Decoding: phonics for adults

PYZAM.com
PRIVATE
PARKING
UNAUTHORIZED
VEHICLES WILL BE
WORKED OVER WITH
A SLEDGEHAMMER,
FLIPPED OVER BY
AN ANGRY MOB,
SET ON FIRE, AND
SPRAY PAINTED
WITH RUDE SLOGANS
IMMEDIATELY AFTER
BEING USED AS A
GETAWAY CAR IN AN
INCREDIBLY DARING
DAYLIGHT ROBBERY

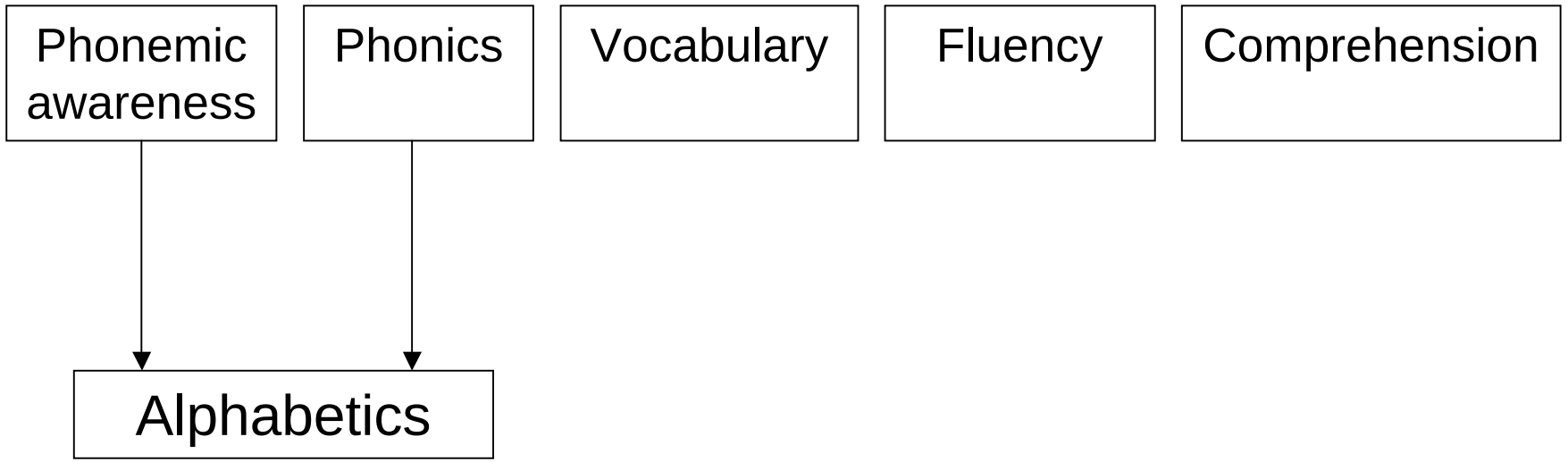
Overview

1. Recent research on the characteristics of adults with reading difficulties.

2. The time constraints and frustrations of learners and tutors.

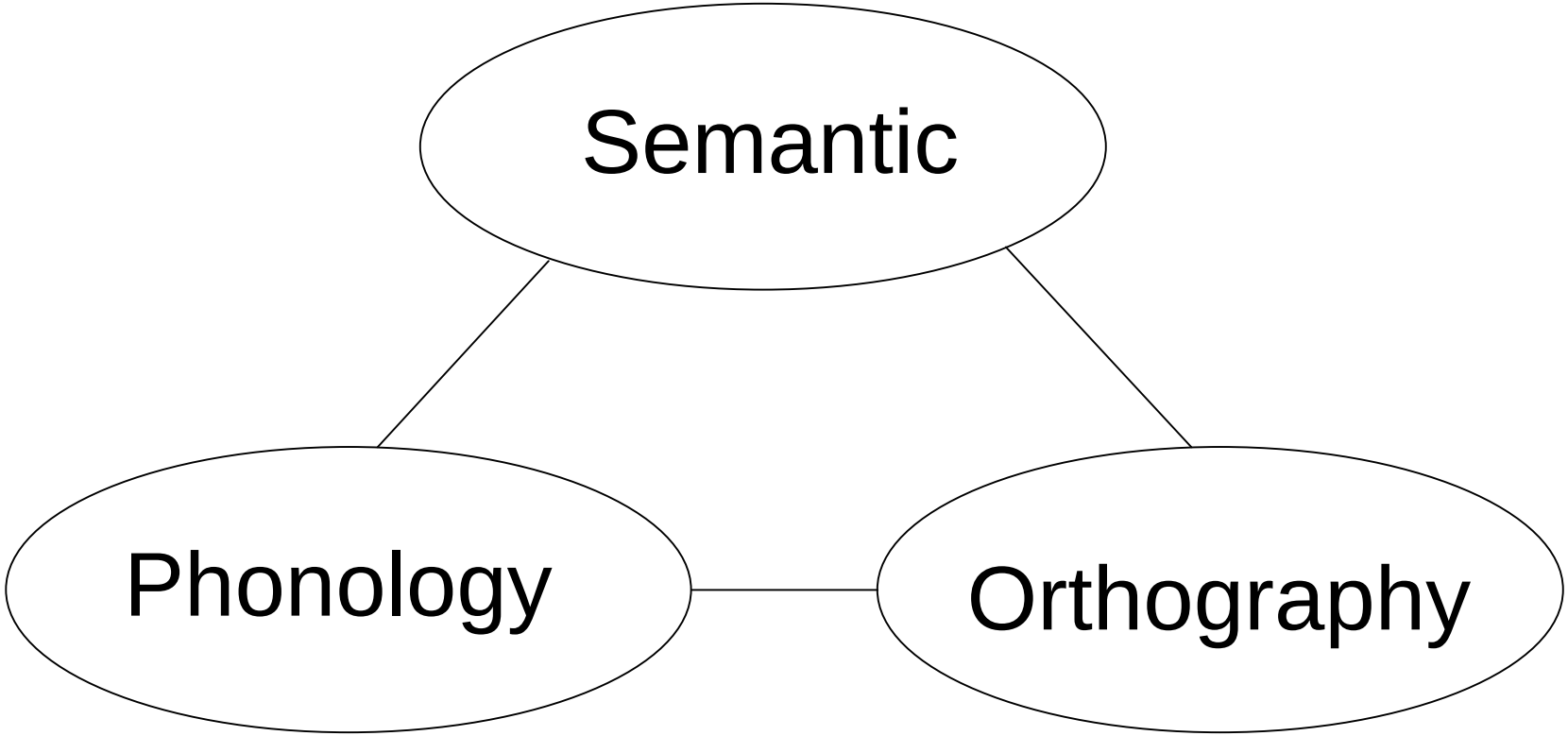
3. The usefulness an of analytical phonics approach.

Components of Reading



repertoire

Representation of words in long term memory



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Characteristics of Adults with Reading Difficulties

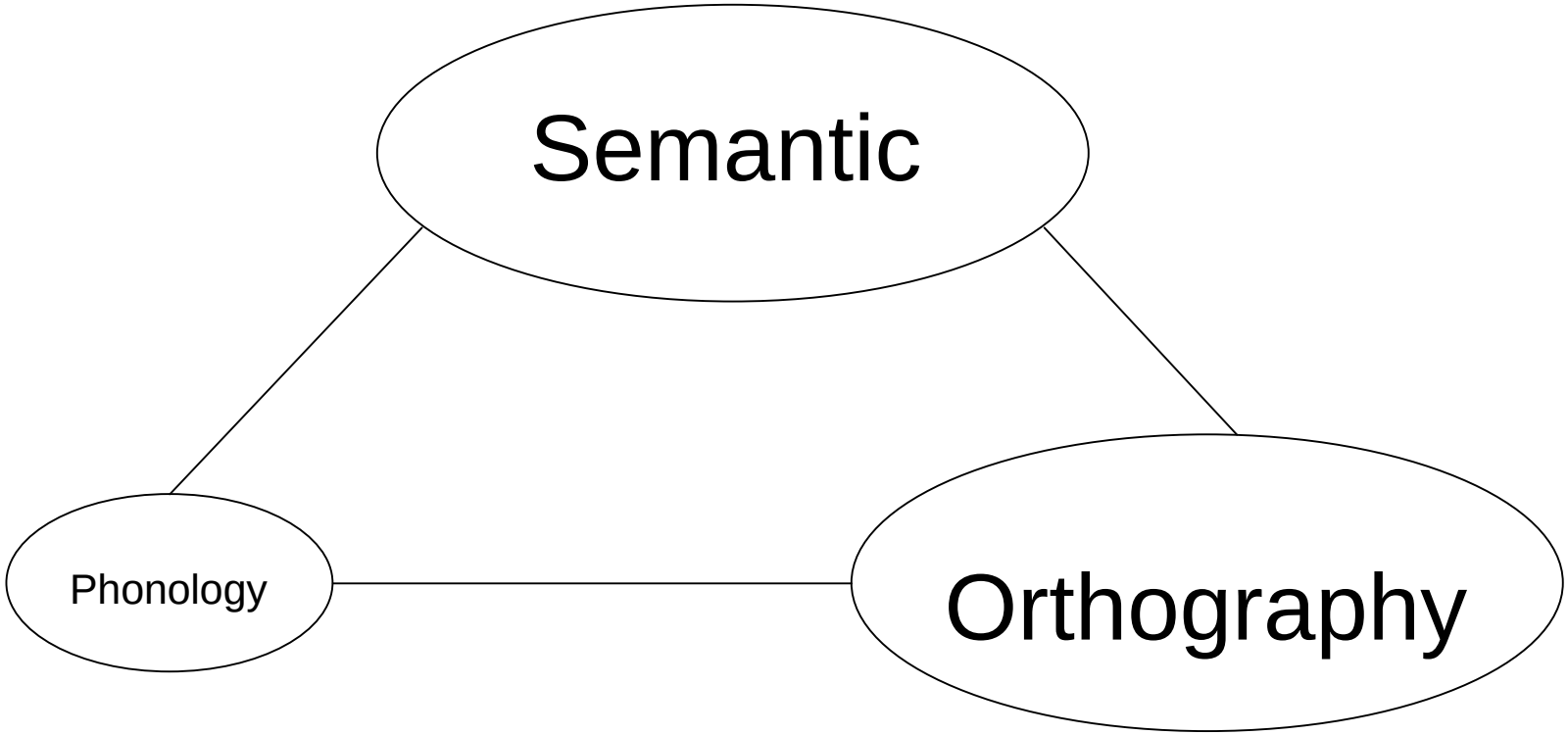
Adults with reading difficulties have low levels of phonemic awareness.

Adults with reading difficulties tend to not use phonological strategies to read words.

Adults with reading difficulties perform lower than reading age matched children in decoding non-words.

Adults tend to rely on sight words limiting increases in reading vocabulary.

Consistent findings in adults with reading difficulties



Why teach alphabetics?

- It improves the readers ability to utilise phonological strategies.
- It provides readers with a tool for attacking unknown words.
- It facilitates a self-learning process of vocabulary learning.
- It provides a mnemonic for remembering printed words.
- It facilitates a process of word recognition that leads to automaticity.

The solution

A significant focus on the systematic development of phonemic awareness and decoding as part of a complete reading programme.

Unfortunately…

Time constraints

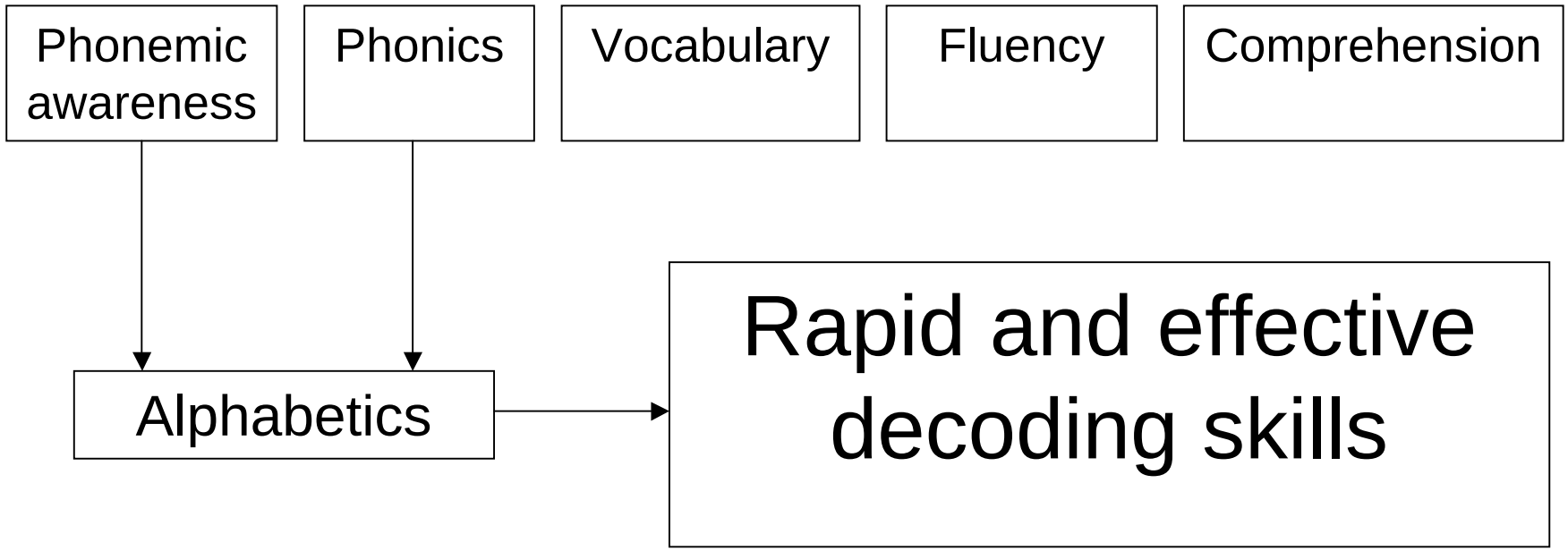
- Tutor time with learners is limited and infrequent.

- A lack of continuity reduces the consolidation of knowledge.

- Normal or desired environmental conditions are not available.

- An existing workplace text is often required to be used in instruction (health and safety documentation etc).

Components of Reading



Analytical Teaching Approach

Explicitly teach the skills to analyse words

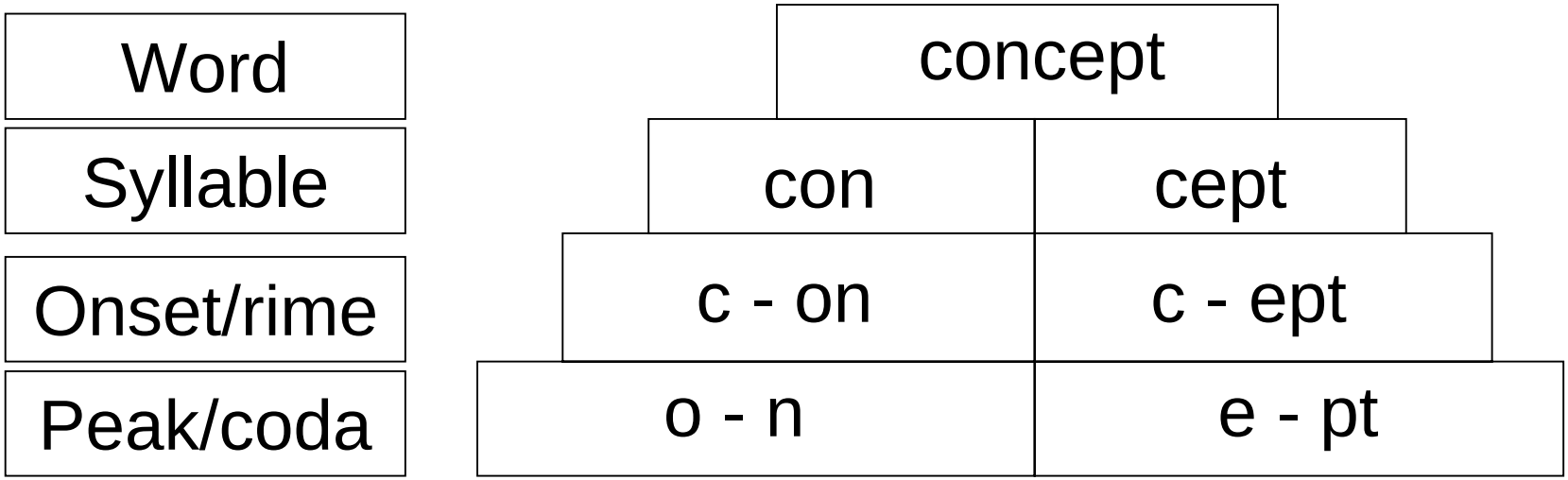
&

explicitly teach alphabetics.

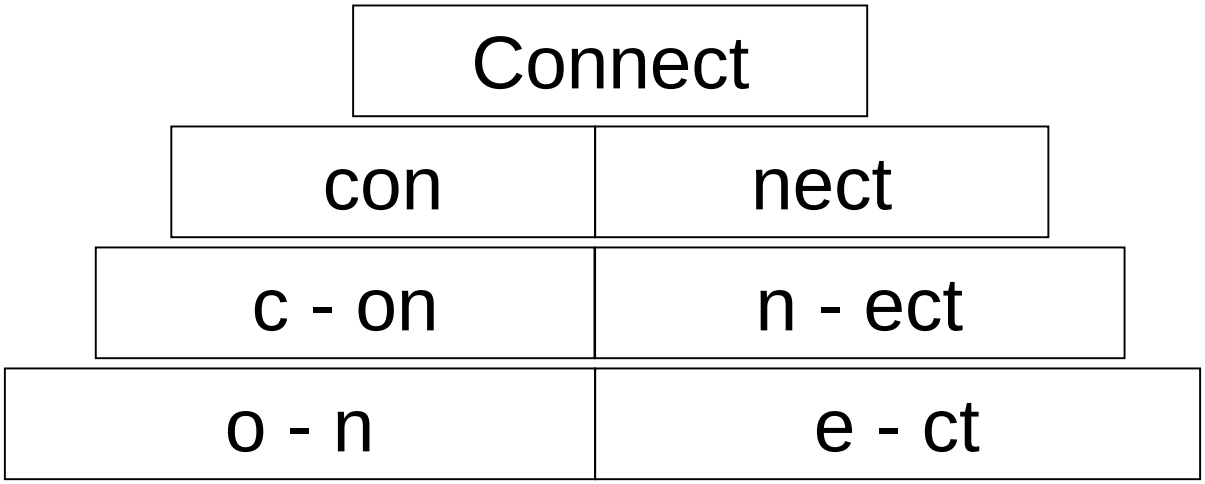
New Vocabulary

- Syllable → stick
- Onset → st
- Rime → ick
- Peak → i
- Coda → ck

Analytic Phonics

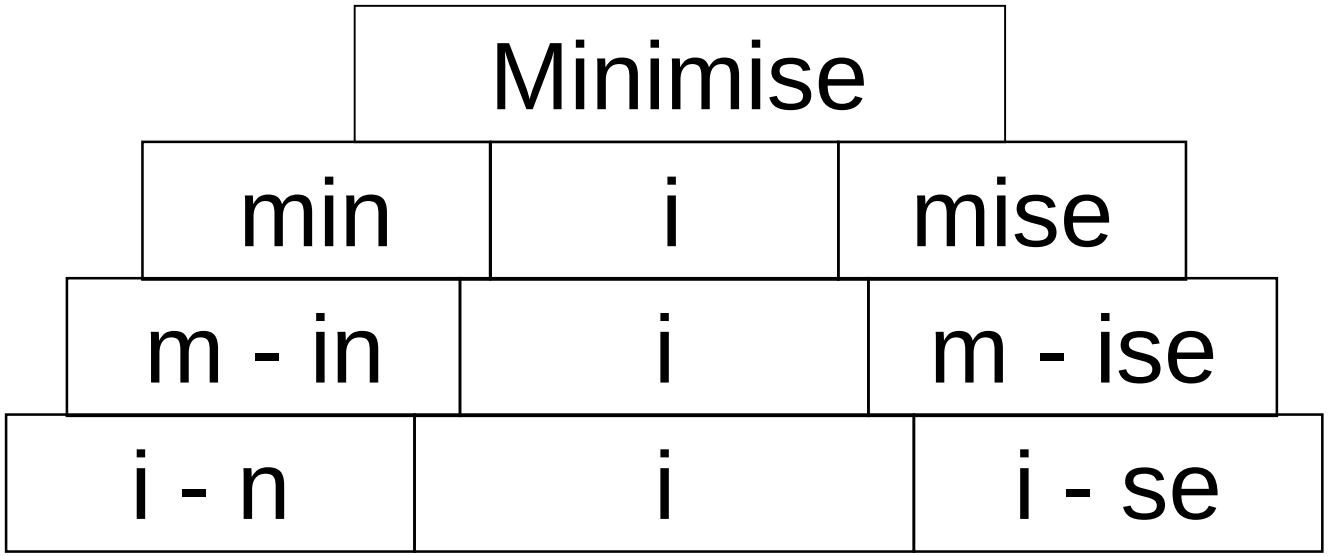


Analytic Phonics

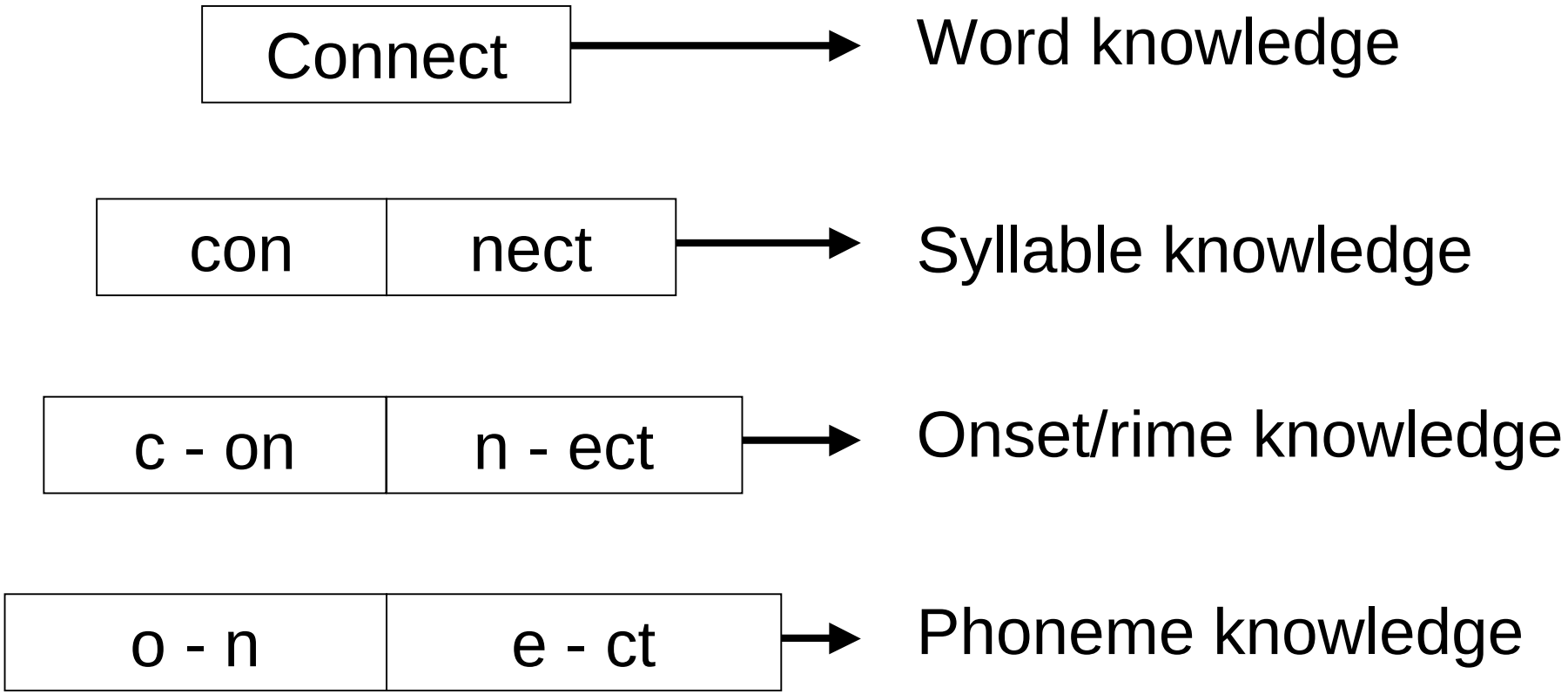


Requires teaching the skills and vocabulary to analyse words.

Analysing Words



The Progression of Phonological Awareness



Rationale for Analytic Approach

Analytic phonics:

- Follows the natural progression of phonological awareness.
- Provides an opportunity to teach alphabetics within the context of a larger task.
- Makes the role of letters in words explicit.

Rationale for Analytic Approach

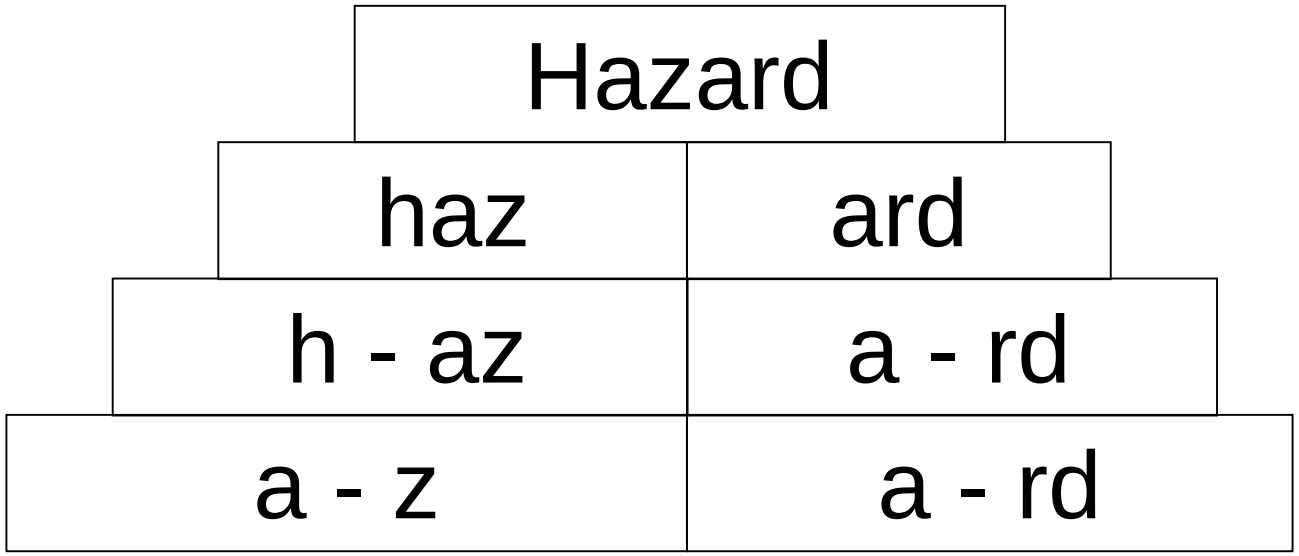
Analytic phonics:

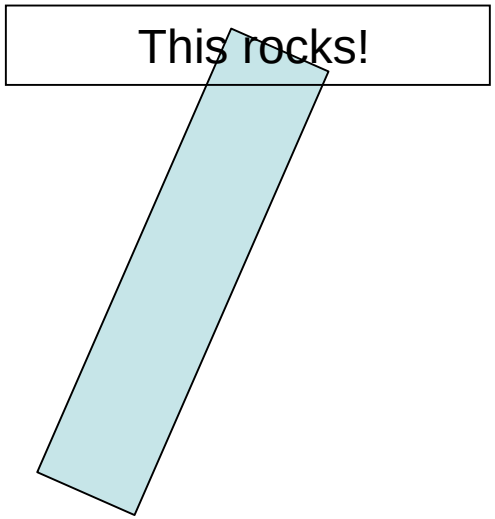
- Provides opportunities to address historical letter-sound problems.
- Provides adults with the skills to attack unknown words.
- Provides fast recognition of potential high frequency words and a transfer of knowledge to new words.

Conclusion

- Alphabetics is a key to developing the reading skills of adults who struggle to read.
- Tutors are often unable to implement systematic phonemic awareness and phonics instruction.
- Analytic phonics offers an approach that empowers the learner to engage in word analysis outside of contact time .
- Analytic phonics may facilitate the transfer of alphabetic knowledge to unknown words providing a self generating effect.

Analysing Words




This rocks!