

Improving Accuracy: Literacy Basics for Your Adult Learners

Part 2: It's All About the Vowel Sound: Syllable Types and Division Patterns

First Literacy Professional Development Session
Friday, June 3, 2022



Guiding Question



In what ways can knowledge of syllable types improve students' decoding and spelling of regular pattern English words?

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the 6 syllable types in English and explore how syllable patterns dictate the sound of the vowel
- Divide two-syllable words with vc/cv and v/cv division patterns
- Explore activities to practice skills in the adult learner classroom

Why?

- Over 80% of English words follow predictable patterns for decoding.
- Teaching phonics patterns gives students confidence to apply strategies to unknown words.
- Without a strategy for chunking longer words into manageable parts, students may look at a longer word and simply resort to guessing what it is - or altogether skipping it.

Why do we teach Syllable Types?



*It's all about
the vowel
sound!*

Syllable Types in English

Closed

Has one vowel closed in on the end by one or more consonants (other than R)

The vowel sound is short.

Examples: *in, off, mat, next, plant, sprint, nap/kin*

Vowel-consonant-e (Silent E)

Has a vowel-consonant-silent e pattern

The e makes the vowel sound long.

Examples: *make, line, slope, mule, Steve, in/vite*

R-Controlled

Has one vowel followed by R

The vowel sound is controlled by the R.

Examples: *horn, card, her, bird, burst, for/get, tar/nish*

Short Vowels



Over 40% of words in English
have at least 1 short vowel sound

flash misread subtraction

Short Vowels

- Often the most difficult sounds for our students to distinguish
- Use key words, pictures, and/or hand gestures to help unlock the sounds.



a



i



o

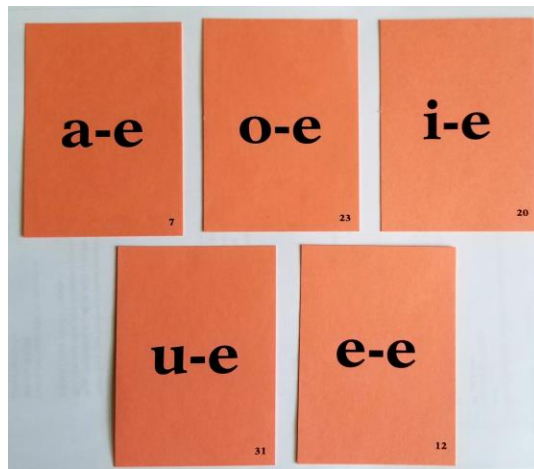


u



e

Silent e



u-e has
two
sounds:

/ū/ cube
/oo/ rule

Shifting between closed and silent e

can - cane
cap - cape
hat - hate
mad - made
plan - plane
rat - rate
Sam - same
Pet - Pete
tap - tape
din - dine
fin - fine
grip - gripe
kit - kite

pin - pine
quit - quite
shin - shine
slim - slime
twin - twine
win - wine
cop - cope
glob - globe
hop - hope
rob - robe
slop - slope
cub - cube
cut - cute

R-Controlled Vowels



R-Controlled Vowels

- or – horn - /or/
- ar – car - /ar/
- er – her - /er/
- ir – bird - /er/
- ur – turn - /er/



All have the
same sound!

Sort and read the syllables

Closed (cap)	Silent e (cape)	R-controlled (corn)
trend	fume	fork
swift	grove	stern
crust	mute	squirt
scare	squire	

Why Teach Syllable Division?



it
item

- Knowing how to read ***it*** does not mean you can read ***item***.
- Recognizing syllable patterns and where to break words into syllables **helps you read the vowel sound correctly.**

Syllable Division: VC/CV Pattern

- Steps:
 - Underline the vowels; mark V on top of them.
 - Look *between* the vowels; mark C on top of the consonants.
 - Divide between the Cs.
 - Read each syllable.

vc/cv
nap/k^ˌin

Practice



cactus

intend

upset

tonsil

dentist

gossip

goblin

candid

submit

suspend

invent

rustic

Flip cards

- This is a half-step before syllable division.
- Write one syllable on each side of the card and flip it for blending.

con

test

flippity.net to make
virtual flashcards

VC/CV Pattern w/Silent e

- Steps:
 - Underline the vowels; mark V on top of them; cross out the silent e.
 - Look *between* the vowels; mark C on top of the consonants.
 - Divide between the Cs.
 - Read each syllable.

vc/cv

in/vite

Practice



tadpole

dictate

trombone

stampede

umpire

mandate

costume

concave

invade

mundane

admire

confide

Decodable Sentences

absent

rabbit

inhale

dentist

- I do not like to _____ smoke.
- The bill from the _____ was \$300.00.
- I will not be _____ from class

VC/CV Pattern with r-controlled vowels

- Steps:
 - Underline the **vowels**; mark V on top of them.
 - Look *between* the vowels; mark C on top of the **consonants**.
 - Divide between the Cs.
 - Read each syllable.

VC/CV
tar/get

Practice



artist

forbid

harvest

morbid

perfect

tarnish

hornet

garnet

dirty

border

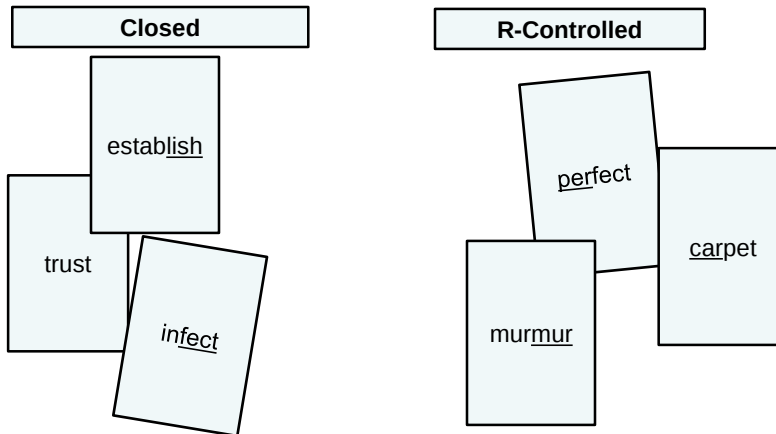
faster

burlap

bigger

skirmish

Categorizing by Pattern



Dividing longer words

Atlantic
 forgotten
 misconduct
 fantastic
 compensate
 inconsistent
 eclectic

Syllable Types in English

Vowel Team

Has two vowels together; they make a special vowel sound.

Examples: ***snail, tray, tree, speak, boat, sound, spoil, boy, grow, saw***

**W functions as a vowel in these "teams": aw, ew, ow*

Open

Ends in one vowel.

The vowel sound is usually long.

Examples: ***re, pro, we, fu, li, she, so/lo, ra/ven, (pre/vent)*** *schwa

Consonant-LE

Has a consonant followed by le. The e does not make a sound, but the syllable has a vowel sound. Consonant-le never comes at the beginning of a word.

Examples: ***bu/gle, ruf/fle, mar/ble, puz/zle, spar/kle, stee/ple***

Vowel Teams

ee - feet

ay - play

ea - eat, bread

ai - sail

oa - boat

oo - moon, book

ou - out

ow - plow, snow

igh - light

oi - boil

oy - boy

au - auto

aw - jaw

ie - piece, pie

oe - toe

ew - few, grew

ue - rescue, blue

ey - valley

ei - ceiling, vein

Vowel Teams

- Steps:
 - Underline the vowels; mark V on top of them. Put one V for a team.
 - Look *between* the vowels; mark C on top of the consonants.
 - Divide between the Cs.
 - Read each syllable.

VC/CV

can/teen

Practice



harpoon

treatment

flounder

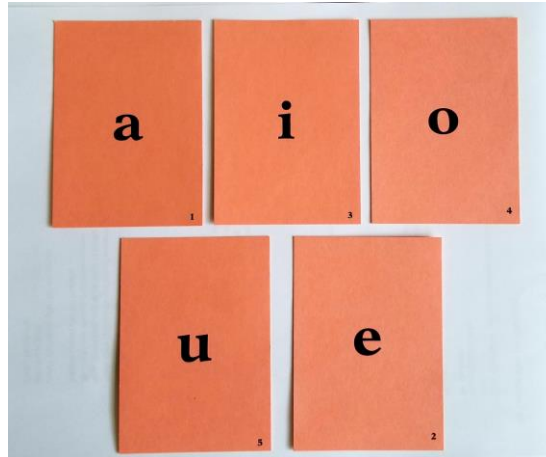
dreamlike

cartoon

contain

enjoy

Open syllable



Syllable Division: V/CV Pattern

- Steps:
 - Underline the vowels; mark V on top of them.
 - Look *between* the vowels; mark C on top of the consonant.
 - Divide after the first vowel.
 - Read each syllable.

V/CV

ra/ven

pro/file

ve/to

Practice



hotel

rodent

lazy

vocal

silent

feline

even

tirade

final

crisis

humid

lotus

Consider VCV

raven

robin



- Divide after the first vowel so that the first syllable is open; ~80% of the time this is the case. *ho/tel, ha/lo, mu/sic, el/ject, spi/der, ba/by*
- If it doesn't sound right, divide after the middle consonant as in *rob/in, riv/er, cab/in*

Syllable Division: /consonant-le

- Steps:
 - If you see a word with a consonant-le at the end,
 - Count back 3 and cut.

fum/ble

poo/dle

sta/ple

chor/tle

Consonant-le syllable type

*Count back three and cut:

middle

title

purple

giggle

bugle

sparkle

tremble

maple

chortle

paddle

trifle

gargle

Divide the words and sort the syllables

ra/ven chortle alcove abrogate
 umpire cartoon farmer bugle
 mistake forlorn solo puzzle
 eagle needle outlaw feline

Closed	Silent e	Open	Vowel team	R-controlled	Consonant - le
<i>ven</i>		<i>ra</i>			

Decodable Sentences

canine

irate

hotel

refund

- I hope the shop will _____ my cash.
- The cab driver was more than mad; she was _____.
- Did you hope to stay at the _____ in Portland?

Spelling Considerations

- Spelling words should be carefully selected for beginners. Consider avoiding spelling options and unaccented vowel sounds in initial lessons.

Yes:

selfish

hotel

cartoon

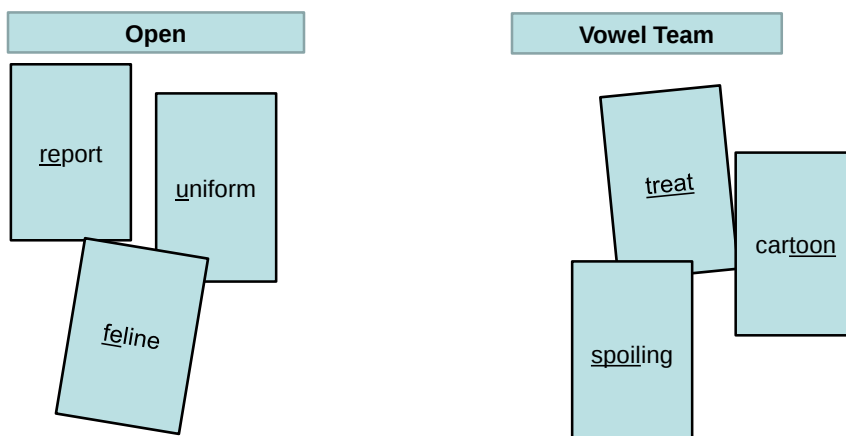
No:

seldom

melon

remain

Categorizing by Pattern



Thank you for your dedication!

**Lisa M. Brooks, Ed.D. Principal Director
& Orton-Gillingham Fellow
Professional Training Institute
Commonwealth Learning Center
lbrooks@commlearn.com
commlearntesting.com
@commlearnPTI**