

Dividing Syllables

VCV Pattern | Open & Closed Syllables

Grades 2-4

THE RULE

Open Syllable: Divide BEFORE the consonant. The first vowel is LONG (says its name).

Example: si / lent (si = "sigh", long i) ze / ro (ze = "zee", long e)

Closed Syllable: Divide AFTER the consonant. The first vowel is SHORT.

Example: cab / in (cab = short a) clos / et (clos = short o)

Memory Trick: "Try one way. Does it sound like a real word? If not, try the other way!"

SECTION 1 | Open Syllables — Divide BEFORE the consonant (vowel is LONG)

Directions: The first vowel makes its LONG sound. Divide before the single consonant.

silent

reply

basic

deny

open

veto

zero

comedy

trophy

crazy

halo

spider

SECTION 2 | Closed Syllables — Divide AFTER the consonant (vowel is SHORT)

Directions: The first vowel makes its SHORT sound. Divide after the single consonant.

cabin

comet

closet

lemon

seven

pivot

robin

wagon

visit

melon

limit

habit

SECTION 3 | Mixed Practice — Decide: Open or Closed?

Directions: Look at each word. Decide if the first syllable is OPEN (long vowel) or CLOSED (short vowel). Then divide.

Word	Divide into Syllables	Open or Closed? (circle one)	
moment	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
paper	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
subject	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
tulip	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
fever	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
topic	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
total	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
finish	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
humor	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed
solid	_____	☐ Open	☐ Closed

TEACHER NOTES

- The VCV pattern is one of the trickiest for students because there are two valid ways to divide.
- Encourage students to try both ways and listen for which division creates a real word.
- This skill builds decoding flexibility and is essential for multisyllabic word reading.

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