

Syllable Guide

The Syllable Guide is an instructional tool designed to help students learn to break unfamiliar words into manageable parts.

| Guide to Breaking Words Into Syllables | Guide to the Detailed Rules of Breaking Words Into Syllables | Quick Reference Guide |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Count the vowel sounds in the word. Subtract any silent vowels (like <i>e</i>). The final number should be the number of syllables. Break the word into that many chunks. The chunks should be small parts you can say. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Count the vowel sounds in the word. Subtract any silent vowels (like <i>e</i>). The final number should be the number of syllables. Slash between parts of compound words. Slash after beginning parts. Slash before end parts. Slash between two middle consonants (except for two different consonants that make one sound, like <i>ph, th, ch, wh</i>). Sometimes slash before a single middle consonant (except for short vowel sounds, like <i>cabin: cab-in</i>). Slash before a consonant-<i>le</i> (like <i>-ble, -cle, -tle</i>). Try to say the words using these small "chunks." | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Circle vowel sounds (don't count silent vowels). / compound parts (<i>cup/cake</i>) prefixes/ & /suffixes (<i>con/fine/ment</i>) C/C (<i>inves/tigative</i>) (not <i>ph, th, ch</i>, etc.) Sometimes /C (<i>trau/ma</i>) /Cle (like <i>-ble, -cle, -tle</i>, etc.) Say the word using these "chunks." |

Basic Vowel Sounds

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>ai</i> (raid) | <i>ow</i> (cow, flow) | <i>i(c)e</i> (slide) |
| <i>au</i> (taught) | <i>oy</i> (toy) | <i>o(c)e</i> (note) |
| <i>ay</i> (may) | <i>ar</i> (harm) | <i>u(c)e</i> (accuse) |
| <i>ea</i> (bread, seat) | <i>er</i> (perm) | <i>a</i> (hat, carry, father) |
| <i>ee</i> (sleep) | <i>ir</i> (sir) | <i>e</i> (let, merry) |
| <i>oa</i> (road) | <i>or</i> (horn) | <i>i</i> (tin) |
| <i>oi</i> (coin) | <i>ur</i> (burn) | <i>o</i> (go, to, mop) |
| <i>oo</i> (soon, look) | <i>a(c)e</i> (date) | <i>u</i> (up) |
| <i>ou</i> (proud) | <i>e(c)e</i> (eve) | <i>y</i> (sky) |

Basic Beginning Parts (Prefixes) and Their Meanings

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|--|--|--|
| <i>ab-</i> : from | <i>en-</i> : in, into, make | <i>pro-</i> : moving forward, in front of, defending |
| <i>ad-</i> : to, at, toward | <i>ex-</i> : out | <i>re-</i> : back, again |
| <i>an-</i> : not | <i>fore-</i> : in front, before | <i>sub-</i> : under |
| <i>be-</i> : to make, about, by | <i>in-, im-, il-, ir-</i> : in, into, without, not | <i>trans-</i> : across, through, beyond |
| <i>co-, col-, con-, com-</i> : together/with | <i>mis-</i> : wrongly, incorrect | <i>un-</i> : not |
| <i>de-</i> : from, down, away, off | <i>post-</i> : after | <i>uni-</i> : one |
| <i>dis-</i> : apart, not, opposite | <i>pre-</i> : before | |

Basic End Parts (Suffixes) and Their Meanings

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|--|---|--|
| <i>-al</i> : relating to, process (adj.) | <i>-fy</i> : make (v.) | <i>-ment</i> : process, result of, act of (n.) |
| <i>-ance</i> : action, state of (n.) | <i>-ice</i> : condition (n.) | <i>-ness</i> : state of (n.) |
| <i>-ar, -er, -or</i> : one who/that/which (n.) | <i>-ion, -sion, -tion</i> : state of (n.) | <i>-ous</i> : having (adj.) |
| <i>-ate</i> : make, cause (v.) | <i>-ish</i> : a characteristic of (adj.) | <i>-ology, -alogy</i> : study of (n.) |
| <i>-cide</i> : kill (n.) | <i>-ism</i> : system, condition (n.) | <i>-tude</i> : condition of (n.) |
| <i>-dom</i> : quality (n.) | <i>-ive</i> : related to, tending (adj.) | <i>-ward</i> : in a particular direction (adj.) (adv.) |
| <i>-en</i> : make (v.), made of (adj.) | <i>-ize</i> : to cause or make (v.) | <i>-y</i> : having (adj.) |
| <i>-ful</i> : full of (adj.) | <i>-less</i> : without (adj.) | |
| | <i>-like</i> : resembling (adj.) | |
| | <i>-ly</i> : manner of (adv.) | |