

Syllable Types

Closed Syllables: syllables with only one vowel, followed by one or more consonants

- **Key info:** The vowel sound in a Closed Syllable is usually short.
- **Examples:**

- *Single-syllable:*

c u p o x u p w i sh

- *Multisyllabic:*

mag net fan tas tic

Open Syllables: syllables that end with only one vowel letter

- **Key info:** The vowel sound in an Open Syllable is usually long or schwa.
- **Examples:**

- *Single-syllable:*

h i sh e g o

- *Multisyllabic:*

mu sic pi lot a ma zing

Vowel-Consonant-e Syllables: syllables that end with a vowel letter, a consonant, and a final e

- **Key info:**
 - The VCE pattern is one of the most common ways to spell a long vowel sound.
 - VCE Syllables often happen at the end of words.

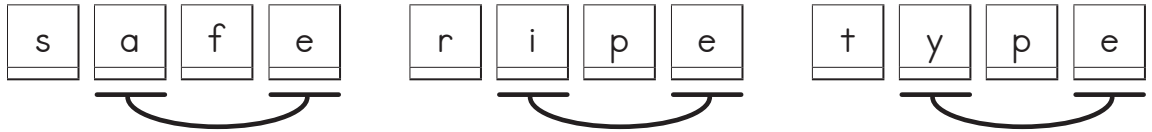


Glossary of Terms

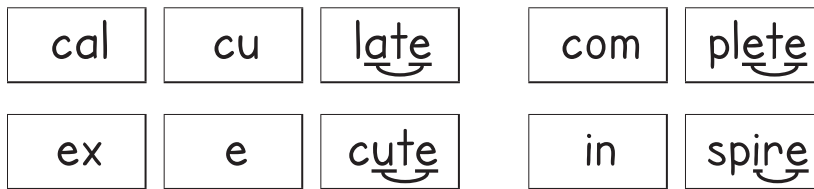
- Any vowel letter can be in a VCE Syllable: a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e, y_e.

- **Examples:**

- *Single-syllable:*



- *Multisyllabic:*



Vowel Team Syllables: syllables with two, three, or four letters that work together to spell one vowel sound

- **Key info:**

- The vowel sound in a Vowel Team Syllable is usually long or other.
- The letters in a vowel team stay together in one syllable.

- **Examples of vowel teams spelling long vowel sounds:**



- **Examples of vowel teams spelling other vowel sounds:**



- **Examples:**





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R-Controlled Syllables: syllables with a vowel letter or vowel team followed by the letter **r**, where the letters combine to spell an r-controlled vowel sound

• **Key info:**

- R-controlled vowel spellings have two or three letters.
- /ar/, /or/, and /er/ are r-controlled vowel sounds.

• **Examples of r-controlled vowel spellings:**

ar	or	oor	er	ur	ir
----	----	-----	----	----	----

• **Examples:**

tar	nish	for	giv	en	board	room
earth	ly	noc	tur	nal	chirp	ing

Consonant-le Syllables: 3-letter syllables formed by a single consonant letter right before the letters **le**

• **Key info:**

- Consonant-le Syllables occur only at the end of multisyllabic words.
- **-le** spells the sounds /uhl/ (schwa plus /l/).
- **-le** acts like a magnet to pull the consonant before it into the final syllable.
- Once you decode the Consonant-le Syllable, it is easy to see what type of syllable comes just before it.

• **Examples of consonant-le spellings:** -ble, -cle, -dle, -fle, -gle, -kle, -ple, -tle, -zle

• **Examples:**

puz	zle	star	tle	cu	bi	cle
pud	dle	bu	gle	re	sem	ble



Glossary of Terms

Schwa: /ə/

- is a “lazy” or “reduced” vowel sound because it has less energy than a typical vowel sound;
- is the most common phoneme in English;
- often occurs in multisyllabic words.

• **Key info:**

- The most common sound for schwa is /uh/, like in **zebra** and **avoid**.
- The other sound for schwa is /ih/, like in **basket**, **lemon**, and **salad**.
- Sometimes we need to “flex” a vowel sound to the schwa to pronounce the word correctly.

• **Common schwa spellings:**

◦ -on	rib <u>o</u> n	co <u>o</u> mn
◦ -et	hel <u>e</u> met	ba <u>e</u> ske <u>t</u>
◦ -al	de <u>a</u> ntal	o <u>a</u> l
◦ con-	co <u>o</u> n <u>f</u> ess	co <u>o</u> n <u>t</u> ain
◦ a-, -a	<u>A</u> laska	<u>A</u> merica
◦ -en	se <u>e</u> ven	co <u>e</u> n <u>s</u> istent
◦ -le	pebb <u>e</u>	app <u>e</u>
◦ -a-	hex <u>a</u> gon	cata <u>a</u> strophic
◦ -i-	opt <u>i</u> mism	pres <u>i</u> dent



Reading Multisyllabic Words



When reading longer words:

- Look for the vowel letters.
- Expand your vision to look for the vowel spellings.



First ask yourself:

- How many vowels do I see?
- Are they together or apart?



Then ask:

- Do I see a Latin chunk, prefix, suffix, or any other familiar endings or chunks?
- Do I see a vowel-consonant-e?
- Do I see a vowel team?
- Do I see an r-controlled vowel?
- Do I see a consonant-le?



Finally, ask:

- How many vowel spellings are there?
- How many syllables will there be?



Remember:

- Digraphs always stay together, but blends can be split down the middle. (es-tab-lish, quick-ly, com-plex)
- Doubled consonants are split down the middle. (puz-zle, ap-proach)
- When a vowel is by itself, not next to another vowel, it is usually the only vowel in the syllable. (fan-tas-tic, Wis-con-sin, e-lec-tri-cal)
- Vowel teams almost always stay together. (sea-son, main-tain, a-stound-ing)
- Vowels followed by an r almost always combine to spell an r-controlled vowel sound. (bur-den, floor-board, for-bid-den)



Glossary of Terms

- Prefixes and suffixes are often syllables. They stay on one *SyllaBoard*[™]. The vowel suffixes **-able** and **-ible** each have two vowel spellings and are each split between two *SyllaBoards*[™]. (dis-a-gree-ment, re-read, un-e-vent-ful, val-u-a-ble, in-flex-i-ble)
- If you see **-le** at the end of a word, it usually grabs the previous consonant and becomes a Consonant-le Syllable. (jun-gle, pur-ple, fiz-zle)
- The letters in Latin chunks (**tion**, **sion**, **ture**) work together to spell consistent sounds. They stay on one *SyllaBoard*[™]. (fic-tion, ad-mis-sion, fix-ture)

Common Vowel Spellings:

Long a

Most common: a (Open Syllable), a_e, ay, ai

Long e

Most common: e (Open Syllable), e_e, ee, ea, y

Less common: ie, ey

Long i

Most common: i (Open Syllable), i_e, y, igh

Less common: y_e

Long o

Most common: o (Open Syllable), o_e, oa, ow

Long u

Most common: u (Open Syllable), u_e

/or/ as in fork

Most common: or

Less common: our, ore, oor, oar



Glossary of Terms

/ar/ as in barn

Most common: ar

/er/ as in bird

Most common: er, ir, ur

Less common: ear, ar, or

/oo/ as in ooze

Most common: oo, u_e, ew, u

/ou/ as in ouch

Most common: ou, ow

/oi/ as in oink

Most common: oi, oy

/oo/ as in book

Most common: oo

Less common: u

/aw/ as in awesome

Most common: au, aw

Common Chunks and Endings

- Identifying prefixes, suffixes, Latin chunks, and other chunks in a word can help you decode the word more quickly.
- When you see one of these groups of letters in a word:
 - Read them as one chunk that almost always spells the same sounds.
 - Keep them together in the same syllable.
 - Once you have decoded the chunk, it is usually easier to figure out the syllable type of the syllable that comes before the chunk.



Glossary of Terms

Common chunks:	all	ing			
Vowel-ng chunks:	ang	ing	ong	ung	
Vowel-nk chunks:	ank	ink	onk	unk	
Latin chunks:	tion	sion	ture		
Consonant Suffixes:	-s	-less	-ness	-ment	-ful -ly
Vowel Suffixes:	-ed	-es	-ing	-er	-est -ous
	-y	-able	-ible		
Prefixes:	dis-	con-	un-	im-	in- re-
	pre-	pro-			

Latin Chunks

- Key info:

- Latin chunks are groups of letters that work together as whole units, or “chunks,” to spell consistent sounds.
- These chunks only occur in multisyllabic words.
- When you see a Latin chunk in a word, first separate the chunk from the rest of the word. It is then easier to decode the remaining syllables in the word.
- Latin chunk **tion** spells /shun/. (**na-tion, va-ca-tion**)
- Latin chunk **sion** spells /shun/ (**ses-sion, com-pre-hen-sion**) or /zhun/ (**vi-sion, ex-plo-sion**).
- Latin chunk **ture** spells /cher/. (**na-ture, fea-ture**)

- Examples:

mis	<u>sion</u>	fur	ni	<u>ture</u>
por	<u>tion</u>	di	vi	<u>sion</u>
fu	<u>ture</u>	con	nec	<u>tion</u>

Hard and Soft c and g

- Key info:

- The letters **c** and **g** can each spell two sounds, a hard sound and a soft sound.
- *Hard c* is /k/ as in **can**, and *soft c* is /s/ as in **city**.
- *Hard g* is /g/ as in **gulp**, and *soft g* is /j/ as in **gel**.
- When followed by **e**, **i**, or **y**, **c** and **g** usually spell their soft sounds.
- When followed by any other vowel letter, **c** and **g** usually spell their hard sounds.
- When followed by a consonant, **c** and **g** usually spell their hard sounds.

- Examples:

- *Hard c and g:*

g	r	a	b	c	r	a	sh
<u>g</u>	<u>r</u>			<u>c</u>	<u>r</u>		
gal	lon			can	dy		

- *Soft c and g:*

b	u	l	g	e	c	y	s	t
			<u>g</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>c</u>	<u>y</u>		
gym	nast				ex	er	cise	

Closed Syllable Exceptions

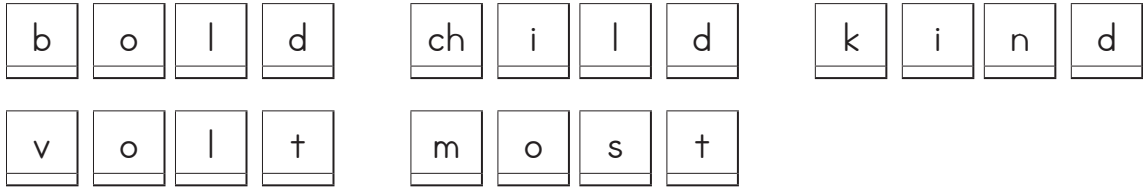
- Key info:

- Closed Syllable exceptions look like Closed Syllables, but the vowel letters do not spell the short vowel sounds we expect.



Glossary of Terms

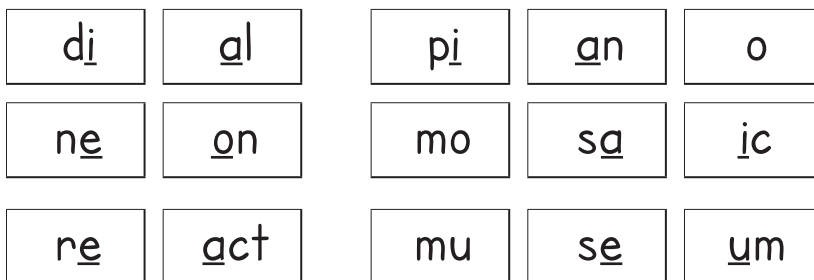
- The vowel sound in a Closed Syllable exception is long.
 - The five Closed Syllable exceptions are **old**, **ild**, **ind**, **olt**, and **ost**.
- Examples:



Split Vowels

- Key info:
 - Split vowels are two vowels next to each other that spell two separate vowel sounds.
 - Sometimes split vowels look like a common vowel team (**ai**, **oa**, **oi**), and sometimes they do not (**eo**, **ua**, **io**).
 - When you see two vowels next to each other in a word, they often work together as a vowel team to spell one vowel phoneme, but sometimes they are split into two different syllables because each one spells its own vowel phoneme.
 - The letter **i** in a split vowel sometimes spells the *long e* sound (**ra-di-o**, **glor-i-ous**). If it does not work to read the letter **i** as *long i* or *schwa*, try *long e* next.

- Examples:





Tracking Chart

Date

Reader 1

Reader 2

Reader 3

Accuracy %

Goal: 98% or better

%

%

%

%

%

%

%

%

%

%

100%

99%

98%

97%

96%

95%

94%

93%

92%

91%

90% or below

Words Correct
per Minute (WCPM)

140 or above

135-139

130-134

125-129

120-124

115-119

110-114

105-109

100-104

95-99

90-94

85-89

80-84

75-79

70-74

65-69

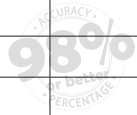
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55-59

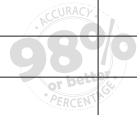
50-54

45-49

below 40



WAY TO GO!





Tracking Chart

Date

Reader 1

Reader 2

Reader 3

Accuracy %

Goal: 98% or better

%

%

%

%

%

%

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%

100%

99%

98%

97%

96%

95%

94%

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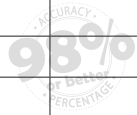
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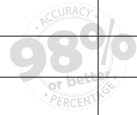
50-54

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below 40



WAY TO GO!





Tracking Chart

Date											
Reader 1											
Reader 2											
Reader 3											
Accuracy % Goal: 98% or better	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
100%											
99%											
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