

LEARNING SYLLABICATION

THE FOUR WAYS TO DIVIDE WORDS INTO SYLLABLES

1st Way - Divide between two middle consonants.

Split up words that have two middle consonants. For example: hap/pen, bas/ket, let/ter, sup/per, din/ner, and Den/nis. The only exceptions are the consonant digraphs. Never split up consonant digraphs as they really represent only one sound. Exceptions are "th", "sh", "ph", "th", "ch", and "wh".

2nd Way: Usually divide before a single middle consonant.

When there is only one syllable, you usually divide in front of it, as in: "o/pen", "i/tem", "e/vil", and "re/port". The only exceptions are those times when the first syllable has an obvious short sound, as in "cab/in".

3rd Way: Divide before the consonant before an "-le" syllable.

When you have a word that has the old-style spelling in which the "-le" sounds like "-el", divide before the consonant before the "-le". For example: "a/ble", "fum/ble", "rub/ble", "mum/ble" and "thi/stle". The only exceptions to this are "ckle" words like "tick/le".

4th Way - Divide off compound words, prefixes, or suffixes with vowel sounds.

Split off the parts of compound words like "sports/car" and "house/boat". Divide off prefixes such as "un/happy", "pre/paid", or "re/write". Also divide off suffixes as in the words "farm/er", "teach/er", "hope/less" and "care/ful". In the word "stop/ping", the suffix is actually "-ping" because this word follows the rule that when you add "-ing" to a word with one syllable, you double the last consonant and add the "-ing".

THE SIX TYPES OF SYLLABLES

Syllable Type 1:

CLOSED

There are two types of closed syllables:

a) A short vowel closed and b) a long vowel w/silent e closed

- a) Examples of short vowels closed syllables: **dap-ple**
hos-tel
bev-er-age

This is a syllable with a short vowel, spelled with a single vowel letter ending in one or more consonants.

- b) Examples of long vowel w/silent e closed syllables: **com-pete**
des-pite

This is a syllable with a long vowel, spelled with one vowel + one consonant + silent e.

Syllable Type 2:

OPEN

Examples: **pro**-gram
ta-ble
re-cent

This is a syllable that ends with a long vowel sound, spelled with a single vowel letter.

Syllable Type 3:

Vowel Team

(including diphthongs)

Examples: **aw**-ful
train-er
con-geal
spoil-age

These are syllables with long or short vowel spellings that use two to four letters to spell the vowel. Diphthongs ou/ow and oi/oy are included in this category.

Syllable Type 4:

Vowel-r (r-controlled)

Examples: in-**jur**-i-ous
con-sort
char-ter

This is a syllable with er, ir, or, ar, or ur.

The Vowel pronunciation often changes before /r/.

Syllable Type 5:

Consonant-le (C-le)

Examples: drib-**ble**
bea-**gle**
lit-**tle**

This is an unaccented final syllable that contains a consonant before /l/, followed by a silent e.

Syllable Type 6:

Leftovers: Odd and Schwa syllables

Examples: dam-**age**
act-**ive**
na-**tion**

These syllables are usually final, unaccented syllables with odd spellings.