Syllable Sidekicks

Sort words by the type of first syllable.

4.2.A.ii "decoding multisyllabic words with closed syllables; open syllables; VCe syllables; vowel teams, including digraphs and diphthongs; r-controlled syllables; and final stable syllables;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPEN FIRST SYLLABLE

An open first syllable ends with a vowel. The vowel usually has its long sound.

ti/ger

CLOSED FIRST SYLLABLE

A closed first syllable ends with a consonant. The vowel usually has its short sound.

pic/nic

1 SORT

8 items

First use the divided syllables and their sound clues to decode each word: blend the syllables and read the whole word to a teacher or partner. Then circle OPEN or CLOSED for each word by looking at its first syllable, then choose two words and explain how each first syllable fits its category.

1.	mu/sic	OPEN CLOSED
2.	pi/lot	OPEN CLOSED
3.	rab/bit	OPEN CLOSED
4.	tu/lip	OPEN CLOSED
5.	lem/on	OPEN CLOSED
6.	kit/ten	OPEN CLOSED
7.	sun/set	OPEN CLOSED
8.	lo/cate	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 word with an OPEN first syllable and one new word with a CLOSED first syllable. Divide each word with a slash. Blend and read both whole words to your teacher or partner.

OPEN _____

CLOSED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-syllable word with an OPEN first syllable and a CLOSED last syllable. Divide it with slashes and label the first and last syllables. Blend and read the whole word to your teacher or partner.

ANSWER KEY # Syllable Sidekicks

GRADE 4 · TEKS 4.2.A.ii

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	mu/sic	**OPEN**	The first syllable, mu, ends with a vowel.
2	pi/lot	**OPEN**	The first syllable, pi, ends with a vowel.
3	rab/bit	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, rab, ends with a consonant.
4	tu/lip	**OPEN**	The first syllable, tu, ends with a vowel.
5	lem/on	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, lem, ends with a consonant.
6	kit/ten	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, kit, ends with a consonant.
7	sun/set	**CLOSED**	The first syllable, sun, ends with a consonant.
8	lo/cate	**OPEN**	The first syllable, lo, ends with a vowel.

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**: re/cess
- **CLOSED**: bas/ket

Challenge: o/pen/ing. The first syllable, o, is OPEN. The last syllable, ing, is CLOSED.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify whether the first syllable ends in a vowel or consonant, with a matching long or short vowel sound. Accept other correct Part 3 words that match the stated syllable types. Listen to actual blended whole-word reading and record accuracy/self-correction separately from sorting. Provide help after the learner's attempt as needed. Unstressed syllables may have reduced vowels; accept natural accurate pronunciation, not an unnatural demand that every vowel follow an isolated long/short rule. Open/closed practice is a meaningful subset; this sheet does not claim coverage of all six syllable types.