

Syllable Sound Sleuths

Use the first syllable to unlock big words.

4RF3.a "Use combined knowledge of all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology (e.g., roots and affixes) to read accurately unfamiliar multisyllabic words in context and out of context."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open first syllable ends in a vowel. The vowel usually says its long sound, so divide after the vowel.

pa/per: *pa* is open and has a long a sound.

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed first syllable ends in a consonant. The vowel usually has its short sound, so divide after the consonant.

nap/kin: *nap* is closed and has a short a sound.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each bold word, circle OPEN or CLOSED for its first syllable, then choose two items and explain which vowel sound and syllable break helped you read them.

1. The **relocation** moved the library.

OPEN

CLOSED

2. **fantastical**

OPEN

CLOSED

3. The **custodial** crew cleaned the hall.

OPEN

CLOSED

4. **vocalization**

OPEN

CLOSED

5. The skater's **rotation** was fast.

OPEN

CLOSED

6. **immobility**

OPEN

CLOSED

7. A **notorious** storm damaged the coast.

OPEN

CLOSED

8. The **bilingual** guide spoke two languages.

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 multisyllabic word with an OPEN first syllable and one new multisyllabic word with a CLOSED first syllable. Mark each syllable break with slashes.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one new word from each category. Mark its syllable breaks with slashes, then write one sentence that uses both words correctly.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The relocation moved the library.	OPEN	re/lo/ca/tion begins with open re, with a long e sound.
2	fantastical	CLOSED	fan/tas/ti/cal begins with closed fan, with a short a sound.
3	The custodial crew cleaned the hall.	CLOSED	cus/to/di/al begins with closed cus, with a short u sound.
4	vocalization	OPEN	vo/cal/i/za/tion begins with open vo, with a long o sound.
5	The skater's rotation was fast.	OPEN	ro/ta/tion begins with open ro, with a long o sound.
6	immobility	CLOSED	im/mo/bil/i/ty begins with closed im, with a short i sound.
7	A notorious storm damaged the coast.	OPEN	no/to/ri/ous begins with open no, with a long o sound.
8	The bilingual guide spoke two languages.	OPEN	bi/lin/gual begins with open bi, with 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/ti/va/tion
- **CLOSED:** fab/ri/ca/tion

Challenge: mo/ti/va/tion, fab/ri/ca/tion. Her motivation helped her complete the fabrication of the model.

OPEN: 1, 4, 5, 7, 8. CLOSED: 2, 3, 6. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the first-syllable break and connect it to the vowel sound, with the sentence context used to check the word's meaning.