Vowel Pair Detectives

Decide whether touching vowels split or stay together.

4.2.A.iii "decoding words using advanced knowledge of syllable division patterns such as VV;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

VOWELS SEPARATE

Sometimes two touching vowels are in different syllables. Put the syllable break between the vowels.

radio: ra-di-o

VOWELS TOGETHER

Sometimes two touching vowels work as a vowel team in one syllable. Keep the vowel team together.

train

1 SORT

8 items

Use the separate vowel syllables or intact vowel team to decode and blend each whole word; read it to a teacher or partner. For each word, circle SEPARATE or TOGETHER, then choose two words and explain how the vowel pair helped you decide.

1.	lion	SEPARATE TOGETHER
2.	beach	SEPARATE TOGETHER
3.	poem	SEPARATE TOGETHER
4.	diet	SEPARATE TOGETHER
5.	float	SEPARATE TOGETHER
6.	ruin	SEPARATE TOGETHER
7.	moon	SEPARATE TOGETHER
8.	paint	SEPARATE TOGETHER

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 separate vowels and one new word with vowels that stay together. Draw a slash between the separate vowels, and put a box around the vowel team. Decode and read your new whole words to a teacher or partner.

SEPARATE _____

TOGETHER _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses one SEPARATE word and one TOGETHER word. Mark the separate vowel pair with a slash and put a box around the vowel team. Decode and read your new whole words to a teacher or partner.

ANSWER KEY

Vowel Pair Detectives

GRADE 4 · TEKS 4.2.A.iii

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	lion	**SEPARATE**	The i and o are in different syllables: li/on.
2	beach	**TOGETHER**	The ea is a vowel team in one syllable.
3	poem	**SEPARATE**	The o and e are in different syllables: po/em.
4	diet	**SEPARATE**	The i and e are in different syllables: di/et.
5	float	**TOGETHER**	The oa is a vowel team in one syllable.
6	ruin	**SEPARATE**	The u and i are in different syllables: ru/in.
7	moon	**TOGETHER**	The oo is a vowel team in one syllable.
8	paint	**TOGETHER**	The ai is a vowel team in one syllable.

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)

- **SEPARATE**: po/et
- **TOGETHER**: gr[ee]n

Challenge: The vide/o showed a r[ai]nbow.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the touching vowels and tell whether a syllable break belongs between them. Part 3 answers will vary; check that the separate example has adjacent vowels in different syllables and the together example has a vowel team in one syllable. Check actual whole-word reading accuracy or self-correction separately from sorting and spelling. Provide help after the learner's decoding attempt. Accept natural pronunciation and reasonable dialect variation; assess the stated structural pattern without demanding unnatural isolated sounds.