Syllable Doorways

Read the first syllable, then sort the word.

RF.3.3.b "Read (decode) and write (encode) multi-syllable words with known letter-sound correspondences. (neighbor, suitcase, fascinate, suggest)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

Split the word into syllables. If the first syllable ends in a vowel, it is open, and that vowel usually says its name.

pi/lot (pilot)

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

Split the word into syllables. If the first syllable ends in a consonant, it is closed, and its vowel is usually short.

hel/met (helmet)

1 SORT

8 items

Circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word, then choose two numbered words for Part 2 and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	tiger	OPEN CLOSED
2.	paper	OPEN CLOSED
3.	rabbit	OPEN CLOSED
4.	music	OPEN CLOSED
5.	basket	OPEN CLOSED
6.	picnic	OPEN CLOSED
7.	robot	OPEN CLOSED
8.	hotel	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; do not use words from this page.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write another two-syllable word with an open first syllable, mark the syllable break with a slash, and tell what sound its first vowel makes.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Doorways

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	tiger	**OPEN**	ti/ger: The first syllable ends in i.
2	paper	**OPEN**	pa/per: The first syllable ends in a.
3	rabbit	**CLOSED**	rab/bit: The first syllable ends in b.
4	music	**OPEN**	mu/sic: The first syllable ends in u.
5	basket	**CLOSED**	bas/ket: The first syllable ends in s.
6	picnic	**CLOSED**	pic/nic: The first syllable ends in c.
7	robot	**OPEN**	ro/bot: The first syllable ends in o.
8	hotel	**OPEN**	ho/tel: The first syllable ends in o.

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**: napkin

Challenge: ba/by: The a says its name, /ā/.

For Part 2, a student might write: "Rabbit is CLOSED because rab ends in b. Music is OPEN because mu ends in u." For Part 3, zero splits ze/ro, and napkin splits nap/kin.