



THE SIX TYPES OF SYLLABLES

An Explanation for
Parents and Teachers

Welcome to Playtolearn

CLOSED SYLLABLES

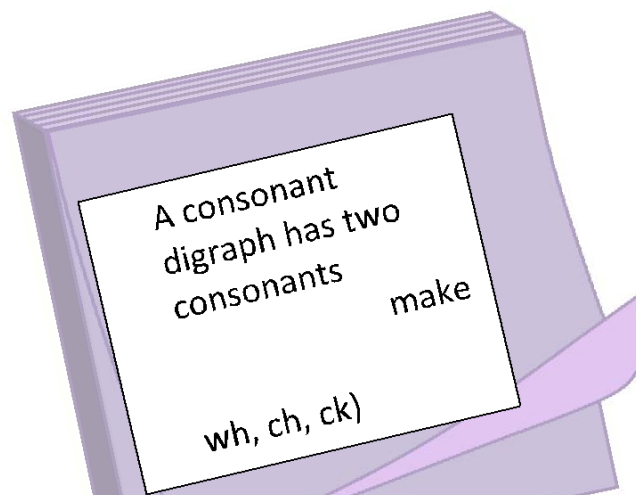
The closed syllable is usually the first syllable students learn.

A closed syllable is a syllable with one vowel followed by one or more consonants. There may or may not be a consonant, consonant blend, or consonant digraph in front of the vowel. The vowel makes the short sound and is marked with a breve (căt).

Some examples of closed syllables are:

dog
cat
ask
ship
stop

Once students have learned the basic consonant and short vowel sounds found in closed syllables, they are introduced to consonant digraphs, consonant blends, and exceptions to the closed syllable rule.



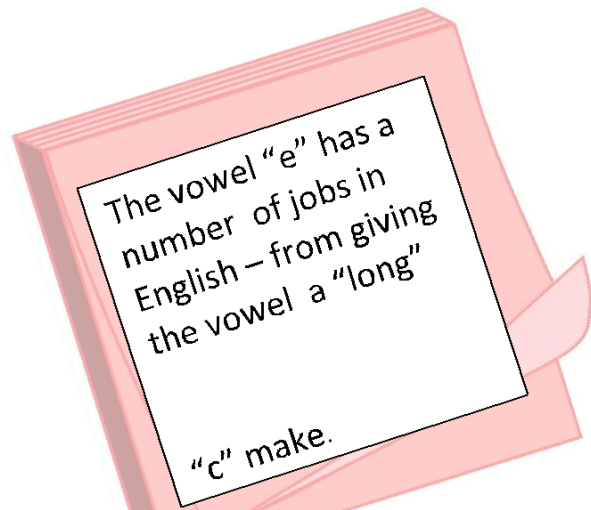
VOWEL-CONSONANT-E SYLLABLE

In the dyslexia program I use, the next type of syllable taught is the vowel-consonant-e syllable. Please be aware that some programs teach the types of syllables in a different order – but they cover them all.

The vowel-consonant-e syllable has one vowel followed by a consonant, then an “e”. The final “e” makes the vowel say its name, or the long sound, and the “e” is silent. The vowel is marked with a macron (cāke).

Some examples of vowel-consonant-e syllables are:

bike
throne
June
whine
grade
smile



Of course, there are exceptions to this syllable rule. No English word ends with the letter “v”, so there is always an “e” after “v” at the end of a word. The vowel can be short or long.

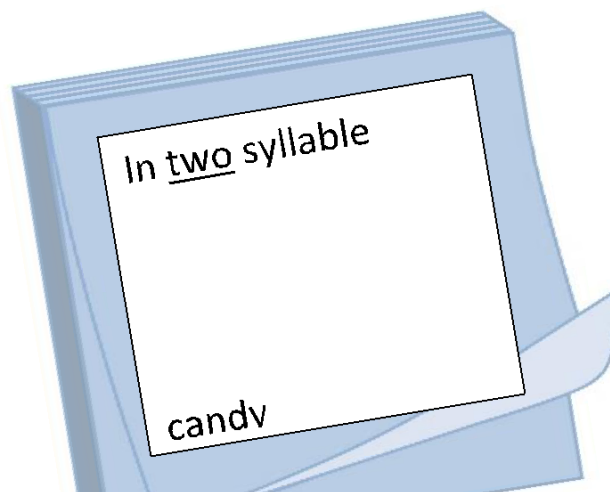
OPEN SYLLABLES

The open syllable ends with one vowel. That vowel is long (or says its name) and is marked with a macron (shē).

When students learn the open syllable, they also learn that “y”, at the end of a syllable, acts as a vowel. In a one syllable word, a final “y” usually makes the long “i” sound (ī).

Some examples of open syllables are:

hi
we
shy
flu
she
cry



CONSONANT-LE SYLLABLE

The consonant-le syllable has a consonant followed by “le”. These are the only three letters in this syllable and it is the last syllable in the word. The final “e” is silent and the syllable sounds like a blend (puzzlele).

Some examples of the consonant-le syllable are:

dribble

cable

muzzle

apple

tremble

stumble

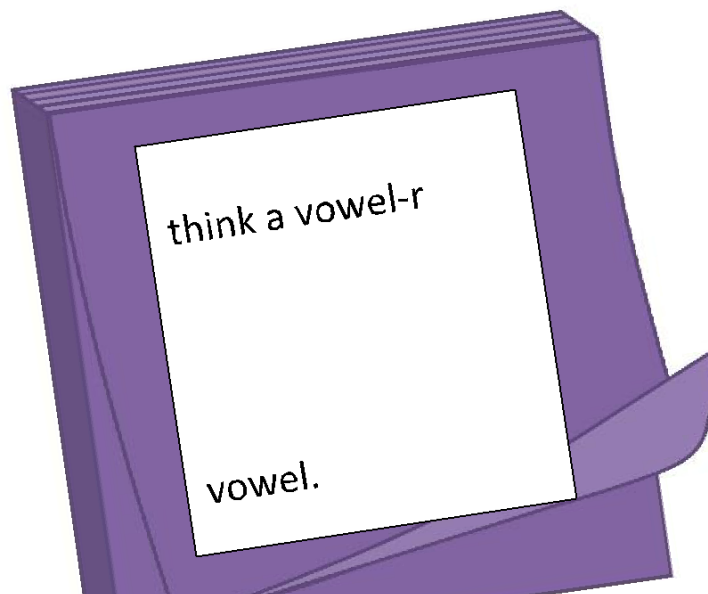


VOWEL-R SYLLABLE

In the vowel-r syllable, there is one vowel followed by an “r”. The vowel in this syllable makes a different sound – neither long or short. We say the “r” is “bossy” or “controls” the vowel. This is a fairly easy syllable to learn to read (er, ir, ur all say “er” as in “fern”, “or” says “or” as in “fork” and “ar” says “ar” as in “barn) but it can be difficult to learn to spell.

Some examples of the vowel-r syllable are:

car
burn
girl
her
short



VOWEL TEAM OR DOUBLE VOWEL SYLLABLE

I call this a vowel team syllable but some call it a double vowel syllable. In the vowel team syllable, there are two vowels together that make one sound. Students need to learn these sounds so the use of sound flashcards comes in handy.

Some examples of the vowel team syllable are:

boot

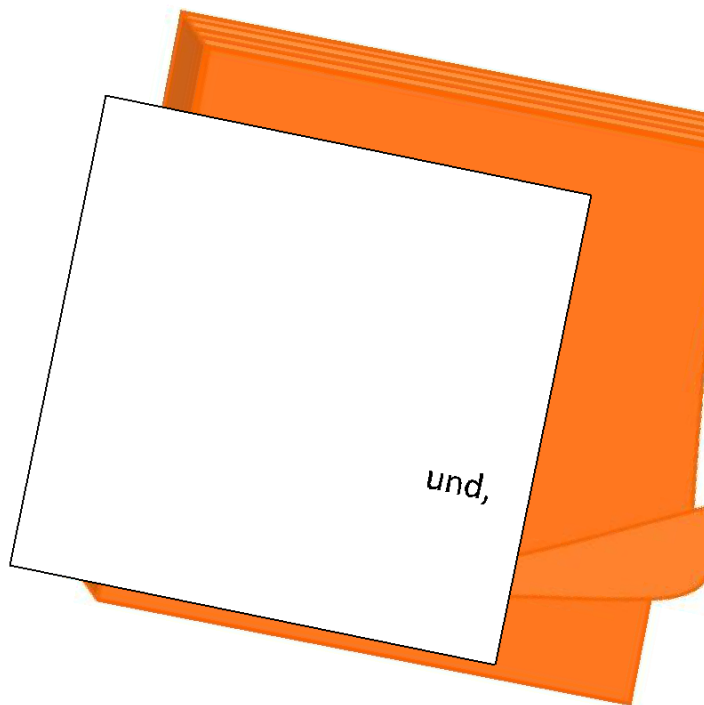
need

sauce

snow

sail

coin



REMEMBER...

Please remember this is just a very basic explanation of the six types of syllables. When our students with dyslexia are learning to read, they are taught many more rules of the language – sound options, exceptions to the rules, spelling rules, and syllable division to name just a few!

I hope this file helps you understand what your children and students are learning. Students with dyslexia can learn to read, no matter their age, with the right type of instruction.

Thank you!