| phrase     | A <b>phrase</b> is a small group of words.                                  |
| pamphlet   | The shop gave out a small <b>pamphlet</b> about its price cuts.             |
| physician  | The <b>physician</b> prescribed medicine.                                   |
| pharmacy   | Please get me some pills from the <b>pharmacy</b> .                         |
| physical   | <b>Physical</b> exercise is good for your health.                           |
| elephant   | Young elephants are called calves.  |
| dolphin    | The <b>dolphin</b> swam in the sea.   |
| phantom    | She was convinced a <b>phantom</b> spirit haunted the house.                |
| nephew     | My young <b>nephew</b> is called Luke.                                      |
| prophet    | The <b>prophet</b> said a holy man would come.                              |
| orphan     | A child who has lost both parents is an <b>orphan</b> .                     |
| triumph    | The winning team held up the cup in <b>triumph</b> .                        |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| catastrophe | A tsunami is a <b>catastrophe</b> .                      |
| emphasis    | The speaker put much <b>emphasis</b> on his main point.  |
| phobia      | Many people have a <b>phobia</b> or fear of spiders.     |
| trophy      | The <b>trophy</b> is a constant reminder of his success. |
| typhoon     | Two ships were sunk in the <b>typhoon</b> .              |