Syllable Sound Sort

Use the first syllable to help spell a word.

5.2.SE.1 "Students will use correct spelling when writing unfamiliar and multisyllabic words, using their combined knowledge of the following skills: • letter-sound correspondences • all major syllable types (i.e., closed, consonant +le, open..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLOSED FIRST

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

cabin: cab/in

OPEN FIRST

The first syllable ends in a vowel. Its vowel usually has a long sound, like the vowel's name.

robot: ro/bot

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLOSED or OPEN for each word, then choose two words and explain how the first syllable helped you decide.

1.	magnet	CLOSED OPEN
2.	velvet	CLOSED OPEN
3.	silent	CLOSED OPEN
4.	picnic	CLOSED OPEN
5.	hotel	CLOSED OPEN
6.	basic	CLOSED OPEN
7.	helmet	CLOSED OPEN
8.	insect	CLOSED OPEN

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 a closed first syllable and one with an open first syllable.

CLOSED _____

OPEN _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-syllable word with a closed first syllable, divide it with slashes, and explain how you know the first syllable is closed.

ANSWER KEY

Syllable Sound Sort

GRADE 5 · 5.2.SE.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	magnet	**CLOSED**	Mag/net: mag ends in g, and a has a short sound.
2	velvet	**CLOSED**	Vel/vet: vel ends in l, and e has a short sound.
3	silent	**OPEN**	Si/lent: si ends in i, which has a long sound.
4	picnic	**CLOSED**	Pic/nic: pic ends in c, and i has a short sound.
5	hotel	**OPEN**	Ho/tel: ho ends in o, which has a long sound.
6	basic	**OPEN**	Ba/sic: ba ends in a, which has a long sound.
7	helmet	**CLOSED**	Hel/met: hel ends in l, and e has a short sound.
8	insect	**CLOSED**	In/sect: in ends in n, and i has a short 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)

- **CLOSED**: dentist
- **OPEN**: focus

Challenge: but/ter/fly: But ends in t, so its vowel is short.

Possible Part 2 responses: Magnet is closed because mag ends in g and a is short; hotel is open because ho ends in o and o is long. Accept any two correct explanations of the first syllables.