

Common Syllable Patterns

Pattern	Generalization	Examples	Comments
Closed VC CVC CCVC CVCC CCVCC CCCVCC	One vowel followed by a consonant. The vowel will be short. Divide after the consonant.	land top stump less splash fantastic	Must be able to classify letters as vowels or consonants
Silent e (magic e)	–VCE pattern (one vowel, followed by one consonant, followed by a silent e that ends the syllable)	plane tide use chime theme ape stroke hope	Words like <i>noise</i> , <i>prince</i> , and <i>dance</i> are <u>not</u> silent e, even though they end in a silent e, because they do not have the –VCE pattern ; <i>noise</i> has a –VVCE pattern and <i>prince</i> and <i>dance</i> have a –VCCE pattern .
Open	Has only one vowel that is the last letter of the syllable.	he, she, we, no, go, flu, by, spy	This syllable type becomes especially useful as children progress to two-syllable words. For example, the <i>ti</i> in <i>title</i> , <i>lo</i> in <i>lotion</i> , and <i>ra</i> in <i>raven</i> are all open syllables.

Handout #4a Common Phonics Syllable Patterns Answer Key

Vowel combination (vowel team)	Has a vowel pattern in it (e.g., <i>ay, ai, aw, all, ie, igh, ow, ee, ea</i>).	stay, plain, straw, fall, pie, piece, night, grow, cow	There are some vowel patterns that involve consonants. (<i>igh, all, ew, ay, ou, oy, ow</i>)
Vowel <i>r</i> (bossy <i>r, r</i> -controlled)	Has only one vowel followed immediately by an (<i>ar, er, ir, or, ur</i>).	ark, charm, her, herd, stir, born, fork, urn	
Compound	Divide between the two words in a compound word	back/pack lamp/shade bed/room work/book	To be a true compound word, each of the smaller words must carry meaning
VCCV	VC /CV Divide between the two consonants	or/bit ig/loo tun/nel lan/tern	Exception: -consonant digraphs (<i>sh, th, ph, ch</i>) are never separated. Treat these as VCV words.
-CLE	Word ends in consonant-le syllable, always divide right before the -CLE	ma/ple stum/ble i/dle nee/dle gig/gle	Some programs call this a final stable syllable -CLE

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-VCV (Vowel- consonant - vowel)	First divide before the consonant and sounding out. If it does not result in a recognizable word - try dividing after	hu/mid mu/sic go/pher plan/et com/et meth/od	To recognize which choice is correct, a child must have the word in his/her oral vocabulary.
Other Patterns	Generalization	Examples	Comments
Prefix	Divide immediately after the prefix	pre/view mis/trust un/wise re/mind	Sometimes a base word is a new word and not recognized by the student.
Suffix	Divide the word immediately before the suffix	glad/ly sad/ness care/less hope/ful state/ment na/ture frac/ture	Same as above. Informational text has lots of words with Latin and Greek roots.