

# SYLLABLES

## in *Words Their Way: Classroom*

### What are the 6 main syllable types in the English language?

**Closed:** These syllables end in a consonant and the vowel is usually short. Examples include words like *hat, red, comet, and napkin*.

**Open:** These syllables end in one vowel and the vowel is generally long. Examples include words like *he, no, total, and motor*.

**Vowel + Consonant + E (VCe):** These syllables have a long vowel and end with a silent e. Examples include words like *wake, lone, name, and pipe*.

**Vowel Teams:** These syllables are spelled with two vowels that are next to each other. Examples include words like *boat, suit, boil, and hay*.

**R-Influenced:** These syllables have a vowel followed by the letter r (*er, ir, ur, ar, or*). Examples include words like *far, bird, turn, and herd*.

**Consonant + LE:** These syllables have a consonant followed by -le at the end of the word. Examples include words like *eagle, puzzle, ankle, and bubble*.

### Why is knowing these 6 syllable types critical for students learning to read?

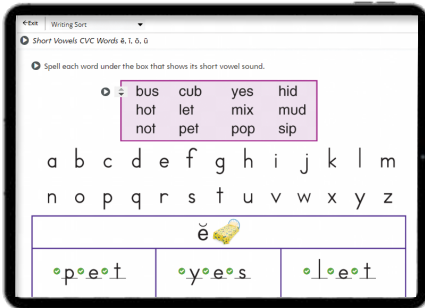
Knowing the syllable and vowel grapheme types helps readers associate vowel spellings with vowel sounds. Syllable division rules help readers divide and decode unfamiliar words.

### How does *Words Their Way Classroom* help students practice the six syllable types of English?

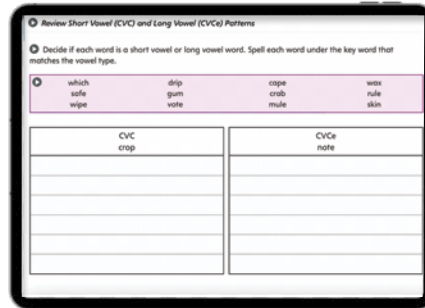
The scope and sequence systematically addresses all 6 syllable types:

- The program begins with practice for CVC closed syllables in the Letter Name–Alphabetic Stage.
- VCe, vowel teams, and r-influenced patterns are practiced in the Within Word Pattern Stage.
- Unaccented final syllable patterns (such consonant and le) are practiced in the Syllables and Affixes Stage.
- Other syllable patterns are practiced within the context of open and closed syllables.

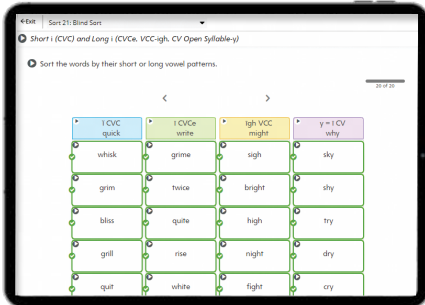
# PRACTICE ACTIVITIES FOR THE SIX SYLLABLE TYPES from *Words Their Way Classroom*



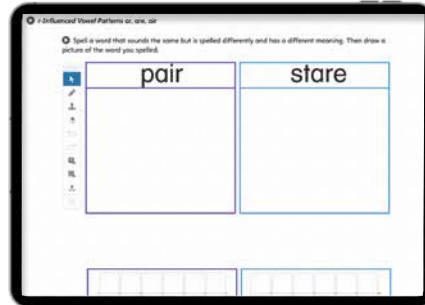
**Closed:**  
In this activity, students practice by identifying CVC words with the short e vowel sound.



**Vowel + Consonant + E (VCe):** In this digital writing sort, students practice by identifying if the word uses a CVC or VCe syllable pattern.



**Open:**  
In this digital sort, students practice by dragging the words to the correct short or long vowel pattern.



**R-Influenced:**  
This digital activity provides practice in spelling words with r-influenced consonant patterns and reinforces word meaning.



**Vowel Teams:**  
In this digital sort, students practice by dragging and dropping the words to the correct vowel team pattern.

1. Read each sentence. Choose a word from the box that best completes the sentence and write it on the line. (Note: Not all words have to be used and each word can be used only once.)  
2. Draw a line between the two syllables in each word.  
3. Underline the accented syllable of each word.

scramble	battle	cable	rotte	scribble	able	rifle
handle	tremble	settle	cradle	bugle	jungle	single
table	paddle	bride	middle	muscle	sample	bottle

- The kayaker used her \_\_\_\_\_ to glide across the water.
- Amin's family eats dinner at the \_\_\_\_\_ each night.
- Megan's hands \_\_\_\_\_ when she is nervous.
- The audience heard the \_\_\_\_\_ blare of the concert.
- The athlete pulled a \_\_\_\_\_ while running.
- The veterinarian used his hands to \_\_\_\_\_ the kitten.
- Sonya ordered a \_\_\_\_\_ of water with lunch.
- Monkeys and tigers live in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The rock climber used a safety \_\_\_\_\_ when climbing.

**Consonant + LE:**  
In this writing sort, students practice identifying the accented syllable in consonant + -le words.

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Adapted with permission from Marcia Invernizzi, presented at ILA, October 10, 2019, in New Orleans. See a similar table in Invernizzi, M., Lewis-Wagner, D., Johnston, F. R., & Juel, C. (2021). *Book Buddies, 3rd edition*. Guilford, and in Ittner, Frederick, Kiernan, & Bear, 2023. See a similar table in *Book Buddies, 3rd edition* (2021) titled "How Book Buddies Aligns with Structured Literacy Components." See also Cowen for IDA (2016). What is structured literacy? International Dyslexia Association ([dyslexiaida.org](https://dyslexiaida.org)).

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