

The Six Syllable Types

Understanding the six syllable types helps children know how to read the vowel sound in a word. Instead of guessing, kids learn to recognize predictable patterns.

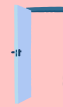


closed

Rule: When a consonant is at the end, the vowel is short.

bug, pot

Tip: Always look at the vowel first and check what comes after it!



open

Rule: A vowel at the end makes the vowel sound long.

go, me

Tip: Long vowels say their name. u says /u/ and /oo/ when it's long.



magic e

Rule: When a word ends in vowel-consonant-e, the e can jump over one consonant to make the vowel say its name.

bike, made

Tip: e can only jump over one consonant to make the vowel long.

vowel teams

Rule: Two vowels come together to make one sound.

bean, rain

Tip: Diphthongs fall under the vowel team syllable type. These make a sliding sound (ow, ou, oi, oy, ew, ue, aw, au).



r-controlled

Rule: When an "r" follows a vowel, it changes the vowel sound.

corn, farm

Tip: When there is an r after a vowel, it distorts the sound, and it will no longer be short or long.

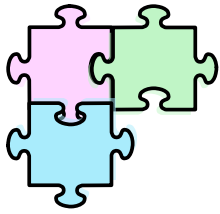


consonant le

Rule: 1, 2, 3, consonant le.

cable, humble

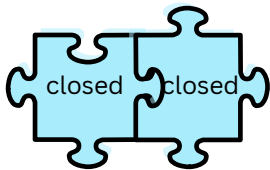
Tip: Your job is figure out if the first syllable is open or closed. Start at the "e" and count back "1 (e), 2 (l), 3 (consonant), bracket it off. Now look at the first syllable: Is it open or closed?



Putting the Syllables Together

Think of words as puzzles and syllable types as the puzzle pieces. They fit together to make words. And here's the **golden rule**:

Every time a vowel is separated from the next vowel by one or more consonants, it creates a new syllable. This is how kids break big words into readable chunks.



VCCV
words

Always look for the vowels first. If there are two consonants, cut between them.

Say: "Look between the vowels, cut between the consonants."

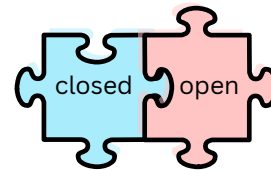
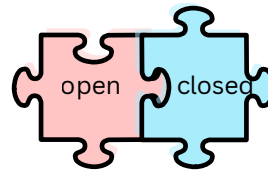
nap.kin vel.vet un.til

VCCCV Words

When you see **3 consonants between the vowels**, the goal is to figure out which two consonants stay together. Here are the clues:

1. Digraphs stay together (sh, th, ck, ch)
2. Initial blends stay together
3. Final blends stay together

dol.phin in.spect pump.kin

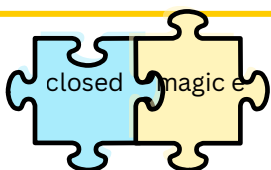


V.CV
VC.V
Words

Step 1. Divide the word after the **first** vowel (V/CV) Vowel at the end, the vowel is long (open). If it's not a word, try Step 2. Divide after the consonant (VC/V) Consonant at the end, the vowel is short (closed).

Say: "When there is one consonant between two vowels, you can cut the words two ways. First, try after the first vowel."

ro.bot sev.en la.dy ha.lo

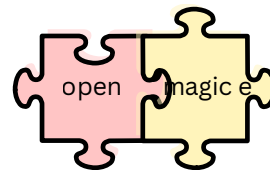


VCVce
words

After dividing by syllable, check for each syllable type. Remind them of each rule.

Say: "Look between the vowels, cut between the consonants."

cup.cake sun.shine

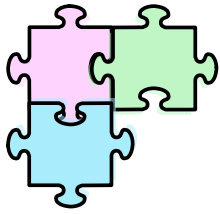


VCVce
words

Find the vowels first. There's one consonant between two vowels. Cut the syllables into open + magic e. Remind kids of the rule.

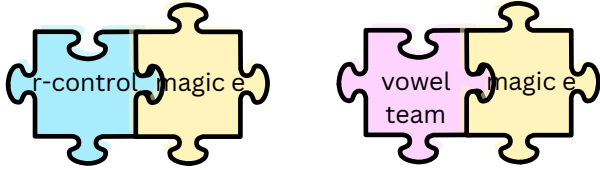
Say: "When there's one consonant between two vowels, first cut after the first vowel."

lo.cate re.quire



Putting the Syllables Together

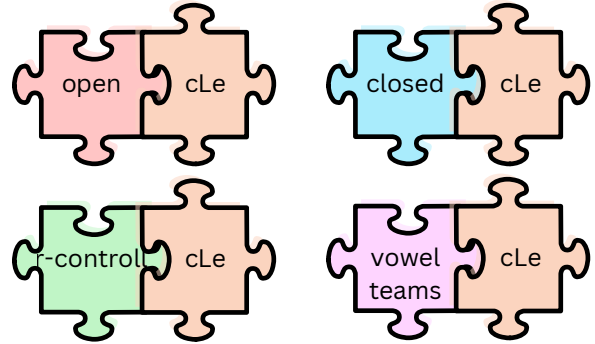
Multisyllabic (long) words can contain any combination of syllable types in any order. What matters is uncovering which types make up the word once it is divided.



Always look for the vowels first. If there are two consonants, cut between them.

Say: "Look between the vowels, cut between the consonants."

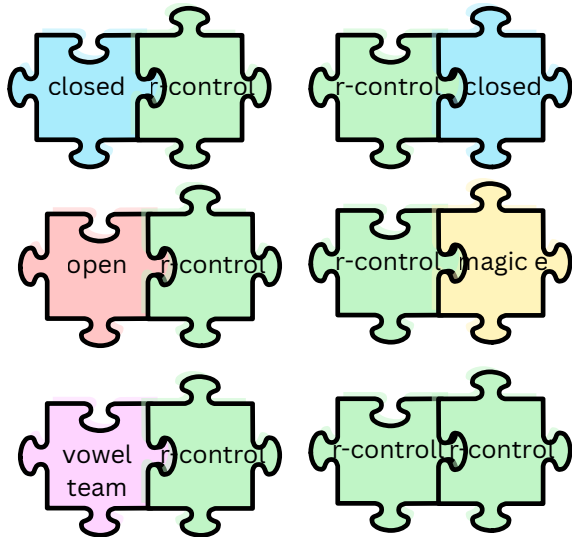
nap.kin vel.vet un.til



Isolate the consonant le syllable first, bracket it off, and then check the first syllable for its syllable type.

Say: Start at the e and count backward: "1 (e), 2 (l), 3 (consonant), consonant le (bracket off)."

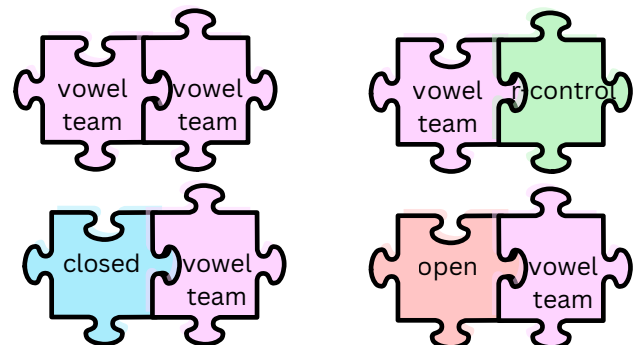
ca[ble bee[tle
bub[ble tur[tle



Find the vowels first and then break into syllables.

Say: "Look between the vowels, cut between the consonants."

pon.der her.mit
tor.so for.gave
show.er barn.yard



If there are two consonants between the vowels, you will usually still cut between them. If there are three consonant or one, the same rules apply in VCCCV and VCV.

mush.room en.joy pea.nut