Syllable Sound Sleuth

Sort words by their first syllable.

3.LF.8.a "Decode multisyllabic words with common syllable patterns, including open/closed, vowel-r, vowel-consonant-e, vowel teams, consonant-le, and odd or schwa syllables."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open syllable ends in a vowel. Its vowel usually says its name.

pa/per

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed syllable ends in a consonant. Its vowel usually has a short sound.

bas/ket

1 SORT

8 items

Circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word, then pick two words and explain how their first syllables helped you decide.

1.	robot	OPEN CLOSED
2.	rabbit	OPEN CLOSED
3.	kitten	OPEN CLOSED
4.	music	OPEN CLOSED
5.	hotel	OPEN CLOSED
6.	muffin	OPEN CLOSED
7.	tiger	OPEN CLOSED
8.	picnic	OPEN CLOSED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new two-syllable word with an OPEN first syllable and one with a CLOSED first syllable.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one word you sorted into each group. Split each word into syllables with a slash, then tell whether its first vowel has a long or short sound.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Sound Sleuth

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.8.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	robot	**OPEN**	ro/bot: The first syllable ends in o, which has a long sound.
2	rabbit	**CLOSED**	rab/bit: The first syllable ends in b, and a has a short sound.
3	kitten	**CLOSED**	kit/ten: The first syllable ends in t, and i has a short sound.
4	music	**OPEN**	mu/sic: The first syllable ends in u, which has a long sound.
5	hotel	**OPEN**	ho/tel: The first syllable ends in o, which has a long sound.
6	muffin	**CLOSED**	muf/fin: The first syllable ends in f, and u has a short sound.
7	tiger	**OPEN**	ti/ger: The first syllable ends in i, which has a long sound.
8	picnic	**CLOSED**	pic/nic: The first syllable ends in c, and i has a short sound.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **OPEN**: zero
- **CLOSED**: sunset

Challenge: ro/bot: long o; rab/bit: short a

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify where each chosen word's first syllable ends and describe its vowel sound. Part 3 examples may vary.