

Syllable Types

Every word is made from syllables. The English language has 6 syllable types:

Open, Closed, R-controlled, Vowel Team, Silent-e, and C-le.

Open Syllable

- An open syllable has only one vowel. The vowel has a long sound (like the 'i' in *line*) and is the last letter of the syllable.
- Open syllables have only one consonant between the open syllable and the next vowel.
- *examples: ba-by, fe-male, i-vy, fro-zen, & Cu-pid*

Closed Syllable

- A closed syllable has only one vowel. The vowel has a short sound (like the 'i' in *mill*).
- If the word is only 2 letters, it must end with a consonant.
 - *examples: in, on, of, at, & it*
- If the word is 3+ letters, a closed syllable has 1 consonant before and 1+ consonants after the vowel.
 - *examples: cat, catch, net, nest, web, man, roll, & bark*
- If a word has 2 closed syllables next to each other, there will be two consonants between the vowels.
 - *examples: win-ter, sum-mer, com-mon, & tem-per*

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R-Controlled Syllable

- An r-controlled syllable is a **vowel**, **diphthong**, or **triphthong** with an “r” or a “re” after it.
 - *examples: deer, whis-per, worth, care, & fire*
- R-controlled vowels are pronounced differently way because they are “controlled” by the r.
 - **er**, **ur**, & **ir** vowels sound like the **er** in “her”
 - *examples: per, fur, her, birth, shirt, & hurt*
 - some **ar** vowels sound like the **ar** in “far”
 - *examples: par, far, car, & star*
 - other **ar** vowels sound like the **ar** in “share”
 - *examples: pair, hare, hair, & stare*
 - **or** vowels sound like the **or** in “for”
 - *examples: or, for, floor, & door*

Vowel Team Syllable

- A vowel team syllable is a group of 2 - 4 letters, usually vowels, which make a 1 vowel sound.
- If a vowel team is made of 2 vowels, usually only the first vowel is pronounced.
 - *examples: rain, fail, suit, & clean*
- A vowel team can create a long or short vowel sound.
 - *examples: toast, look, saw, feel, wear, & bread*
- If a vowel team syllable has a consonant in it, the vowel is usually pronounced differently from normal vowels.
 - *examples: walk, loud, sound, though, te-di-ous, tight, & straw*
- **Fun fact:** Vowels teams are usually old words whose pronunciation changed over long periods of time. They're only learned through practice and recognition.

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Silent-e (VCe) Syllable

- The silent-e syllable is also called **VCe**, which stands for **Vowel-Consonant-e**.
 - It consists of a **vowel**, followed by a **consonant**, followed by an “e” that is silent.
- It's usually the last syllable in a root word.
- The vowel has a long sound (like the ‘i’ in *line*).
- *examples: take, cake, theme, line, tone, tune, & ex-ile*

C-le Syllable

- The **C-le** syllable is also called the **Consonant-le**.
 - It consists of a **consonant** followed by an “le.”
- It's usually the last syllable in a root word.
- Does the word end with ‘*ckle*’?
 - Divide right before the ‘*le*.’
 - *examples: tack-le, freck-le, tick-le, & buck-le*
- Does the word end with ‘*le*’ (not ‘*ckle*’)?
 - **Is the letter before the ‘le’ a consonant?**
 - Divide 1 letter before the ‘*le*.’
 - *examples: ap-ple, rum-ble, fa-ble, & ta-ble*
 - **Is the letter before the ‘le’ a vowel?**
 - Do nothing.
 - *examples: ale, scale, sale, file, & tile*