First Syllable Sort

Sort each word by its first syllable.

3.2.PWS.1 "Students will decode multisyllabic words using their knowledge of the following phonics skills: • vowel diphthongs • all major syllable types (i.e., closed, consonant +le, open, vowel digraphs, vowel silent e, r-controlled)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

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

ze/ro

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

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

nap/kin

1 SORT

8 items

Circle OPEN or CLOSED for the first syllable of each word; then choose two words, mark where each first syllable ends, and explain how you knew its type.

1.	tulip	OPEN	CLOSED
2.	basket	OPEN	CLOSED
3.	picnic	OPEN	CLOSED
4.	pilot	OPEN	CLOSED
5.	music	OPEN	CLOSED
6.	basic	OPEN	CLOSED
7.	pumpkin	OPEN	CLOSED
8.	sunset	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; use / to show where each word splits.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a new two-syllable word with one open syllable and one closed syllable; split the word and name both syllable types.

ANSWER KEY

First Syllable Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.2.PWS.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	tulip	**OPEN**	tu/lip: tu ends in a vowel.
2	basket	**CLOSED**	bas/ket: bas ends in a consonant.
3	picnic	**CLOSED**	pic/nic: pic ends in a consonant.
4	pilot	**OPEN**	pi/lot: pi ends in a vowel.
5	music	**OPEN**	mu/sic: mu ends in a vowel.
6	basic	**OPEN**	ba/sic: ba ends in a vowel.
7	pumpkin	**CLOSED**	pump/kin: pump ends in a consonant.
8	sunset	**CLOSED**	sun/set: sun ends in a consonant.

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**: ho/tel
- **CLOSED**: rab/bit

Challenge: ro/bot: ro is open; bot is closed.

In Part 2, accept any two correctly split sort words with explanations that name the vowel or consonant ending each first syllable. For Part 3, accept other correctly split two-syllable words that fit the categories.