

Syllable Types

Teach the most commonly used syllables first, following the order in left column.

<i>Types</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Approx. % of English words that contain this syllable type</i>	<i>Examples</i>
Closed	Have a single vowel followed by at least one consonant; the vowel is short. Usually taught first. Is the most commonly used syllable.	43.3%	cat, men, up, pill, pond <u>pic nic</u> , <u>fan tas tic</u>
Open	End with one vowel; the vowel is long in accented syllables. Is the second most commonly used syllable.	28.9%	be, go, my, hi, solo, halo, <u>robot</u> , <u>bacon</u>
Vowel-Consonant-e (Silent e)	End with one vowel, one consonant and a final e; the final e is silent and the vowel is long. Silent e is found in many single syllable words, and also in multisyllable words.	6.7%	bike, late, role, cute, flute, <u>compose</u> , <u>rotate</u> , <u>valentine</u>
Vowel Team	Have two adjacent vowels; each vowel pair syllable must be learned individually. Some teams have two vowels that represent the long vowel, often of the first vowel (<i>rain, boat</i>). Some teams represent a <i>variant</i> sound (<i>boil, saw, toon, few, now</i>). Sometimes <i>w</i> and <i>y</i> function as vowels.	9.5%	rain, boat, meat, seed, pay, toe head, chief boil, boy, toon, book, now, out, saw, haunt, <u>maintain</u> , <u>heyday</u> , <u>because</u> , <u>contain</u> , <u>about</u> , <u>rainbow</u> , <u>roadside</u>
Vowel-r	Have an <i>r</i> after the vowel; vowels followed by <i>r</i> do not make their common long or short sound; the vowel makes an unexpected sound.	10.2%	car, her, for, sir, turn, horn, smart, burner, former <u>dollar</u> , <u>doctor</u> , <u>market</u> , <u>hornet</u> , <u>dirty</u> , <u>summer</u> , <u>turnip</u>
Consonant-le (and other final stable syllables)	Ends in a consonant-le combination; accent usually falls on the syllable before the final syllable; has a schwa vowel sound; considered a <i>final stable syllable</i> . Examples of other final stable syllables that should be taught as recognizable units: <i>-tion, -sion, -ture</i>	1.4%	turtle, little, bundle, cuddle, maple, topple, shuffle, bible, bubble, dazzle, pickle <u>explosion</u> , <u>conclusion</u> , <u>nation</u> , <u>vacation</u> , <u>adventure</u> , <u>rupture</u>