Syllable Sound Sort

Use the first syllable to help you read each word.

4.LF.1 "Apply knowledge of grade-appropriate phoneme-grapheme correspondences, syllable types, and morphological structure to read unfamiliar multisyllabic words accurately, both in context and in isolation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

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

pa/per

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

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

ten/nis

1 SORT

8 items

Read each word, circle OPEN or CLOSED for its first syllable, then choose two items and explain how the first syllable helped you decide.

1.	pi/lot	OPEN CLOSED
2.	ro/bot	OPEN CLOSED
3.	bas/ket	OPEN CLOSED
4.	nap/kin	OPEN CLOSED
5.	mu/sic	OPEN CLOSED
6.	pic/nic	OPEN CLOSED
7.	ti/ger	OPEN CLOSED
8.	ba/by	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, and mark each syllable break with /.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-syllable word, mark its syllable breaks with /, and explain whether its first syllable is open or closed.

ANSWER KEY

Syllable Sound Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	pi/lot	**OPEN**	The first syllable, pi, ends in a vowel with a long i sound.
2	ro/bot	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ro, ends in a vowel with a long o sound.
3	bas/ket	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, bas, ends in a consonant and has a short a sound.
4	nap/kin	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, nap, ends in a consonant and has a short a sound.
5	mu/sic	**OPEN**	The first syllable, mu, ends in a vowel with a long u sound.
6	pic/nic	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, pic, ends in a consonant and has a short i sound.
7	ti/ger	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ti, ends in a vowel with a long i sound.
8	ba/by	**OPEN**	The first syllable, ba, ends in a vowel with a long a 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**: o/pen
- **CLOSED**: hel/met

Challenge: but/ter/fly has a closed first syllable because but ends in t and has a short u sound.

For Part 2, accept two explanations that identify where each first syllable ends and describe its vowel sound. For Part 3, check each new word's syllable break and category.