







The 6 (+1) Syllable Types

A **syllable** is a word part that contains a vowel sound. Every syllable has at least one vowel sound. Understanding syllables helps readers break longer (multisyllabic) words into smaller, manageable parts.

Chunking Multisyllabic Words

1. Find the vowels. Each syllable has a vowel sound.
2. Look for meaningful parts. Notice prefixes, suffixes, and familiar chunks.
3. Divide the word into syllables. Use syllable patterns to guide you.
4. Read each chunk, then blend. Put the syllables together to read the whole word.

Syllable Type	Explanation	Examples
Closed	A syllable where a single vowel is “closed in” by one or more consonants, making the vowel sound short.	cat sit nap / kin pic / nic 
Open	A syllable that ends with a vowel, where the vowel is left “open” and usually says its long sound.	he go ro / bot ti / ger 
Silent e (VCe)	Ends with silent e. The e makes the previous vowel long.	in / vite home 
Vowel Team	Two vowels work together to make one vowel sound.	teach / er cheese 
R-controlled	A vowel followed by r. The r changes the vowel sound.	bur / ger horn 
Consonant-le	A final syllable with consonant + le. The e is silent.	ta / ble lit / tle 
Leftovers: Odd and Schwa syllables	These are typically final, unaccented syllables with irregular or unexpected spellings that don’t follow standard patterns.	ta / ken doc / tor 