

Dividing Syllables

Vowel Teams & V/V Pattern

Grades 3–5

THE RULE

Vowel Team Rule: When two vowels work together as a team (ai, ee, oa, ea, oi, oy), keep them in the SAME syllable.

Team Examples: beau / ty rain / fall be / tween coast / al

V/V Rule: When two vowels are NOT a team, split them into separate syllables.

V/V Examples: li / on di / et ra / di / o po / et

Memory Trick: "If the vowels make ONE sound, keep them together. If they make TWO sounds, split them apart!"

SECTION 1 | Vowel Teams — Keep the vowels together in the same syllable

Directions: Identify the vowel team. Keep those vowels together when you divide.

rainfall

throughout

between

awful

greatest

boasting

boastful

coastal

rooster

loyalty

friendship

rainbow

SECTION 2 | V/V Pattern — The vowels are NOT a team. Split them apart.

Directions: The two vowels make separate sounds. Divide between them.

lion

chaos

diet

naive

radio

reunion

poet

giant

create

ruin

cooperate

trial

SECTION 3 | Mixed Practice — Team or V/V?

Directions: Decide if the vowels are a TEAM (keep together) or V/V (split apart). Then divide.

Word	Divide into Syllables	Team or V/V? (circle one)	
beauty	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
poetry	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
cooperate	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
loyal	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
diet	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
boastful	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
giant	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
create	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
raincoat	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V
ruin	_____	☐ Team	☐ V/V

TEACHER NOTES

- Vowel teams are among the most reliable patterns in English. Once students know the teams, they rarely divide them.
- V/V words are less common but important. Students should listen for whether the vowels make one sound or two.
- Common vowel teams to review: ai, ay, ee, ea, oa, ow, oe, oi, oy, ou, ow, au, aw, oo

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