

First Syllable Detectives

Use syllable endings to read long words.

5RF3.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

The first syllable ends in a vowel. That vowel usually has its long sound.

ro-bot

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

The first syllable ends in a consonant. That vowel usually has its short sound.

nap-kin

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1: Read each word and circle OPEN or CLOSED; Part 2: choose two words and explain which letters show the first-syllable pattern.

1. vacation

OPEN

CLOSED

2. calculate

OPEN

CLOSED

3. terrific

OPEN

CLOSED

4. moment

OPEN

CLOSED

5. program

OPEN

CLOSED

6. monument

OPEN

CLOSED

7. radiant

OPEN

CLOSED

8. sculpture

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.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one Part 1 word. Mark its syllable breaks, name its category, and write a sentence that shows its meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	vacation	OPEN	va-ca-tion begins with va, an open syllable ending in a vowel.
2	calculate	CLOSED	cal-cu-late begins with cal, a closed syllable ending in l.
3	terrific	CLOSED	ter-rif-ic begins with ter, a closed syllable ending in r.
4	moment	OPEN	mo-ment begins with mo, an open syllable ending in a vowel.
5	program	OPEN	pro-gram begins with pro, an open syllable ending in a vowel.
6	monument	CLOSED	mon-u-ment begins with mon, a closed syllable ending in n.
7	radiant	OPEN	ra-di-ant begins with ra, an open syllable ending in a vowel.
8	sculpture	CLOSED	sculp-ture begins with sculp, a closed syllable ending in p.

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:** pi-lot
- **CLOSED:** bas-ket

Challenge: mon-u-ment, CLOSED. The monument stood in the town square.

Students should identify the first syllable before sorting. Accept correct explanations that point out whether the first syllable ends in a vowel or a consonant.