

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* (ϕ) 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*.

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

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