

# Foundations® Six Types of Syllables in English

## Closed Syllable

- 1 This syllable can only have **one vowel**.
- 2 The vowel is followed by **one or more consonants** (closed in).
- 3 The vowel sound is **short**, marked with a breve (˘).
- 4 This syllable can be combined with other syllables to make **multisyllabic** words.

Examples

up hat ship last

Mark-up Sample

lăst  
c

## Vowel-Consonant-e Syllable

- 1 This syllable has a **vowel**, then a **consonant**, then an **e**.
- 2 The first vowel has a **long** sound, marked with a macron (ˉ).
- 3 The **e** is silent.
- 4 This syllable can be combined with other syllables to make **multisyllabic** words.

Examples

bike ape stove

Mark-up Sample

stōve′  
v-e

## Open Syllable

- 1 This syllable has only **one vowel** which is the last letter in the syllable.
- 2 The vowel sound is **long**, marked with a macron (ˉ).
- 3 This syllable can be combined with other syllables to make **multisyllabic** words.

Examples

I be shy hi

Mark-up Sample

hī  
o

## R-Controlled Syllable

- 1 This syllable contains a single vowel followed by an **r** (**ar**, **er**, **ir**, **or**, **ur**).
- 2 The vowel is neither **long** nor **short**; it is controlled by the **r**.
- 3 This syllable can be combined with other syllables to make **multisyllabic** words.

Examples

start fir hurt art

Mark-up Sample

art  
r

## Double Vowel - "D" Syllable

- 1 This syllable contains a **vowel digraph** or a **diphthong**. These are vowel teams.
- 2 This syllable can be combined with other syllables to make **multisyllabic** words.

**Vowel Digraph:** Two vowels together that represent one sound (ee).

**Diphthong:** A sound that begins with one vowel sound and glides into another (oi).

Examples

beat feel eight new

Mark-up Sample

new  
d

## Consonant-le Syllable

- 1 This syllable has only three letters: a **consonant**, an **l**, and an **e**.
- 2 The **e** is silent. It is the vowel. Every syllable needs at least one vowel. The consonant and the l are sounded like a blend.
- 3 This syllable must be the last syllable in a **multisyllabic** word.

Examples

cradle little bubble

Mark-up Sample

bub ble′  
-le