

TIPS FOR TEACHERS



1725 East Mountain View Road
Phoenix, AZ 85020-2345
www.readskill.com

SYLLABICATION RULES

READING MANIPULATIVES PRODUCT: Syllable Sorts

| P/R/S | VC/CV | VC/V | V/CV |
|----------|----------|-------|--------|
| nonsense | dentist | study | rumor |
| fiercely | sentence | river | focus |
| climbing | pumpkin | olive | vacant |

STEP 1:

Divide off affixes.

STEP 2:

Divide between consonants.

STEPS 3 & 4:

If one consonant is between vowels, divide after long vowel or after consonant if vowel is short.

Students consider all syllabication rules as they break down two-syllable words.

Students sort 36 words in each set by 4 basic rules, applying them in order. This material provides abundant practice, thereby allowing students to see patterns and decode rapidly.

Once students have worked through the 12 sets, they are ready to apply steps to longer words. Improving syllabication consciousness is a valuable spelling aid.

Syllable Sorts

310

\$ 30

TEACHING STRATEGIES: Assure that students have prerequisite phonics skills

Students who need to use syllabication to decode words must be taught syllabication rules holistically. When they apply basic rules in steps, they begin to recognize patterns and break down unknown words. Initially, the rules are applied to two-syllable rules. Once students learn the patterns, the same rules are used to break down longer words.

Even those students who read words with ease in context generally improve spelling accuracy if they become more cognizant of word structure and syllabication patterns.

Students should possess certain prerequisite skills and concepts before being taught the syllabication rules. Frequently, it is necessary to review short and long vowels, as well as prefixes/root words/suffixes, before proceeding with syllabication. You will see why as you review the following foundation concepts.

- Each syllable must contain a sounded vowel. It can be a single vowel sound (i•de•a) or used with one or more consonant sounds (be•gin).
- There are two kinds of syllables: open and closed. A closed syllable ends with a consonant and the vowel is usually short (or a schwa). An open syllable ends with a vowel that is generally long (clo•ver, e•vent). The vowel may be a y pronounced as /e/ (fun•ny) or occasionally /i/ (my•self).
- Since the first rule deals with dividing between root words and affixes, students must be familiar with prefixes, suffixes, and root words.
- Digraphs, or two consonants that make a single sound (ch, sh, th, wh, ng, nk, ng, ck, ...), cannot be divided (buck•le, noth•ing, cash•ier, bush•el, fur•ther).
- In some cases, blends are not divided (se•cret, mi•grate, ze•bra). Do not preteach since students discover this when identifying open vs. closed syllables.

MAKING MATERIALS: Syllable Sorts

1. Line off cover-weight sheets of paper (8.5 x 11 inches) into 10 horizontal strips (1.1”).
2. Draw vertical lines at 4.25” (center), 2.125” (center left column), and 6.375” (center right column).
3. Use the accompanying syllabication resource list. Write the 4 rules at the tops of the columns
4. Write 9 words for each rule below it.
5. Sets must be coded in some way. This can be done with codes or color.
6. Laminate cards. Cut apart and place pieces in zipper bags or other storage devices.
7. Create a checklist to track the completed sets.

SYLLABICATION RULES — APPLY IN ORDER

P/R/S — Check the word for prefixes and suffixes. The first step is to divide between them and the root word. If necessary, affixes need to be reviewed with the students (farm•er, read•ing, mis•take).

VC/CV — Check for multiple consonants together between vowels. Divide between the consonants (can•dy, hap•py, el•bow).

If a word has one consonant between vowels, decide whether the first vowel is long or short.

V/CV — If the vowel is long, divide after the vowel leaving an open syllable (fa•vor, sea•son, stu•pid).

VC/V — Otherwise, divide after the consonant leaving a closed syllable (hon•ey, plur•al, drag•on).

Students consider all of the rules as they sort the words. By the time they have completed several of the Syllable Sorts, they begin to see the patterns. Soon they have the strategies they need to break down unknown multisyllabic words.

SYLLABLE SORTS

Draw lines. Write the syllabication rules at the top of each column. Then write 9 words that follow each rule below it (RM product 310).

| P / R / S | VC / CV | V / CV | VC / V |
|-----------|---------|--------|--------|
| asking | allow | clover | camel |
| beside | center | eager | closet |
| brighter | clumsy | haven | finish |
| lovely | grammar | ladle | honey |
| prepaid | hello | major | modern |
| restless | humble | photo | robin |
| sliding | signal | rumor | shovel |
| tallest | silly | season | vision |
| unkind | suggest | tiny | widow |

SYLLABICATION – LONGER WORDS

The same rules are applied to divide words of 3 or more syllables (RM product 320). In the sample below, division lines have been inserted.

| Divide into syllables. Apply rules in order. | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Prefix / Root / Suffix 1. Remove affixes. | VC / CV 2. Look for multiple consonants in middle. First syllable is closed. | VC / V Closed syllable (short / schwa) 3. Determine whether syllable is open or closed. | V / CV Open syllable (long / schwa) |
| in dus try | pa tri ot ic | ex pla na tion | |
| com pu ter | ab sorb ing | com mun i cate | |
| cul ti vat ed | gra cious ly | ac ci den tal | |
| dis ap pear ance | sup ple ment | ap pro pri ate | |
| un con di tion al | con struc tion | triv i al | |
| gen er a tion | ben e fi cial | hy dro gen | |
| sup er vi sor | cel e bra tion | trans por ta tion | |
| con ser va tion | un sus pect ing | ad ver tise ment | |
| es tab lish | ac cept a ble | per son al i ty | |
| re place ment | stim u la tion | de mol ish | |

RESOURCE LIST: Two-syllable words

| P/R/S | | VC/CV | | VC/V | | V/CV | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Identify and remove affixes | | Divide between consonants | | First syllable closed (short) | | First syllable open (long) | |
| act•or | loud•er | af•ter | hel•lo | at•om | mon•ey | ba•by | mo•tor |
| art•ist | luck•y | ap•ple | hel•met | bod•y | nick•el | ba•con | mu•sic |
| ask•ing | mis•pell | ar•row | hur•ry | both•er | nov•el | ba•gel | na•tion |
| bash•ful | mis•take | ath•lete | kit•ten | buck•et | ol•ive | ba•sic | no•tion |
| be•side | morn•ing | bal•loon | lad•der | cab•in | pan•ic | be•gin | o•bey |
| big•ger | nois•y | bas•ket | let•ter | cam•el | ped•al | be•hind | o•dor |
| blind•ness | non•sense | ber•ry | let•tuce | chap•el | pet•al | ca•ble | o•pen |
| bold•ly | pack•age | blis•ter | lob•ster | chis•el | pit•y | ce•dar | o•val |
| book•let | pain•less | bot•tle | lum•ber | cit•y | piv•ot | ce•ment | pa•per |
| boss•y | part•ly | bun•ny | mat•tress | civ•il | plan•et | cli•mate | pho•to |
| breath•less | pay•ment | but•ter | mon•key | clev•er | pres•ent | clo•ver | pi•lot |
| bumpy | peace•ful | but•ton | mon•ster | clin•ic | prof•it | co•coa | po•ny |
| care•ful | plant•ed | cab•bage | nap•kin | clos•et | prop•er | cra•dle | pret•end |
| climb•ing | play•ful | can•dle | of•fice | col•umn | pun•ish | de•cay | priv•ate |
| clos•est | pre•view | can•dy | pat•tern | com•et | quiv•er | de•mand | pu•pil |
| cloud•less | quick•ly | car•rot | pen•cil | cop•y | rad•ish | de•stroy | ra•dar |
| com•ing | rain•y | cat•tle | pen•ny | cred•it | rap•id | di•gest | ra•zor |
| count•less | real•ly | chan•nel | pic•nic | crit•ic | reb•el | do•nate | rea•son |
| cream•y | re•fill | cir•cle | pic•ture | dev•il | rel•ic | do•nor | re•cess |
| cry•ing | re•pay | cof•fee | pis•tol | dig•it | rel•ish | du•ty | re•gard |
| dark•ness | rest•ful | com•mon | plas•tic | drag•on | rig•id | ea•ger | re•sist |
| dear•est | sad•ly | com•pete | plen•ty | fin•ish | riv•er | ea•sel | ri•val |
| deep•er | salt•y | con•test | prob•lem | for•est | rob•in | e•qual | ro•bot |
| dis•cover | sleep•y | con•tract | pup•py | frag•ile | sal•ad | e•ven | ro•tate |
| dream•ing | slow•est | cot•ton | pump•kin | grav•el | sav•age | e•vil | ru•mor |
| drop•per | small•er | coun•cil | pur•ple | hab•it | schol•ar | fe•ver | se•cret |
| drown•ing | soft•ly | cur•rent | rab•bit | hon•ey | sev•en | fi•nal | si•lent |
| end•less | sog•gy | cus•tom | rib•bon | hon•or | sher•iff | fla•vor | si•ren |
| ex•port | stop•ping | den•tist | scis•sors | im•age | shiv•er | fo•cus | so•da |
| farm•er | sub•way | diz•zy | sen•tence | lem•on | shov•el | glo•bal | so•lo |
| fear•ful | sweet•er | el•bow | sig•nal | lev•el | shriv•el | gro•cer | spi•der |
| fore•cast | tall•est | en•joy | sil•ly | lil•y | stud•y | he•ro | stu•pid |
| fool•ish | thank•ful | fan•cy | sis•ter | lim•it | tim•id | ho•tel | su•per |
| friend•ly | think•ing | fif•teen | soc•cer | lin•en | top•ic | ho•ly | ta•ble |
| fur•ry | thirst•y | fil•ter | sub•ject | liz•ard | trag•ic | hu•mor | ti•dy |
| grace•ful | thought•ful | fol•low | sum•mer | log•ic | trav•el | id•le | ti•ger |
| hand•y | throw•ing | for•bid | tar•get | mag•ic | trop•ic | it•em | to•tal |
| hard•en | tract•or | for•get | thun•der | man•age | ven•om | la•bel | tu•na |
| hill•y | treat•ment | fran•tic | tur•key | med•al | vig•or | la•dy | u•nite |
| hot•ter | un•fair | fun•ny | whis•per | men•u | vis•it | le•gal | va•cant |
| im•prove | vast•ly | gen•tle | win•dow | met•al | viv•id | lo•cate | va•por |
| itch•y | want•ed | gos•sip | win•ter | mim•ic | vol•ume | ma•jor | vir•us |
| joy•ous | warm•est | ham•ster | wis•dom | min•ute | wag•on | mi•nus | wa•ger |
| love•ly | wind•y | hap•pen | won•der | mod•ern | wid•ow | mo•ment | ze•ro |