

Fundations® 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 (\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 ($\bar{\quad}$).
- 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

stōv~~e~~
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 ($\bar{\quad}$).
- 3 This syllable can be combined with other syllables to make **multisyllabic** words.

Examples

I be shy hi

Mark-up Sample

hī
o

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 bl~~e~~
-le

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