

Dividing Syllables

VCCV Pattern | The Rabbit Rule

Grades 1-3

THE RULE

When two consonants sit between two vowels (VCCV), divide BETWEEN the two consonants. Each syllable gets one vowel sound. This creates two manageable chunks to read.

Examples: rab / bit bas / ket nap / kin pic / nic mis / ter

Memory Trick: "Two consonants in the middle? Split right down the middle!"

SECTION 1 | Draw a line (/) between the syllables.

Directions: Look at each word. Find the two middle consonants and draw a line between them.

napkin

muffin

pencil

kitten

rabbit

cactus

picnic

plastic

contest

sandwich

bandit

hundred

SECTION 2 | Circle the two middle consonants. Then divide the word.

Directions: Circle the two consonants between the vowels. Then draw a line to divide the syllables.

pumpkin

locker

subtract

fantastic

frantic

splendid

quintet

blanket

kidnap

SECTION 3 | Challenge Words — Apply the Rabbit Rule

Directions: These words have more syllables. Still look for VCCV patterns and divide carefully.

monster	_____	connect	_____
trumpet	_____	collect	_____
insect	_____	distant	_____
magnetic	_____	inventor	_____
fantastic	_____	plastic	_____
suspense	_____	discuss	_____

TEACHER NOTES

- This worksheet focuses on the VCCV syllable division pattern, also known as the Rabbit Rule.
- Students should identify the two consonants between vowels and split between them.
- Common exceptions: words like "castle" or "bottle" follow the consonant-le rule instead.
- Follow-up: Have students read the divided syllables aloud to build fluency.

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