First Syllable Sort

Listen to the first part of each word.

2.RF.1 "Use knowledge of the six major syllable types (CVC, CVr, V, VV, VCe, Cle) to decode two-syllable words, independent of context."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

Split the word into syllables. An open first syllable ends in a vowel, and that vowel says its name.

ze/ro

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

Split the word into syllables. A closed first syllable ends in a consonant, and its vowel has a short sound.

mel/on

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word; for Part 2, choose one word from each group and explain how its first syllable helped you decide.

1.	robot	OPEN CLOSED
2.	picnic	OPEN CLOSED
3.	napkin	OPEN CLOSED
4.	tulip	OPEN CLOSED
5.	music	OPEN CLOSED
6.	basket	OPEN CLOSED
7.	pilot	OPEN CLOSED
8.	basic	OPEN CLOSED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one word from each group and explain how its first syllable helped you decide.

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.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose another two-syllable word, split it with a slash, name its first syllable OPEN or CLOSED, and tell how you know.

ANSWER KEY

First Syllable Sort

GRADE 2 · 2.RF.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	robot	**OPEN**	ro/bot: ro ends in o, which has its long sound.
2	picnic	**CLOSED**	pic/nic: pic ends in c and has a short i sound.
3	napkin	**CLOSED**	nap/kin: nap ends in p and has a short a sound.
4	tulip	**OPEN**	tu/lip: tu ends in u, which has its long sound.
5	music	**OPEN**	mu/sic: mu ends in u, which has its long sound.
6	basket	**CLOSED**	bas/ket: bas ends in s and has a short a sound.
7	pilot	**OPEN**	pi/lot: pi ends in i, which has its long sound.
8	basic	**OPEN**	ba/sic: ba ends in a, which has its long sound.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one word from each group and explain how its first syllable helped you decide. Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **OPEN**: hotel
- **CLOSED**: magnet

Challenge: pa/per: OPEN. The first syllable ends in a, which says its name.

For Part 2, students should choose one word from each category and explain how the first syllable ends. For example, ro ends in a vowel, while pic ends in a consonant.