

## Syllable Summary

A syllable is a part of a word made up of one or more consonants and one vowel sound. Breaking unknown words into syllables can help you pronounce longer words.

Here is a summary of common guides to help you divide words into syllables.

1. Compound words are divided between the shorter words.

foot/ball

back/ground

2. Prefixes and suffixes are usually separate syllables in a word.

re/cov/er

power/less

3. When two consonants appear together in the middle of a word, the word usually can be divided between the consonants.

hap/py

den/tist

*Note: Consonant blends and digraphs make one sound so they are treated as one consonant. Blends and digraphs are not divided.*

ath/lete

sur/prise

*Note: Syllables that end with a consonant are called closed syllables. The vowel in closed syllables usually stands for the short sound or the vowel plus I sound.*

4. When a word contains a vowel-consonant vowel, it is not always divided the same way. Sometimes, you divide the word after the consonant.

riv/er

cab/in

Usually, however, the word is divided between the first vowel and the consonant.

Pa/per

to/tal

*Note: Syllables that end with a vowel are called open syllables. The vowel usually stands for the long sound.*

5. A consonant and le usually forms the last syllable of a word.

ta/ble

cir/cle

6. When a d or t at the end of a word is followed by ed, the ed forms a separate syllable.

want/ed

mind/ed