

Dividing Syllables

Consonant-le Pattern

Grades 2–4

THE RULE

When a word ends in consonant + le, that ending forms its own syllable.
Count back THREE letters from the end and divide before the consonant. The 'e' is silent.

Examples: can / dle han / dle sam / ple pur / ple sin / gle

Memory Trick: "Consonant-le, go back THREE!"

SECTION 1 | Count back 3 letters from the end. Draw a line before the consonant.

Directions: Find the -le ending. Count back 3 letters. Draw your division line there.

handle

bottle

candle

cradle

sample

stifle

purple

muscle

single

humble

rifle

tickle

SECTION 2 | Circle the -le ending. Then divide the word into syllables.

Directions: These words have the -le ending hidden inside. Find it and divide correctly.

settlement

trifling

gentleman

sparkling

triangle

crumpled

paddling

whistle

circling

tremble

SECTION 3 | Challenge — Words with Multiple Syllables

Directions: These words have more than 2 syllables. Find ALL the syllable breaks, including the -le.

comfortable

incredible

reasonable

honorable

vegetable

memorable

fashionable

knowledgeable

terrible

favorable

TEACHER NOTES

- The consonant-le pattern is highly reliable — nearly all words ending in -le follow this rule.
- Emphasize that the 'e' is silent and the consonant before it gets its own syllable.
- Common confusion: Students may try to apply VCCV rules. Remind them to look for -le first.

Answers available in the combined Answer Key PDF at aiwwritekit.com