

Making Sense of the Seemingly Senseless

The Ever Amazing English Syllables

English Syllable Types

Syllable patterns make language predictable in most English words.

EVERY word has at least one sounded vowel.

EVERY syllable contains a vowel.

WORDS can be divided into syllables by spotting the single, paired, and/or separated vowels.

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Closed Syllable

One VOWEL with at least one consonant after it.

- it
- can
- stand
- fan*tastic

The vowel makes a short sound.
VC
CVC
CVCC

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Open Syllable

When a word or syllable ends with ONE final VOWEL it is left open.

- ll
- noo
- tii*ger
- bee*gan

The vowel makes a long sound.
V
CV
CV*~~CVC~~

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R-Controlled or Vowel-r

Syllable or word containing a VOWEL followed by an R.

- her
- for
- bird
- tur*tle

The vowel makes an unexpected sound.
Vr

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Vowel Pair

When a syllable has paired VOWELS.

- beee
- sooon
- piie
- tooy

The vowel sounds will need to be explicitly taught.
VV
*VV

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Vowel-consonant-e

When a syllable contains a Vce pattern.

- rake
- spike
- ath*lete
- cube

The vowel makes a long sound. The final e is silent.

VCe
*VCe

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Consonant+le

In multisyllabic words, a syllable in the final position represented with cLe.

- bub*ble
- tri*ple
- tur*tle

The vowel is silent.

*C+Le

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The Impact

How many students are in your class?

How many can learn to read effortlessly? (5%)

How many can learn with broad literacy instruction? (35%)

How many of your students need code-based, structured literacy instruction to become successful readers? (40-50%)

How many of your learners need repeated practice with a diagnostic, code-based, structured, multisensory and sequential literacy program? (10-15%)

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Adapted by Anne Stanard
(2001, 1996, 1987, 2000, 2001, 2010; Harpenichol, 2014)

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Syllable Strategy Process

When students encounter the target word to read, ask...

-How many sounded vowels are in the word?

-Are they together or separated by a consonant or multiple consonants?

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Strategy Reminders:

Remind students to divide in the following way...

1. *Separate sounded vowels* are placed on separate sections.
(silent e will stay on the syllable with the last sounded vowel. CLe syllables will have their own syllable section.)
2. Place consonants on cards in proper places.
3. Decode each syllable section.
4. Blend syllables to read the multisyllabic word.

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Example: "fantastic"

How many sounded vowels? 3
Together or Separate? (Separate)
Write the vowels on separate lines.
Write the consonants in order.
Decode each syllable. (Use knowledge of syllable types/vowel sounds.)
Blend all syllables.

a a i

fan tas tic

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