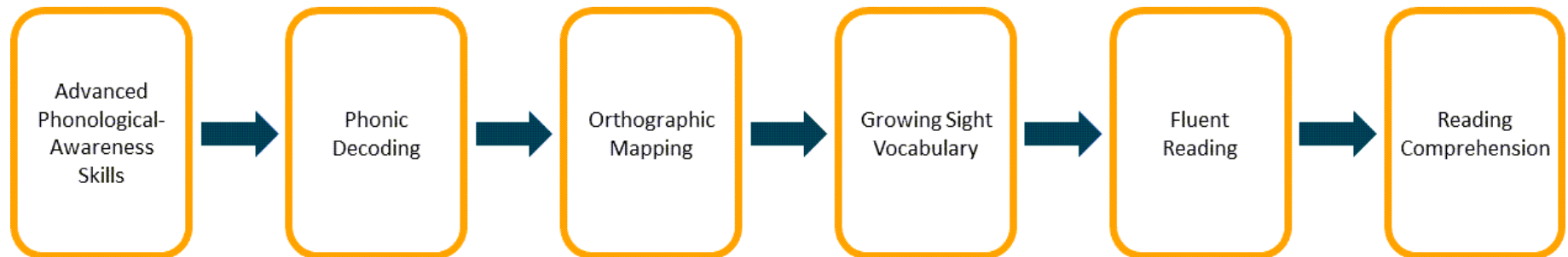


## Steps to Reading Comprehension

The ability to read proficiently and efficiently relies heavily upon both beginning and advanced phonological-awareness skills, as well as other skills related to letter-sound knowledge, sight vocabulary, and vocabulary. This graphic illustrates one way to think about the place of phonological-awareness skills in the progression toward reading comprehension.



Phonological-awareness skills enable readers to decode new words quickly and accurately and to remember those words (orthographic mapping) to build a large and continually growing bank of sight words. Automatic word reading allows readers to read fluently so they can use their mental energy to comprehend text rather than struggle to decode each word they encounter.