# First Syllable Sort

Listen to the first part of each word.

**RF.4.3.a** "Use combined knowledge of all phoneme-grapheme correspondences, syllabication patterns and morphology to accurately decode and encode unfamiliar multisyllabic words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

**OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE**

An open syllable ends in a vowel. Its vowel usually makes a long sound.

ro/bot

**CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE**

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

sun/set

## 1 SORT

8 items

Circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word, then choose two words and explain how you found their first syllables.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | tiger | OPEN CLOSED |
| **2.** | basket | OPEN CLOSED |
| **3.** | basic | OPEN CLOSED |
| **4.** | pilot | OPEN CLOSED |
| **5.** | picnic | OPEN CLOSED |
| **6.** | magnet | OPEN CLOSED |
| **7.** | silent | OPEN CLOSED |
| **8.** | final | 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; mark each syllable break with a slash.

**OPEN** _____

**CLOSED** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write a two-syllable word with an open first syllable and a closed second syllable; mark the break and explain how you know.

**ANSWER KEY** # First Syllable Sort

**GRADE 4 · RF.4.3.a**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | tiger | **OPEN** | ti/ger: ti ends in a vowel and has a long i sound. |
| 2 | basket | **CLOSED** | bas/ket: bas ends in a consonant and has a short a sound. |
| 3 | basic | **OPEN** | ba/sic: ba ends in a vowel and has a long a sound. |
| 4 | pilot | **OPEN** | pi/lot: pi ends in a vowel and has a long i sound. |
| 5 | picnic | **CLOSED** | pic/nic: pic ends in a consonant and has a short i sound. |
| 6 | magnet | **CLOSED** | mag/net: mag ends in a consonant and has a short a sound. |
| 7 | silent | **OPEN** | si/lent: si ends in a vowel and has a long i sound. |
| 8 | final | **OPEN** | fi/nal: fi ends in a vowel and has a long i 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**: mo/ment
- **CLOSED**: cab/in

**Challenge:** o/pen: o ends in a vowel and has a long sound, so it is open. Pen ends in a consonant and has a short vowel sound, so it is closed.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify where each chosen word's first syllable ends and connect that ending to its vowel sound.